



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

FOLLOW-UP VISIT

ALPHA OMEGA COLLEGE

Full Name	Alpha Omega College
Address	5, St Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff, CF10 3DA, Wales
Company Name	Alpha Omega College Ltd
Telephone Number	02920341212
Email Address	marymatti@yahoo.co.uk
Website	www.alphaomegacollege.co.uk
Principal	Ms Mary Matti
Proprietor	Ms Mary Matti
Age Range	8+
Total number of students	2
Numbers by age and type of study	16-17: 0 18+: 2 EFL only: 2 FE only: 0
Inspection date	4 April 2017

PREFACE

This inspection report follows the Framework for Educational Oversight Inspections of private further education colleges and English language schools. The focus of the visit is to ensure that the action points and recommendations made during the previous inspection have been adequately addressed.

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.

A follow-up inspection is for those colleges which did not fully meet the required Standards at their last inspection and so need improvement. Inspectors will make judgements on progress against any action points and recommendations made at that time to determine whether Educational Oversight Standards are now fully met. The inspection will not examine any other Standards.

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1. CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTEXT

- 1.1 Alpha Omega College is a private further education and English language college, located in the centre of Cardiff, South Wales. Founded in 2005, it is owned and governed by the proprietor who also undertakes the role of principal. The college's mission is to ensure high quality learning along with a strong focus on students' welfare.
- 1.2 The college offers English language and vocational courses. The English language courses include year round general English and examination preparation courses and a short summer school for students between the ages of 8 and 17. Vocational courses offered are from level 4 to level 7 in business and management, health and social care management, travel and tourism and IT. In addition, the college offers an international foundation programme for students preparing for higher education, combining English language and academic skills.
- 1.3 At the time of the inspection there were 2 students enrolled. Both are female, over 18 years and come from Asia. At the time of the visit there were no students identified with language and learning difficulties or disabilities.
- 1.4 The college was last inspected on the 1-3 November 2016 when it did not meet all Key Standards and the quality of education was judged to need improvement. The main action point and recommendations from the previous report are:
- Ensure that records for all home stays are complete, including confirmation of inspections of accommodation and enhanced DBS checks for the main carer where those under 18 are accommodated, and available for the college to monitor and external bodies to review. **[Standard 39]**
 - Improve documentation and associated management procedures to ensure that they are well organised, fit for purpose, current and fully implemented.
 - Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of provision to ensure that managers respond to areas where improvement is required.
 - Strengthen action planning by developing a system which ensures that all actions identified are regularly monitored for their progress and completion.
 - Develop teaching skills and strategies to ensure teachers summarise key learning points and provide an appropriate challenge to students on higher level courses.
 - Strengthen safeguarding by formally identifying a deputy safeguarding person to cover when the lead is not present, and including the college's e-safety statement in the safeguarding policy.

2. FINDINGS

- 2.1 A follow-up visit for Alpha Omega College took place on 4 April 2017 to determine the progress made in implementing the recommendations and action points arising from the Educational Oversight inspection of 1-3 November 2016. The college has made sufficient progress and now **meets expectations**.

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

- 3.1 The recommendation relating to the quality of the curriculum, teaching and learners' achievements is:
- Develop teaching skills and strategies to ensure teachers summarise key learning points and provide an appropriate challenge to students on higher level courses.
- 3.2 No higher level courses were running at the time of the inspection. Consequently, the recommendation could not be reviewed.

4. STUDENTS' WELFARE, INCLUDING HEALTH AND SAFETY

4.1 The action point relating to students' welfare, including health and safety is:

1. **Ensure that records for all home stays are complete, including confirmation of inspections of accommodation and enhanced DBS checks for the main carer where those under 18 are accommodated, and available for the college to monitor and external bodies to review. [Key Standard 39]**

4.2 The recommendation relating to students' welfare, including health and safety is:

- Strengthen safeguarding by formally identifying a deputy safeguarding person to cover when the lead is not present, and including the college's e-safety statement in the safeguarding policy.

4.3 Good progress has been made in meeting the action point. Procedures for the management of residential accommodation have been reviewed and revised and now include secure mechanisms to ensure that all required documents and checks are in place before students are allocated to home stay hosts. Consequently, detailed records for all home stay providers are now available for the college to monitor and external bodies to review.

4.4 Unsatisfactory progress has been made against the recommendation. Two members of staff have been identified to undertake the role of deputy safeguarding lead. However, both staff members have not received appropriate formal safeguarding training. Consequently, they are not appropriately trained to undertake this role. The college's e-safety statement is now included in the safeguarding policy.

5. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The recommendations relating to the effectiveness of governance, leadership and management are:
- Improve documentation and associated management procedures to ensure that they are well organised, fit for purpose, current and fully implemented.
 - Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of provision to ensure that managers respond to areas where improvement is required.
 - Strengthen action planning by developing a system which ensures that all actions identified are regularly monitored for their progress and completion.
- 5.2 Satisfactory progress has been made against the first recommendation. The college has amalgamated a number of documents to avoid duplication and now includes a review date on all documents to ensure that they are current. The organisational chart has been reviewed and revised, and was further amended during the inspection, so that it now clearly identifies individual roles and responsibilities. Consequently, documentation and management procedures are now appropriately organised, current and fit for purpose. However, as most of these changes have occurred very recently, there is limited evidence of their implementation.
- 5.3 Satisfactory progress has been made against the second recommendation. Systems for monitoring and evaluating the college's provision have been reviewed and appropriately revised. Changes made ensure that managers are now aware of areas in need of improvement and are able to plan and respond to bring about the required change.
- 5.4 Unsatisfactory progress has been made against the third recommendation. The actions recorded as a result of monthly management meetings and the evaluation of student and staff feedback are frequent but not specific enough or measurable so that their impact can be evaluated. Follow up is not rigorously assessed or the impact recorded. No overall college action plan for improvement is evident and no system exists to ensure that all actions are regularly monitored and progress or completion recorded.

6. ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The college has improved the quality of education found at the last inspection.

Recommendations for further improvement

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

- Strengthen action planning by developing a system which ensures that all actions identified are regularly monitored for their progress and completion.
- Develop teaching skills and strategies to ensure teachers summarise key learning points and provide an appropriate challenge to students on higher level courses.
- Strengthen safeguarding by formally identifying a suitably qualified deputy safeguarding person to cover when the lead is not present.

INSPECTION EVIDENCE

The inspectors held discussions with senior members of staff and with the proprietor and examined documentation made available by the college.

Inspectors

Dr Nigel Chambers	Lead Inspector
Ms Angela Moir	Team Inspector