



**EDUCATIONAL OVERSIGHT INSPECTION OF PRIVATE FURTHER
EDUCATION COLLEGES AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOLS**

EXTENDED MONITORING VISIT

BOLTON WANDERERS INSTITUTE OF SPORT

Full Name	Bolton Wanderers Institute of Sport
Address	Macron Stadium, Burnden Way, Horwich, Bolton BL6 6JW
Telephone Number	01204 673740
Email Address	info@bwfcios.co.uk
Website	www.bwfcios.co.uk
Head of IOS	Ms Jo Davison
Chairman	Mr Phil Gartside
Proprietor	Bolton Wanderers Football Club
Age Range	15+
Total number of students	24
Numbers by age and type of study	Under 16: 1 16-17: 12 18+: 11 EFL and FE: 24
Inspection dates	03 – 04 February 2015

PREFACE

This inspection report follows the Framework for Educational Oversight Monitoring Visits and Extended Monitoring Visits of private further education colleges and English language schools. The focus of the visit is to confirm that the quality standards reported at the last full inspection are being maintained.

The ISI is an approved Educational Oversight body authorised by the Home Office to inspect privately funded further education colleges and English language schools in England and Wales offering courses on the Qualifications and Credit Framework. It is designed to improve the quality of education on offer to international students who attend UK colleges through Tier 4 of the points-based system for student visas.

ISI inspections are required to:

- Report on the extent to which colleges comply with the published Educational Oversight Standards;
- Assess and report on the quality of educational outcomes and provision;
- Where applicable, make recommendations outside the scope of the Standards to support continued improvement of quality.

Inspection provides objective and reliable reports on the quality of colleges, and by placing reports in the public domain, makes this information available to students, Government and the wider community. Inspection takes account of the context of each individual college, and of how it evaluates its own performance and demonstrates its success.

The inspection of the college is from an educational perspective and provides limited inspection of other aspects, though inspectors will comment on any significant hazards or problems they encounter which have an adverse impact on students. The inspection does not include:

- (i) an exhaustive health and safety audit;
- (ii) an in-depth examination of the structural condition of the college, its services or other physical features;
- (iii) an investigation of the financial viability of the college or its accounting procedures;
- (iv) an in-depth investigation of the college's compliance with employment law.

An extended monitoring visit is for those colleges found at the last inspection to have met or exceeded the quality Standards for Educational Oversight. Inspectors will make judgements on progress against any action points and recommendations made at that time. The inspection will not examine all other Standards in detail but will sample to confirm that previous Standards have been maintained and that there are no contrary indicators to those quality judgements. Inspectors will also consider the impact of any material change reported since the last inspection.

CONTENTS

	Page
1 CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT	2
2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	4
3 THE QUALITY OF THE CURRICULUM, TEACHING AND LEARNERS' ACHIEVEMENTS	6
4 STUDENTS' WELFARE, INCLUDING HEALTH AND SAFETY	7
5 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT	9
6 ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	11
INSPECTION EVIDENCE	12

1. CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT

- 1.1 Bolton Wanderers Institute of Sport is a private education institution located in Horwich, near Bolton in Lancashire. Founded in 2011, it is a limited company with three directors and is governed by the chairman of the club. The institute's mission is enable learners to gain their academic qualifications in professional sporting facilities, alongside elite professional athletes. Their aim is to empower learners, develop character and provide them with the opportunity to fulfil their potential through a life changing experience in a unique, challenging and motivational learning environment that brings together individuals of all abilities and nationalities.
- 1.2 The institute currently offers students a choice of an International Baccalaureate (IB) career-related certificate or a BTEC diploma at level 2 or 3. Expert sports coaching is provided as part of all students study programme. In addition, a University of Cambridge Key English Test (KET) examination course is offered to students who need to improve their English language skills. Learners are also offered the opportunity to complete IELTS tests to support progression in to High Education or employment.
- 1.3 At the time of the inspection there were 24 students, the majority of whom are under 18 years of age. All of the students are male and are from a wide range of overseas regions, including Africa, South America, Europe and the Middle East. There are 11 students studying on Tier 4 visas. English is an additional language (EAL) for the vast majority of students. There were no students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Most students are recruited through international coaching camps in their home countries, or through existing club contacts abroad. Students may enrol in either September or January.
- 1.4 This visit took the form of an extended monitoring visit as the college reported a change in over 20% of teaching staff and in the head of centre. Consequently, Sections 3 and 5 of the Framework concerning the quality of the curriculum, teaching and learners' achievement, and the effectiveness of governance, leadership and management will be examined in detail.
- 1.5 The college was previously inspected from 25 to 27 February 2014, when it met all Key Standards and the quality of education was judged to exceed expectations. The main action points and recommendations from the previous report are:
- Modify the quality assurance process to collate data from different locations into a single unified management tool.
 - Adapt existing policies to reflect the specific character and needs of the college.
 - Adapt the student induction process to ensure uniformity.
 - Set up an identifiable attendance and reporting process specifically for Tier 4 learners.

