

28 February 2023

Mr Jon Vincent
Principal and Chief Executive
Glasgow Clyde College

Dear Mr Vincent,

A team of HM Inspectors from Education Scotland visited Glasgow Clyde College in December 2022 to undertake an Annual Engagement Visit. During our visit, we talked to learners, staff and stakeholders, and worked closely with the senior managers.

The team found the following major strengths in the college's work.

Recruitment

College managers have introduced a range of recruitment and enrolment initiatives to ensure that enrolment is on target. The college offers a place to every applicant, wherever possible, and this is meeting the requirements of learners well. Curriculum teams offer a good range of activities to support learners prior to starting their programme. This is helping learners to develop a connection with the college and is improving enrolment rates. Support teams engage well with the 'Come to Clyde' recruitment strategy and provide practical advice to potential learners, such as how to access college information technology systems. This year, the Early Impression Survey indicates high levels of learner satisfaction with the application process, interviews, and the range of information provided to learners enrolling at college.

Retention

The college's nurturing campus initiative is helping learners, who would otherwise have withdrawn, to stay at college and continue with their studies. The range of support for learners includes breakfast clubs, warm spaces, awareness-raising of discretionary funding and a new induction format. Curriculum staff engage well in the 'Swap, Don't Drop' initiative that offers learners an opportunity to study at a more suitable level of study, or enter an alternative programme. Staff use learner feedback well to explore and understand reasons for withdrawal and develop interventions that help learners to remain on their programme.

Attainment

The overall attainment rate in academic year 2020-21 for full-time programmes was at, or above, national sector performance. Teaching staff have introduced a range of curriculum improvements to help address low levels of attainment. These include changes to course design, sequencing of units and integrated assessment opportunities across subjects. The college's supportive culture is encouraging learners to achieve. Staff provide learners with prompt individual support, which helps them to complete their learning goals. Staff value the new arrangements for self-evaluation which encourage

more open conversation and reduce bureaucracy. Almost all staff value the newly introduced transition week between teaching blocks. They use this time effectively to complete self-evaluation documents, identify learners at risk or in need of support and schedule time for learners to revisit learning or assessment.

Progression

Rates of learner progression to positive destinations are high across all modes of study. A number of articulation arrangements with universities provide a wide range of options for learners to progress to higher education. The college has in place a curriculum offer that supports learners well to progress to the next level of study. Support services staff work proactively with curriculum teams to visit classes in the early stages of each programme to raise learner awareness of progression options. Almost all learners are positive about the information and support provided by curriculum managers about available progression routes, including potential employment opportunities.

The following areas for improvement were identified by the team and discussed with the senior managers:

- Learners highlight the need to improve the pre-application funding information.
- Rates of learner withdrawal are high across all modes of attendance.
- Overall attainment rates for part-time learners are below national sector performance.
- Access to social spaces within the college does not always meet the needs of learners.

The following main point for action was identified.

- The college should take steps to address high rates of learner withdrawal.

What happens next?

We are confident that the college has the capacity to continue to improve. We will continue to monitor progress through on-going engagement with the college link HM Inspector.

Ian Beach
HM Inspector