

# Press Information

## Local College Joins UK's Elite as OFSTED Awards 'Outstanding' Grades Across the Board

A local college serving some of Leicester's most diverse and deprived communities is celebrating achieving the equivalent of 'straight As' across all aspects of its delivery, following an inspection by OFSTED.

South Leicestershire College in Wigston and Market Harborough is one of only seven Further Education colleges in the UK to achieve a clean sweep of 'Outstanding' grades in each of OFSTED's five standard measures. The College also received an unprecedented sixth 'Outstanding' grade in Equality of Opportunity.

Lowell Williams, Principal, South Leicestershire College, enthuses: "This achievement is all the greater given the communities we serve, and demonstrates the desire and dedication of our staff and students to achieve excellence in education.

"More than one third of our learners are from areas of high deprivation and almost one in three is of ethnic minority heritage. What these Grades represent are the realisation of our mission, to provide excellent and innovative vocational learning that improves the life chances, employability and economic opportunities of all our learners."

Mary Rogers, Area Director, Learning and Skills Council Leicestershire, comments on South Leicestershire College's success: "This OFSTED Report is truly exceptional. What it demonstrates is the College's commitment to its learners and its ability to be responsive to the needs of the local economy and employers. It's an excellent base for building on their ambitious and exciting plans for the college."

## **...2 Local College Joins UK's Elite as OFSTED Awards 'Outstanding' Grades Across the Board (continued)**

Inspectors awarded the College 'Outstanding' grades in each of the following five categories:

- Effectiveness of provision
- Capacity to improve
- Achievement of standards
- Quality of provision
- Leadership and management.

The Inspection focused on the College's overall effectiveness and its capacity to improve further, as well as its achievements and the standards it sets staff and students. The quality of learning provision, along with the leadership and management demonstrated by the College's leadership team were also evaluated.

Lowell Williams concludes: "The College is a beacon of success and demonstrates how with vision and quality leadership, education can become a real community asset of which everyone can be proud.

"OFSTED's findings confirm what everyone associated with the College has long known; that we are a successful and proud learning community, committed to serving the needs of our local economy and the learners who share our vision.

"We are entering a very exciting period in the College's history. This is a fantastic achievement and, in conjunction with our ambitious plans for the redevelopment of the College's Wigston campus, provides a solid platform for providing learners in Leicester with world class education facilities."

The full OFSTED Inspection Report is available at [www.ofsted.org.uk](http://www.ofsted.org.uk) or visit [www.slcollege.ac.uk](http://www.slcollege.ac.uk)

## **...3 Local College Joins UK's Elite as OFSTED Awards 'Outstanding' Grades Across the Board (continued)**

## **Notes to Editors**

Highlights of the inspection include:

### **Effectiveness of provision: Outstanding Grade 1**

- The achievements of learners of all ages are significantly above national averages for courses at all levels.
- Success rates for learners from minority ethnic groups are now outstanding.
- The College offers an outstanding vocational curriculum with vocational programmes for school pupils aged 14-16 a particular strength.
- The College has outstanding links with employers.
- Guidance, support and care for learners are outstanding.
- The College's response to educational and social inclusion is outstanding.
- Leadership and management are outstanding.

### **Capacity to improve: Outstanding Grade 1**

- The College has a shared commitment to raise the aspirations, achievements and well-being of its diverse range of learners.
- It has made outstanding progress in addressing areas for improvement identified at its last inspection and key strengths include:
  - outstanding performance of learners from minority ethnic groups
  - highly successful collaborative partnerships
  - an aspirational culture reflected in all of the College's work.

### **Achievements and standards: Outstanding Grade 1**

- Achievement and standards are outstanding, with an 83% success rate placing it in the top 10% of colleges of its type nationally.
- Success rates for learners aged 16-18 are significantly above national averages for courses at all levels; particularly noteworthy as many learners enter the College with low prior qualifications and frequently low self-esteem.
- Key skills success rates are outstanding.

## **...4 Local College Joins UK's Elite as OFSTED Awards 'Outstanding' Grades Across the Board (continued)**

### **Quality of provision: Outstanding Grade 1**

- Provision is outstanding and teaching of key skills is very good.
- Assessment is rigorous and provides learners with sufficiently detailed feedback for them to understand how to improve their work.
- The College offers an outstanding vocational curriculum which fully meets the needs of its learners.
  
- The College has outstanding links with local and national employers and employers value the flexibility of the College in meeting training needs.
- Guidance, support and care for learners are outstanding and have contributed significantly to the continuing success rates, as well as enabling young people to deal with significant changes in their lives.
- Learners receive excellent personal and specialist learning support.
- Cultural differences and diversity are celebrated in all aspects of the College's work, including a learner-led annual diversity day.

### **Leadership and Management: Outstanding Grade 1**

- Leadership and management are outstanding.
- The College has an excellent record of collaboration, particularly with schools and employers, resulting in a series of highly successful initiatives meeting local and regional needs.
- The promotion of equal opportunities is outstanding and is a high priority in daily college life.

### **For further press information please contact**

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