- Widen the scope of careers guidance to include the full range of progression opportunities and external resources of information.
- Include college policies on the website.

2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- 2.1 **The college exceeds expectations.** At the previous inspection of 25 to 27 February 2014 the college was found to exceed expectations and the quality of education as judged at that time has been maintained.
- 2.2 The quality of the curriculum, teaching and learners' achievements is excellent. Students receive an extremely good education in accordance with their objectives and the college's aims. The college offers a wide range of very high quality courses that fully meet the needs and aspirations of the students and provides clear routes to further study or employment. Courses satisfy Home Office requirements. Testing of students prior to and on arrival is accurate and is highly effective in ensuring that students are placed on the right course in accordance with their abilities and career aspirations. Students are supported by outstanding teaching and a well-planned curriculum. Teachers have excellent subject knowledge and use a wide range of effective teaching methods to inspire and keep the students interest. Students demonstrate very high levels of knowledge and understanding across the range of courses. High quality resources are provided and are used very effectively to promote learning. Feedback on assessments is thorough and clearly identifies suggestions for improvement. Overall, students' attendance, achievements and progress are excellent.
- 2.3 Students' welfare, including health and safety, is excellent. The college's buildings are very well maintained and provide a comfortable environment which effectively supports learning. A comprehensive range of health and safety policies and procedures is in place and implemented effectively. The college provides a very safe and secure learning environment for students and staff. Fire precautions, drills and evacuations are systematically undertaken and are clearly understood by all students and staff. Student registration and attendance records are extremely well managed and are now effective in monitoring attendance and taking necessary action. Procedures for reporting to the Home Office are secure. The college's pastoral structure provides excellent support and guidance for the students in accordance with its aims. Relationships between staff and students are excellent. Students report that they are happy and extremely well supported.
- 2.4 The effectiveness of governance, leadership and management is excellent. The chairman provides outstanding oversight and discharges his responsibilities extremely well for financial planning and investment in the future. Welfare, health and safety of students is taken very seriously and all appropriate legal permissions are in place. Leadership and management are excellent. Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and there is highly effective communication between managers and other staff. Well-defined policies and procedures are now introduced at all levels, and implemented and monitored appropriately. Mechanisms to monitor quality and the tracking of student progress are excellent. Self-assessment is well-developed and used effectively to ensure the necessary resources are in place to meet the needs of the college. The college successfully attracts highly experienced tutors and managers. Recruitment of staff is in accordance with legal requirements.

Teaching is monitored through observation, but the outcomes from observations are not analysed or linked to staff appraisal. The college maintains excellent communication with students, who in pre-inspection questionnaires and interviews expressed a very high level of satisfaction with the education provided.

