



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

MONITORING VISIT

ALBEMARLE INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

Company registration no. – 3387138

2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- 2.1 **The college exceeds expectations.** At the previous inspection of 8-10 March 2016 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. Course provision is very well planned. The college has a very flexible approach to the planning of students' programmes which ensures that student needs and aspirations are met effectively. Life skills programmes and English language support for international students enhance students' educational experience very effectively. Courses on offer to Tier 4 visa students meet the definition of an approved qualification, as set out in the Home Office guidance. The overall quality of teaching is good and all lessons are good or excellent. As a result students make excellent progress. Lessons are well planned and teachers have excellent subject knowledge. Most teachers engage students effectively in learning. In a minority of lessons teachers do not use planned teaching strategies fully and students are less engaged for parts of their lessons. Assessment is excellent; test results are used effectively to monitor students' progress and to identify situations where additional support is needed. Student achievements are excellent. Examination results are significantly above national averages, but the college does not analyse its results by comparing them to national averages.
- 2.3 Students' welfare, including health and safety, is excellent. Arrangements for the management of health and safety are very effective. The monitoring of health and safety issues is systematic, and emergency and first aid procedures are well organised. The premises are of a good quality and very well maintained. Admission and attendance records are accurate. Attendance monitoring is well managed and effective, resulting in high rates of attendance. Pastoral care is excellent. Students have regular opportunities to raise and discuss academic and welfare issues, and the college responds effectively to concerns raised. Induction is well planned and there is a high standard of advice and guidance for careers and university entrance. The safeguarding of students under 18 years is excellent. All staff have appropriate training, including effective awareness raising for radicalisation, and they understand their responsibilities for safeguarding.
- 2.4 The effectiveness of governance, leadership and management is excellent. The two principals are also the proprietors. They are fully involved in all operational and strategic matters and provide excellent oversight of the college. They set clear aims and provide high quality staff and other resources to meet the educational and welfare needs of students. Leadership and management are excellent. The management structure is clear and communication between staff and managers is very good. Self-evaluation is good and now involves all staff in the evaluation of provision and the identification of strengths and areas for development. As a result managers are clear about priorities for improvement. Quality assurance is excellent, through an effective, systematic approach to monitoring and responding to student achievement data and feedback from staff and students. A new student council has

strengthened student feedback by providing weekly opportunities to identify areas of concern. Regular staff reviews are used effectively to monitor staff performance and identify development targets. These are very well supported for teachers by a new lesson observation scheme, but this has not yet been implemented with all staff. Staff recruitment and selection procedures are excellent, with all appropriate suitability checks made before appointing new staff.