

**Hammersmith and West London College  
Reinspection of Business: November 2000  
Report from the Inspectorate  
The Further Education Funding Council**

## **THE FURTHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL**

*The Further Education Funding Council (FEFC) has a legal duty to make sure further education in England is properly assessed. The FEFC's inspectorate inspects and reports on each college of further education according to a four-year cycle. It also assesses and reports nationally on the curriculum, disseminates good practice and advises the FEFC's quality assessment committee.*

### **REINSPECTION**

*The FEFC has agreed that colleges with provision judged by the inspectorate to be less than satisfactory or poor (grade 4 or 5) should be reinspected. In these circumstances, a college may have its funding agreement with the FEFC qualified to prevent it increasing the number of new students in an unsatisfactory curriculum area until the FEFC is satisfied that weaknesses have been addressed.*

*Satisfactory provision may also be reinspected if actions have been taken to improve quality and the college's existing inspection grade is the only factor which prevents it from meeting the criteria for FEFC accreditation.*

*Reinspections are carried out in accordance with the framework and guidelines described in Council Circulars 97/12, 97/13 and 97/22. Reinspections seek to validate the data and judgements provided by colleges in self-assessment reports and confirm that actions taken as a result of previous inspection have improved the quality of provision. They involve full-time inspectors and registered part-time inspectors who have knowledge of, and experience in, the work they inspect. The opinion of the FEFC's audit service contributes to inspectorate judgements about governance and management.*

### **GRADE DESCRIPTORS**

*Assessments use grades on a five-point scale to summarise the balance between strengths and weaknesses. The descriptors for the grades are:*

- *grade 1 - outstanding provision which has many strengths and few weaknesses*
- *grade 2 - good provision in which the strengths clearly outweigh the weaknesses*
- *grade 3 - satisfactory provision with strengths but also some weaknesses*
- *grade 4 - less than satisfactory provision in which weaknesses clearly outweigh the strengths*
- *grade 5 - poor provision which has few strengths and many weaknesses.*

*Audit conclusions are expressed as good, adequate or weak.*

*Cheylesmore House  
Quinton Road  
Coventry CV1 2WT  
Telephone 02476 863000  
Fax 02476 862100  
website: <http://www.fefc.ac.uk>*

© FEFC 2001

*You may photocopy this report and use extracts in promotional or other material provided quotes are accurate, and the findings are not misrepresented.*

## **Hammersmith and West London College Greater London Region**

### **Reinspection of business: November 2000**

#### **Background**

Hammersmith and West London College was inspected in November 1999. The findings were published in the inspection report 37/00. Provision in business was graded 4.

The key strengths of the provision were: a broad range of provision with good progression opportunities; productive employer links on the foundation course; high retention on marketing courses; and good use of information and communications technology to support student learning. The major weaknesses were: much uninspiring and ineffective teaching; poor students' attendance and punctuality; poor students' achievements on many courses; and declining GNVQ retention rates.

The provision was reinspected in November 2000. Inspectors observed 11 lessons. Meetings were held with programme area managers and other staff and students. Students' work was examined and a wide range of documentation scrutinised, including students' achievement data.

#### **Assessment**

The college has made good progress in addressing some of the weaknesses identified in the inspection. Teaching has improved considerably since the inspection. Lessons are well planned, with clear learning outcomes. There is a range of teaching activities, leading to lively sessions that most students find enjoyable. Students show enthusiasm and have good subject knowledge. There has been a significant improvement in attendance since the inspection. Poor punctuality by some students led to the disruption of learning in a number of lessons observed. Classrooms are well equipped and provide a stimulating learning environment. Teaching resources are good, including high quality computers with access to the Internet. Assignments are thoughtfully designed and enable students to relate theory to the world of work. Students' work is marked thoroughly and teachers give constructive feedback. There is strong management and leadership of the curriculum team. Since the inspection, those students at risk of underachieving or leaving a course have been given additional help. Evaluation by the college indicates that these measures have improved student retention and achievement. There have been improvements in student retention on foundation and intermediate GNVQ courses, which are now at or above the national average. Retention on GCE A level and GNVQ advanced business courses completing in 2000 was below average. Pass rates on a number of courses improved in 2000. These included GNVQ business courses, where pass rates were in line with or above national averages. Pass rates on some professional courses and GCE A level business courses were below average.

The college should improve: students' retention on two-year courses; pass rates on some professional courses and GCE A level business courses; and the punctuality of some students.

**Revised grade:** business 3.