3. THE QUALITY OF THE CURRICULUM, TEACHING AND LEARNERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3.1 The quality of the curriculum, teaching and learners' achievements is excellent. All Key Standards continue to be met.
- 3.2 Owing to a change of 20% or more of teaching staff, the quality of the curriculum, teaching and learners' achievements was examined in detail.
- 3.3 The quality of course provision and curriculum is excellent. Students are extremely well educated in accordance the college's aims and their objectives. The curriculum is based on a suitable policy statement, is very well planned and provides a wide range of courses to meet the different needs and aspirations of students. On arrival, initial assessment is very thorough. The process is highly accurate and tutors use the information to help students to make excellent progress. As a result, students are highly satisfied with the provision offered, with the vast majority completing their course. Qualifications meet the requirements of the Home Office and offer suitable progression routes into higher education or employment.
- 3.4 Teaching is outstanding and is characterised by excellent planning, with considerable care taken to match tasks to individual levels of ability. The lessons are delivered at a lively pace and include a wide variety of teaching methods and resources to suit different learning styles and to foster interest. Teachers have excellent subject knowledge, are very enthusiastic and motivate their students to enjoy and engage with their learning. They have a clear knowledge of students' previous learning and consistently challenge even the most able to meet their learning goals. The evidence from lesson observation shows that the overall standards being reached are excellent, and that outcomes are high in relation to the students' starting points.
- 3.5 Assessment throughout the course is regular and thorough; it identifies strengths and weaknesses in the students' progress and highlights areas for improvement. Teachers make good use of assessment outcomes to inform their planning. The results for students who sit examinations are very good. Attendance levels are very high and punctuality is excellent.

4. STUDENTS' WELFARE, INCLUDING HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 4.1 Students' welfare, including health and safety, is excellent. All Key Standards continue to be met.
- 4.2 The recommendations in this area from the previous inspection report are:
- Adapt the student induction process to ensure uniformity.
 - Set up an identifiable attendance and reporting process specifically for Tier 4 learners.
 - Widen the scope of careers guidance to include the full range of progression opportunities and external resources of information.
- 4.3 Excellent progress has been made against the first recommendation. The college has produced and implemented a detailed and comprehensive induction programme that all students follow. Consequently, on enrolment, students enter a comprehensive induction period where they become familiar with the college and their chosen programme of study.
- 4.4 Excellent progress has been made against the second recommendation. A comprehensive system for recording all students' attendance has been successfully developed. The system clearly highlights Tier 4 learners and ensures that their attendance is appropriately recorded and monitored in accordance with Home Office requirements. As a result, students' attendance is accurately recorded and closely monitored with unexpected absence followed up on the same day. Communication between administrators and academic tutors is excellent and quickly identifies students who are late or who fail to attend sessions. Students are made aware that regular absence may seriously disrupt educational progress and, where appropriate, is reported to the Home Office.
- 4.5 Good progress has been made against the third recommendation. An appropriate system has been introduced to provide support for students to investigate and apply for work opportunities and progression into higher education. This includes tutorials to support applications to universities in the UK or USA. As a result, students are well prepared for further study choices and life beyond the college.
- 4.6 The college premises are secure, suitable for the courses offered and very well maintained. Classrooms are clean, spacious, light and well furnished. Comprehensive and detailed policies and procedures ensure that the health and safety of students and staff are assured. All necessary measures are taken to reduce the risk of fire and other hazards. The college has an appropriate number of fire marshals and staff trained in first aid. A secure plan is in place for disability access which complies with legislation.
- 4.7 Systems for recording registration are detailed and well managed. A central register is accurately maintained and individual student files contain relevant information on admission details, academic records and, where appropriate, copies of student visas.

- 4.8 Management and administrative staff have a clear understanding of Home Office requirements regarding the enrolment and attendance requirements for students and adhere to them rigorously. Accurate records of all these matters are recorded on the college's database and in students' individual files.
- 4.9 Pastoral support for students is excellent. The college has successfully created a caring culture where all staff feel it is part of their role to support students. A comprehensive social programme is offered which effectively contributes to students overall experience and understanding of life in the UK. Students are very clear about who to see and where to go if they have a concern. Relationships between staff and students, and amongst the students themselves, are excellent, with a strong culture of mutual respect, integration and tolerance. A wide range of suitable policies and procedures reinforces this culture, together with the college's expectations of good behaviour and conduct. The college has clear anti-bullying and harassment policies and procedures, and students report no instances of such behaviour. Replies to the pre-inspection questionnaire and meetings with students' show that they feel that the college is providing them with a very safe and comfortable environment which is highly effective in meeting their learning needs. Nearly all would recommend the college to others.
- 4.10 Clear policies and procedures are in place for the collection and refund of student fees and deposits. The policy is fair and applied consistently.
- 4.11 The college website provides comprehensive, detailed information about the college in line with requirements. The college was highly responsive in providing information for the inspection in a timely manner.

5. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The effectiveness of governance, leadership and management is excellent. All Key Standards continue to be met.
- 5.2 The recommendations in this area from the previous inspection report are:
- Modify the quality assurance process to collate data from different locations into a single unified management tool.
 - Adapt existing policies to reflect the specific character and needs of the college.
 - Include college policies on the website.
- 5.3 Excellent progress has been made against the first recommendation. Data are now stored in a single central record, providing managers with accurate information on every stage of the student journey from initial contact through to enrolment, induction, registration and ultimately certification. This information is used very effectively to monitor and evaluate performance, with appropriate actions initiated in a timely manner to bring about effective change
- 5.4 Good progress has been made against the second recommendation. Existing policies have been reviewed and, where necessary, updated to reflect the specific character and needs of the college. As a result, policies are appropriately monitored and reflect the college's needs.
- 5.5 Satisfactory progress has been made against the third recommendation. A new website has been created in which the college policies are included and regularly updated.
- 5.6 Following a change in the head of centre, the effectiveness of governance, leadership and management was examined in detail.
- 5.7 The college is extremely well managed. The focus of governance and leadership is forward looking, with a clear emphasis on supporting students and maintaining very high standards. The leaders are highly successful in providing clear educational direction and discharging their responsibilities in accordance with the aims of the college. The college's work is supported financially by excellent structures which provide the resources necessary to make its aims realistically achievable. As a result, appropriate action is taken with regard to course development, maintenance of the college's premises and student welfare.
- 5.8 Relationships and communication between the leadership team, the proprietors and the teaching staff is excellent. Replies to the pre-inspection questionnaire and meetings with staff show that they are very happy and extremely supportive of the college. A comprehensive range of policies are in place which is regularly reviewed to ensure their effectiveness.

- 5.9 Arrangements for quality assurance are excellent. Academic progress is monitored carefully and data on performance and progress are used very effectively to track and evaluate performance; appropriate actions are initiated in a timely manner to bring about effective change. Self-evaluation is good and provides an accurate account of the college's key strengths and areas for development. Teaching is monitored through observation, but the outcomes from observations are not analysed or linked to staff appraisal. The college is highly successful in recruiting and developing high quality staff and ensuring their suitability to work with students, including those under the age of 18 and any vulnerable adults. All required employment and suitability checks are completed before their employment is confirmed.
- 5.10 Student feedback is collected systematically through questionnaires and discussions with students. This feedback is analysed, shared with staff and managers and used regularly to inform teacher development, academic action planning and the identification of college's priorities; implementation of identified improvements is thorough. Responses to pre-inspection questionnaires and meetings with students indicate a very high level of satisfaction with the quality of education provided by the college.
- 5.11 The complaints procedure is clear and appropriate, and includes provision for outside adjudication if necessary. Complaints are handled effectively in line with published procedures, which have a direct and positive impact on quality assurance and improvement planning. Complaints are few and students confirmed that they are aware of the policy.
- 5.12 There are no arrangements for the protection of student fees.

6. ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The college has maintained the excellent quality found at the last inspection.

Recommendations for further improvement

In order to further improve the excellent quality provided, the college should:

- Implement the lesson observation programme so that it informs course development and links into staff development and appraisal.

INSPECTION EVIDENCE

The inspectors observed lessons, conducted formal interviews with students and examined samples of students' work. They held discussions with senior members of staff and with the chair of governors, observed a sample of the extra-curricular activities that occurred during the inspection period, and attended registration sessions. The responses of staff and students to confidential pre-inspection questionnaires were analysed, and the inspectors examined regulatory documentation made available by the college.

Inspectors

Dr Nigel Chambers	Lead Inspector
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