



South East Essex College of Arts and Technology

Re-inspection report

Audience Post-sixteen	Published TBC	Provider reference 130672
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Introduction

South East Essex College of Arts and Technology was inspected in February 2004. Inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and the Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) carried out the inspection under Section 62 of the Learning and Skills Act. The quality of provision was found to be satisfactory or better in all areas inspected, except in hairdressing and beauty therapy which was found to be less than satisfactory. Ofsted is responsible for re-inspecting all provision that is less than satisfactory within two years of the original inspection. If inadequate areas of learning or aspects of provision remain inadequate following re-inspection, inspectors will continue to monitor progress at annual assessment visits, but the areas will not be re-graded. They will be re-inspected during the full college inspection.

The less than satisfactory hairdressing and beauty therapy was re-inspected on 8 & 9 February 2006. The outcomes of the re-inspection are as follows.

Curriculum area	Original grade	Re-inspection grade
Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy	4	3

Context

The college offers a range of full-time and part-time programmes in hairdressing, beauty and holistic therapies from level 1 to level 3. At the time of inspection, there were 188 learners aged 16 to 18 and 100 adults on full-time programmes. Some 14 learners aged 16 to 18 and 128 adults attend part-time.

Strengths/Improvements

- *High pass rates on most programmes*
- *High retention rates on most beauty therapy programmes*
- *Good curriculum management in beauty therapy*
- *Effective development of learners' practical skills*

Areas for improvement

- *Low retention on hairdressing level 1 and part-time beauty therapy programmes*
- *Insufficient working space on some programmes*

Achievement and standards

Pass rates on all hairdressing programmes and beauty therapy part-time and full-time levels 1 and 2 are high. Retention rates on full-time beauty therapy programmes are high having improved to above national averages since 2003/04. Retention rates on level 1 hairdressing in 2005 were significantly

below national average. Retention rates on some part-time beauty therapy programmes are below national average.

Punctuality and attendance are good on most programmes. Learners are progressing at a satisfactory pace. Their practical work is good. Many learners demonstrate advanced practical skills in both hairdressing and beauty therapy. Beauty therapy learners produce written work of a good standard, demonstrating good knowledge and understanding.

Quality of provision

There have been significant improvements in teaching and learning which are now satisfactory or better. Most lessons are well planned and teachers use a range of learning styles to maintain learners' interest. The college lesson observation programme is comprehensive. Many of the strengths and areas for improvement of teaching and learning are identified accurately through this process. A minority of lesson observations are awarded over generous grades.

Assessment and monitoring of learners' progress are good. Teachers provide constructive feedback on written work and practical assessments, helping learners effectively to improve their work.

In hairdressing commercial salons there are not always sufficient clients. Learners without clients are encouraged to work on blocks, this does not always maintain their interest effectively. Hairdressing and beauty salons are cramped. Hairdressing learners have insufficient space for personal belongings. In beauty therapy there are insufficient couches to allow all learners to practise and be assessed in practical lessons.

Leadership and management

Leadership and management in beauty therapy are good and satisfactory in hairdressing. With the exception of a minority of retention rates, the key weaknesses identified at the previous inspection have been addressed successfully. Attendance has improved in many programmes. Beauty therapy course reviews are critical and identify accurately strengths and weaknesses. Hairdressing reviews are satisfactory. Curriculum planning is now satisfactory and all 16-18 year old learners undertake key skills. Teachers create appropriate real working environments. Many learners in beauty therapy undertake relevant work experience to develop their industrial skills.