

## RE-INSPECTION OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES COLLEGE

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### Outcome of Re-Inspection

The overall provision in the curriculum/WBL area of construction is now **good**.

### Background

Richmond upon Thames College was inspected in February 2003. 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 construction which was found to be less than satisfactory.

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 where leadership and management are unsatisfactory or very weak. Where a college has been judged to have less than satisfactory leadership and management, or less than satisfactory provision in solely WBL, inspectors from Ofsted or the ALI will visit the college to carry out monitoring inspections of the less than satisfactory areas. As a result of the re-inspection monitoring visits, inspectors may judge that previously less than satisfactory areas of provision, or leadership and management, are now satisfactory and that no further visits are required. Where leadership and management are satisfactory, but there is curriculum provision that is less than satisfactory, there will be no monitoring visits. All less than satisfactory provision will be re-inspected, normally during one week, within two years of the original inspection.

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

In accordance with the above procedures, re-inspection of construction took place during the week commencing 11 October 2004.

### Construction

In the February 2003 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

- high pass and progression rates on technician courses
- good practical work by learners
- effective school links programme

## Weaknesses

- slow progress made by learners on NVQ programmes
- inadequate practical training resources
- gaps in the range of provision
- unsatisfactory management of construction provision.

Following the re-inspection inspectors judged that progress has been made in addressing the above weaknesses. The overall provision in this area is now **good**.

The college has introduced a suitable range of programmes, from craft courses at entry level to intermediate construction awards in brickwork, painting and decorating and wood occupations and the technical certificate in plumbing. These qualifications have largely replaced poorly performing NVQ provision.

A very high proportion of teaching is now good or better. Lessons effectively involve a wide range of teaching styles and encourage high levels of student activity in meeting challenging learning goals. Students' practical work is of a consistently high standard. Key skills are taught well in a vocational context. Retention is satisfactory. However, student punctuality still remains poor and this restricts and disrupts learning. Pass rates on the newly introduced programmes are high. They are also now good on AVCE and NVQ level one. However, pass rates for the small number of remaining students on NVQ level two and three programmes continued to be very poor in 2003/4. Framework completion by modern apprentices is also extremely low, though this is also a small part of college provision.

Curriculum management is now good. The college has undertaken considerable investment in new and refurbished buildings. A new bricklaying workshop is operational and there are improvements in plumbing facilities. Carpentry students have more workspace.

There are now more teaching and support staff, and most new teachers have recent industrial experience and teaching qualifications. All new staff are mentored and have the support of advanced practitioners. Teams work well and meet frequently, sharing good practice. There are now six internal verifiers and moderation and standardisation of assessment have improved.

There will be no further re-inspection of the college because there are no remaining unsatisfactory areas.

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