

RE-INSPECTION OF WORTHING SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

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Outcome of Re-Inspection

The overall provision in the curriculum area of Information and communications technology (ICT) is now **satisfactory**.

Background

Worthing Sixth Form College was inspected in September 2002. 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 which was 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 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 the ICT curriculum area took place on 27 September to 1 October 2004.

ICT

In the September 2002 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

- Good individual support for students
- Wide range of level 3 ICT courses
- Good quality computing resources.

Weaknesses

- Low pass rates on many courses

- Unsatisfactory teaching on AVCE courses
- Ineffective leadership and management
- Ineffective monitoring of student performance
- Setting of undemanding tasks for advanced level students in many classes.

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

Pass rates on many courses have improved to above the national average. For example, GNVQ intermediate IT students have achieved pass rates of 84% in 2003 and 92% in 2004 compared to the national average of 75%. Last year the pass rates on AVCE ICT had increased by 33% and are now 4% above the national average. The pass rate on the AS-level computing course is now 10% above national average. However, pass rates on GCE AS/A2 courses in ICT are still below national average.

Teaching has improved. During the re-inspection, 67% of teaching was good or better, which is above the national average for inspections of colleges of its type. All staff now have teaching qualifications. In the best lessons the students were challenged and in many cases were working on more complex tasks than would be expected so early in a college year. Lessons gave opportunities for the variety of ability ranges in most classes. All lessons used a variety of learning methods, with opportunity for testing learning. However, the layout of some computer rooms is unsatisfactory. Students work with their notes and papers on their knees as the workstations are very close together. In the corners of two rooms ergonomic guidelines are not adhered to, with too little room behind the chairs. In one room trailing cables behind the desks caught students' feet.

Students' performance is now closely monitored and students at risk of underachieving are identified and supported. These students are given timetabled subject support which they must attend. Effective additional support is provided in level 2 lessons. Target grades are now used well in reviews with students and also on reports to parents.

Management of the ICT provision is now satisfactory. Two programme team leaders, one for vocational and one for academic courses, report to a programme manager. There are regular programme team meetings which identify issues in suitable detail. However, action planning is ineffective. A staff appraisal system is now in place and individual targets are set for improvement. These include targets for retention and achievement.

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