Regent College

Re-inspection report

Introduction

Regent College was inspected in January 2004. Inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) carried out the inspection under Section 62 of the Learning and Skills Act. The quality of provision was found to be satisfactory or better in all areas inspected, except in information communication technology which was found to be less than satisfactory. Ofsted is responsible for re-inspecting all provision that is less than satisfactory within two years of the original inspection. If inadequate areas of learning or aspects of provision remain inadequate following re-inspection, inspectors will continue to monitor progress at annual assessment visits, but the areas will not be re-graded. They will be re-inspected during the full college inspection.

The less than satisfactory provision for information communication technology was re-inspected on 7 and 8 March 2006. The outcomes of the re-inspection are as follows.

Curriculum area	Original grade	Re-inspection grade
Information Communication Technology	4	2

Context

Approximately 200 students aged 16 to 18 are on full-time courses. Most are on level 3 courses such as GCE A level information communication technology (ICT), Applied A level ICT and the Advanced Diploma for Information Technology Users. In the community provision, about 100 students are on short courses, mostly at levels 1 and 2.

Strengths
- Improving pass and retention rates on most courses
- Very high attendance
- Well structured lessons
- Systematic preparation for external assessments
- Highly effective academic support for students
- Good curriculum management

Areas for improvement
- Insufficient extension activities in most lessons
- Low progression within level 3 courses

Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards are satisfactory. The pass and retention rates of students aged 16 to 18 have improved considerably since the last inspection. Success rates are now at or above national averages on most courses. The retention rates on GCE A and AS level ICT are very high. Students on most level 3 courses achieve grades above those expected on the basis of their prior attainment. Attendance is high. The standards of students' work in lessons and assessments are good. Many students on level 3 courses do not progress into the second year. The success rates of adult learners however, have declined and are below national averages on most courses.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning are good. Teachers structure lessons effectively and include a wide range of relevant activities. Teachers make good use of information learning technology resources to enhance students' learning. In many lessons however, teachers do not extend students' learning and horizons sufficiently. Teachers prepare students systematically for external assessments. Tutors track students' progress rigorously through academic reviews and deploy a wide range of effective support mechanisms. Managers have introduced a more practical one year course at level 3 to extend the range of qualifications. The college has reduced the less effective provision for adult students in the community. Teachers support and encourage students effectively using email.

Leadership and management

Leadership and management are good. The self-assessment process is rigorous. The post inspection action plan has been closely monitored and implemented. Success rates and the quality of provision have improved. The focus on teaching and learning is strong. Course review is effective. Resources and accommodation are good and technician support is effective. Adult learners make good use of excellent on-line resources.