

## RE-INSPECTION OF JOHN RUSKIN COLLEGE

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### Outcome of Re-Inspection

The overall provision in the curriculum areas of information and communication technology (ICT), and leisure and travel is now **satisfactory**.

### Background

John Ruskin College was inspected in November 2001. Inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and the Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) 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 ICT, and leisure and travel, which were found to be unsatisfactory.

Ofsted and the ALI have particular duties in relation to colleges where their inspection report indicates that individual curriculum and/or work-based learning (WBL) areas are unsatisfactory or very weak or that leadership and management are unsatisfactory or very weak. Where a college has been judged to have less than satisfactory provision in any curriculum or WBL area, or less than satisfactory leadership and management, Ofsted or the ALI will visit the college to carry out monitoring inspections of the unsatisfactory areas. As a result of the re-inspection monitoring visits, inspectors may judge that the curriculum or WBL areas, or leadership and management, are satisfactory and that no further visits are required. Where leadership and management are satisfactory, all unsatisfactory provision will be re-inspected normally during one week.

If, after approximately 24 months, the college has not made sufficient progress to justify a judgement that the curriculum or WBL area or leadership and management are satisfactory, the original grade for the area that continues to be unsatisfactory will remain on the college's record until the next full inspection within the cycle. Ofsted will inform the local LSC that provision remains unsatisfactory and the reasons why.

### Date of the Re-Inspection Monitoring Visits

In accordance with the above procedures, re-inspection monitoring visits of ICT and leisure and travel took place on 17-18 September 2002, 18-19 March 2003, and 9-10 December 2003.

### ICT

In the November 2001 inspection, the quality of overall provision in this area was judged to be unsatisfactory. The following strengths and weaknesses were identified in the inspection report:

### **Strengths**

- broad range of courses
- some very good teaching on the AVCE IT and short IT courses for adults
- particularly good modern computing facilities

### **Weaknesses**

- unsatisfactory standard of students' work on most courses
- low pass rates on nearly all courses
- low student retention rates on GCE A-level computing and AVCE IT courses
- insufficient action to help students with poor IT skills
- students' lack of punctuality

Following the re-inspection monitoring visits, inspectors judged that progress had been made in addressing the above weaknesses and that overall provision in this area was now **satisfactory**.

There was a significant improvement in pass rates on most courses, to above the national average. However, pass rates remain low on A2 computing, as are the entry grades for some students on the course. The standard of students' work has improved. Teachers have re-written assignments and worksheets, with clearly graded tasks matched to different ability groups. Workshops are provided to help students who need additional support. Retention has improved on almost all courses. Students benefit from new course handbooks and schemes of work, and have undertaken visits that have increased their motivation and understanding of the wide variety of uses of ICT in industry, business and commerce. No teaching and learning were judged less than satisfactory on the final visit. Problems with poor student punctuality persisted.

### **Leisure and Travel**

In the November 2001 inspection, the quality of provision in this area was judged to be

unsatisfactory. The following strengths and weaknesses were identified in the inspection report:

### **Strengths**

- some well-planned lessons
- students' effective use of IT to conduct research
- improving retention rate on GNVQ intermediate leisure and tourism
- good tutorial support for students

### **Weaknesses**

- low student retention rate on GNVQ advanced leisure and tourism
- low pass rates on GNVQ intermediate and advanced leisure and tourism
- ineffective teaching in many lessons
- inadequate arrangements for checking teachers' assessment of students' course work
- students' lack of punctuality
- failure of AVCE travel and tourism students to complete necessary coursework

Following the re-inspection monitoring visits, inspectors judged that progress had been made in addressing the above weaknesses and that the overall provision in this area was now **satisfactory**.

Pass rates have improved significantly on courses at AVCE and intermediate levels. However, the retention rate on the single award AVCE course remains low. The teaching on these courses is now satisfactory and much of it is good. There is good planning and resourcing of tasks and activities in

class. The standards of students' work in completed assessed assignments for AVCE are good or very good, supported by effective and accurate internal verification procedures. The standards of students' work at intermediate level improved markedly in 2002/03, and students benefited from effective additional learning support in class. Many achieved merit grades, and progressed to AVCE. However, on the final visit, some students on the intermediate course in 2003/04 were making limited progress due to lack of appropriate additional learning support. There is evidence of thorough self-assessment reports, used regularly by curriculum leaders to inform planning. The college has attempted to implement a variety of strategies to address poor punctuality, but all have met with limited success. The senior management team is paying serious attention to improving punctuality across the college.

There will be no further monitoring visits to the college because there are no remaining unsatisfactory areas.

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