



South **Lanarkshire** College

Learner Report

A summary of the report by
Her Majesty's Inspectorate
of Education

June 2007



South
Lanarkshire
College
East Kilbride

South Lanarkshire College Learner Report – June 2007

In November 2006 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) undertook a full review of the quality of education and training at South Lanarkshire College. This Learner Report gives you a summary of what HMIE thought about the college. South Lanarkshire College accepts fully the findings of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education.



The report, published on 15 June 2007, is very positive. HMIE awarded South Lanarkshire College an exceptionally high proportion of "Very Good" grades - the highest possible grade. They also identified several areas where the college had good, new ideas which were "sector-leading". They published 5 examples of these in the full college report.

HMIE identified a few areas where the college can make things even better than they are. The College Management Team has put together plans to ensure that at this college, the student experience and student outcomes remain of the highest quality and among the best in Scotland.

HMIE use the following scale to let you know how good a college is.

Very good	Major strengths
Good	Strengths outweigh weaknesses
Fair	Some important weaknesses
Unsatisfactory	Major weaknesses

You will see below that most of the grades awarded for South Lanarkshire College are "Very Good". This shows that there are major strengths across nearly all of the College's work. You will also see there are no "Fair" or "Unsatisfactory" grades.

Summary of grades awarded to South Lanarkshire College by HMIE

Table 1: Grades for subject areas

Subject area	Learning and teaching process	Learner progress and outcomes
Business, management and administration	Very good	Good
Care	Very good	Good
Computing and ICT	Very good	Good
Construction: Carpentry and joinery	Very good	Very good
Construction: Painting and decorating	Very good	Very good
Construction: Trowel trades	Very good	Very good
Special programmes	Very good	Very good

Table 2: Grades for cross-college areas

Cross-college elements	Grade
Educational leadership, direction and management	Very good
Access and inclusion	Very good
Guidance and support	Very good
Resources and services to support the learner	Good
Staff	Very good
Quality assurance	Very good
Quality improvement	Very good

The College has very effective learning and teaching processes

In their report, HMIE said they were confident that the college has very effective learning and teaching processes. Their view was that:

- in all subject areas, learners developed a range of vocational and employability skills.
- in all subject areas, teaching staff made good use of their professional and subject knowledge to enhance the learning process.
- in almost all subjects, teaching staff used a wide range of appropriate teaching approaches to enrich the learning experience.

They also reported that while most learners made good use of computers and appropriate software to enhance learning, in some subject areas staff could make more use of these widely available materials to make learning even better. This is something the college will be encouraging, particularly as we will soon move into a new building where we want to make the best use of up-to-date technology.

Learners are progressing well and achieving appropriate outcomes

In their report, HMIE said they were confident that learners are progressing well and achieving appropriate outcomes. Their view was that:

- attainment rates were high in the majority of subject areas.
- almost all learners progressed very well in relation to their prior learning and experience, and achieved their learning goals.

HMIE also reported that in a few programmes both retention and attainment rates were low. This is something that the college will be tackling through its regular activities to improve and enhance the quality of what students experience.



The college is improving the quality of its services for learners

In their report, HMIE said they were confident that the college is managing well and improving the quality of its services for learners. Their view was that:

- the college placed learners on programmes that met their needs well as a result of effective pre-entry guidance and also that induction and ongoing guidance was very good.
- college managers were strongly committed to developing learners' core skills, and skills for employability and citizenship and all staff were highly committed to improving the quality of the learner experience.
- the Principal and senior managers were strongly committed to promoting an inclusive college.
- the college looked after its buildings well and a well-planned programme of maintenance, upgrading and risk assessment provided a safe and attractive environment.

If you would like to read the full report, please ask a member of staff from Student Services at the college or go online at: www.hmie.gov.uk.



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This report has been prepared by South Lanarkshire College and approved by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education for publication.