

Brampton College

Independent School

Inspection Report

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| DCSF Registration Number | 302/6101 |
| Unique Reference Number | 101393 |
| Inspection number | 330427 |
| Inspection dates | 11 February 2009 |
| Reporting inspector | Andrew Redpath HMI |

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 162A of the Education Act 2002 (as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005).

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Purpose and scope of the inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005, in order to advise the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school.

This was a light touch inspection (LTI) which focused principally on the quality of education provided by the school; its provision for the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; the arrangements for safeguarding students and the improvements the school has made since its last inspection.

Information about the school

Brampton College is a co-educational sixth form college for students aged between 15 and 19 years. It was established in 1989 and moved to its present site in Hendon, north-west London, in 1998. Currently 252 students are on roll who mainly attend from the local area. Additionally, approximately one tenth of students come from overseas. Students come from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds, the main groups being Asian and White British. All have their places privately funded. The college is in the ownership of a private company, Brampton Educational Services Ltd. It was last inspected in November 2005.

The college provides a range of GCSE, AS and A level courses and aims *'to help each individual student to succeed in their aspirations and achieve their best possible exam results'*. It also seeks to develop students' confidence, self-motivation and capacity to think for themselves in preparation for a university education.

Evaluation of the school

Brampton College provides an outstanding quality of education. Outstanding teaching ensures students gain exceptionally high results in A level, AS and GCSE examinations. Parents and students hold very positive views about the work of the college and particularly appreciate the very high quality of teaching and the caring and supportive environment. Ambitious leadership has enabled the college to strengthen its performance since the last inspection, particularly in relation to students' academic achievement. The college meets all except one of the regulations.

Quality of education

The quality of the curriculum is outstanding. The college is very successful in meeting its aim to provide a high quality academic education. An excellent range of one and two year courses is provided which includes subjects at GCSE, AS and A level. Physical education is provided for the small number of Year 11 students through weekly visits to a local sports centre and the personal, social and health

education (PSHE) programme includes relevant topics. Detailed planning is in place for all subjects which is regularly updated to meet changing course requirements. Thorough preparation for future careers is provided which is closely linked to students' choices of further study. For example, students intending to pursue a course in medicine will undertake a work experience placement in a hospital or doctor's surgery. Extra-curricular trips and visits are largely arranged as part of the study programme for individual subjects. The length of the taught week is longer than the minimum expected, although the college does provide some additional clubs which include football and theatre visits.

The quality of teaching and assessment is outstanding. Teachers combine high expectations and an understanding of each student's needs, with consistent support and encouragement. This approach is summed up by one student who states teachers are 'approachable and maintain flexibility while encouraging academic ambition'. The average class size is less than 7, enabling students to receive considerable individual support. Teachers have excellent subject knowledge which helps them to make lessons challenging and interesting. The pace of learning is brisk and students display excellent attitudes to their work. A good range of resources is used to support teaching, including information and communication technology, specialist science laboratories and an art room. The accommodation is maintained to a very high standard which enhances the climate for learning.

The college uses assessment information carefully to set challenging targets and check students' progress. Individual tutorials are held each fortnight to discuss students' success in achieving their individual targets. In addition, focused individual subject tutorials are used to provide help and support for students outside the classroom. Students are very appreciative of this support and feel it has helped them to raise their aspirations. This strong and personalised support underpins students' exceptionally high academic achievement. A very large majority gain the highest grades in GCSE and A level examinations each year. Students' progress in their learning is outstanding and almost all move on to their destination of choice in higher education.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the students

Students' personal development is outstanding. The college ethos is based on high expectations and students are given the support to ensure they succeed. As a result students grow in self-confidence and develop greater self-esteem. In the words of one enthusiastic student, 'Brampton College has made me realise I can achieve the dreams that I never thought I could.' Students enjoy coming to the college and are strong advocates of what it has to offer. Some report they have not achieved so well in previous settings because the approach was less flexible and personalised than at Brampton College. Students' behaviour is outstanding, both in lessons and around the college. They are polite and courteous and are pleased to talk about their work and life at the college. Attendance and course completion rates are high.

