

# Abacus College

Victory House, 116–120 London Road, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9AX

## Inspection dates

10 December 2013

## Context of the inspection

This inspection was undertaken at the request of the registration authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan. The last inspection of Abacus College took place on 1 and 2 May 2013. The action plan was accepted on 5 July 2013. A progress monitoring visit took place on the 17 September 2013. This is the second visit to the school to check on its implementation of the action plan.

## Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

**Good progress**

## Quality of the curriculum

All the required schemes of work are now in place. The college has made good progress in completing the schemes of work for art, drama, history and physical education. The schemes of work set out the skills to be taught by specialist staff, and provide guidance on the teaching sequences for each of the lessons. The schemes of work provide adequate coverage of experiences in these subjects. In art and drama they are supplemented with a programme of visits to art galleries and the theatre.

The schemes of work record the members of staff responsible for checking that the intentions as set out are followed. There is an appropriate guidance for assessing the students. This is still to be finalised for art.

The post-16 students carry out research into aspects of local government and provision for higher education in the locality. This, alongside tutorial lessons on British justice and government complements the experiences given to all students to learn about British values and understand local culture.

## Welfare, health and safety of students

Good progress has been made in ensuring that all the appropriate checks have been made on all staff who have worked abroad. Where it has been possible, the college has received good conduct assurances from the police service in the country where they were residing. In all cases, the college has obtained at least two references from previous overseas employers that specify the employee's suitability to work with young people.

Good progress has been made in ensuring that the single central record shows that all the appropriate checks have been made. The new categories are contained in the updated single central record. There is a weekly check of the single central record by the proprietor. The college safer recruitment policy has been amended to reflect the additional checks.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

**The school has made good progress and now meets all regulatory requirements.**

## Inspection team

Jonathan Palk , Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

## Information about this school

- Abacus College opened in September 1991 as a private tutorial college and registered as an independent school in March 2012.
- It is registered for 160 students aged from 13 to 18 years of age.
- There are currently 16 students aged between 16 and 20, 13 of whom were between 16 and 18 at the time of inspection.
- The college is located in Headington, which is an area of Oxford.
- Nearly all students are from overseas and speak English as an additional language. Students come from a wide range of countries.
- No students have a statement of special educational needs.
- Most students lodge with host families and a few with foster families.
- The college aims to provide students with appropriate qualifications to access courses in universities in the United Kingdom.
- The college recently moved to new premises and had a change of Principal in August 2013.
- It uses the additional provision at the local sports centre and local parks.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	138363
<b>Inspection number</b>	433372
<b>DfE registration number</b>	931/6007
This inspection was conducted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.	
<b>Type of school</b>	Secondary
<b>School status</b>	Independent
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	13–18
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	12
<b>Number of part time pupils</b>	None
<b>Proprietor</b>	Dr Roy Carrington
<b>Headteacher</b>	Dr Paul Quinn
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	1–2 May 2013
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£12,500–£14,500
<b>Telephone number</b>	01865 240111
<b>Fax number</b>	01865 9207410
<b>Email address</b>	<a href="mailto:info@abacuscollege.co.uk">info@abacuscollege.co.uk</a>

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaining about inspections', which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk). If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).



You can use Parent View to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school. Ofsted will use the information parents and carers provide when deciding which schools to inspect and when.

You can also use Parent View to find out what other parents and carers think about schools in England. You can visit [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk), or look for the link on the main Ofsted website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

Further copies of this report are obtainable from the school. Under the Education Act 2005, the school must provide a copy of this report free of charge to certain categories of people. A charge not exceeding the full cost of reproduction may be made for any other copies supplied.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store St  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

© Crown copyright 2013