Students contribute to the life of the college by for example, organising such events as a 'talent show' and a 'leavers' ball'. They feel staff are approachable and willing to

act on their ideas and suggestions. Students make a positive contribution to the wider community by raising money for various charities, including Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and 'Water Aid'. Students receive recognition for their achievements, for example through the award of small prizes, such as book tokens. Notices are displayed to inform the student community of successes and some small scale presentations occur in tutor group time. Otherwise, few formal opportunities exist for students to receive recognition or to mark important milestones with a large group of their peers. The college is aware of this issue and is considering ways of increasing student recognition.

Students display a very good understanding of different cultural and religious traditions, partly acquired by working in a college where students come from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. This knowledge is strengthened through the study of topics in various subjects, for example in English where texts are chosen to reflect diverse cultures. The PSHE and citizenship curricula encourage students to consider social and moral issues, for example human rights and responses to crime. Students also gain an understanding of parliament, the courts and other public institutions. Students' success in examinations and their careful preparation for university admission give them an excellent preparation for future study and employment.

Safeguarding students' welfare, health and safety

Provision for safeguarding students' welfare, health and safety is good. As one student commented, 'Brampton offers a warm, caring environment where everyone counts.' Students report there is no bullying and that everyone gets on well together. The small class groups and individual support provided through the tutor system ensure any anxieties are picked up and dealt with quickly. Additionally, an individual counselling service is available to any students who feel they might benefit. Students from overseas are provided with a very good induction programme of trips and social activities to ensure they are made to feel welcome.

Arrangements for safeguarding students are generally robust but do not meet all the requirements. New staff have all the necessary checks completed prior to their appointment to ensure they are suitable to work with children. The college has an appropriate child protection policy in place; however the designated member of staff has not received the necessary training. The college is aware of this and has already arranged for attendance on a suitable course. A comprehensive range of health and safety policies and procedures are in place. Fire risk assessments and drills take place regularly and fire-fighting equipment is checked by a specialist company. Students learn about the need for leading a healthy lifestyle through the PSHE, sports and science curricula. A few parents expressed the view that the college could do more to develop their child's health and give greater opportunity for regular exercise. Students feel they have sufficient opportunities already and given the college's aims and priority to promote academic achievement, current provision is acceptable.

The college has a plan for increasing access for disabled users which meets the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2002.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school meets all of the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended January 2005, with the exception of the one listed below.

The school does not meet all requirements in respect of provision for pupils' welfare, health and safety (standard 3) and must:

- ensure that the designated member of staff with responsibility for child protection receives appropriate training (paragraph 3(2)(b)).

What the school could do to improve further

While not required by the regulations, the school might wish to consider the following points for development:

- extend opportunities for students to receive recognition for their achievements from the wider college community.

Inspection Judgement Recording Form

| | | | |
|-------------|------|--------------|------------|
| outstanding | good | satisfactory | inadequate |
|-------------|------|--------------|------------|

The quality of education

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Overall quality of education | ✓ | | | |
| How well the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of students | ✓ | | | |
| How effective teaching and assessment are in meeting the full range of students' needs | ✓ | | | |
| How well students make progress in their learning | ✓ | | | |

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Quality of provision for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development | ✓ | | | |
| The behaviour of students | ✓ | | | |

Welfare, health and safety of students

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| The overall welfare, health and safety of students | | ✓ | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|

School details

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|---|--|------------|------------|
| Name of school | Brampton College | | |
| DCSF number | 302/6101 | | |
| Unique reference number | 101393 | | |
| Type of school | Sixth form college | | |
| Status | Independent | | |
| Date school opened | 1989 | | |
| Age range of pupils | 15-19 | | |
| Gender of pupils | Mixed | | |
| Number on roll (full-time pupils) | Boys: 129 | Girls: 120 | Total: 249 |
| Number on roll (part-time pupils) | Boys: 1 | Girls: 2 | Total: 3 |
| Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need | Boys: 0 | Girls: 0 | Total: 0 |
| Number of pupils who are looked after | Boys: 0 | Girls: 0 | Total: 0 |
| Annual fees (day pupils) | £12,525 - £15,585 | | |
| Address of school | Lodge House Lodge Road Hendon London NW4 4DQ | | |
| Telephone number | 020 8203 5025 | | |
| Fax number | 020 8203 0052 | | |
| Email address | admin@bramptoncollege.com | | |
| Headteacher | Mr Bernard Canetti | | |
| Proprietor | Brampton Educational Services Ltd | | |
| Reporting inspector | Andrew Redpath HMI | | |
| Dates of inspection | 11 February 2009 | | |