

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy/free school/studio school/university technical college (UTC)

School name	The Maltings College
DfE registration number	381/
Unique reference number (URN)	139433
Inspection number	422312
Inspection dates	13 June 2013
Reporting inspector	Mohammad Ismail

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Information about the inspection

This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.¹

Context of the school

The proposed Maltings College is a free school which is planned to open in September 2013 in the Fountains Spring Village of Halifax area. It is to specialise in vocational education. The college is sponsored by The Maltings Learning Trust and it has applied to be registered to admit up to 300 boys and girls in the age range 16 to 19 years. At present there are no students formally registered for enrolment. The selection process has started and the college expects around 150 students for the forthcoming academic year which will gradually increase to 300. The college will be non-selective and is prepared to admit students with special educational needs. The college has no affiliation to any religious denomination and it has strong links with local industries and businesses. The college is 'committed to high quality teaching, use of effective approaches to learning and supporting all its students with high expectations similar to those in industry as great preparation for the world of work'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The college is likely to meet all of the regulations, but implementation could not be seen. The college's behaviour and anti-bullying policies set out a framework within which students will be encouraged to develop an understanding of right and wrong and the consequences of their decisions. The college's plans for the personal development of students set out a vision for students to be equipped to take their place in society as valued, economically viable and responsible citizens. The college places an emphasis on the development of independence, co-operation, innovation and motivation. Planned provision includes: encouraging students to respect others' opinion and cultural diversity; developing the ability to distinguish between right and wrong; developing respect for the needs, interests and feelings of others and providing links with the world of work and the wider community. An extensive programme of working in the community and inviting visitors into the college is aimed at developing student's insights into the multicultural community and developing their respect for civil and criminal law. The college has plans in place to work closely with different organisations in the community. For example, there is a planned 'healthy life' project with the National Health Service and social development projects with Barnardo's, Safe Hands and Calderdale Women's Centre. Planned themes within the programme for personal, social and health education will provide students with an understanding of citizenship and the roles of individuals within the

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99

wider community. The themes include material aimed at developing students' understanding of the workings of English public institutions and services. The social, moral and cultural education curriculum explores a variety of issues and questions from a multi-cultural perspective; it is designed to enable students to understand and respect diversity of viewpoints and cultures. The proprietors have ensured that the planned curriculum, including provision for students' personal development, is free from partisan political or religious views and that a balanced view of any political issues is always presented. Guidance on these matters has been included in the staff handbook and in the college's policies.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all of the regulations are likely to be met, but implementation could not be seen. All the required policy documents have been produced, including comprehensive policies for safeguarding, safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. Senior staff have been trained in safe recruitment and the principles have been applied effectively to the recruitment process to date. Two designated child protection officers have been trained at the required level by the local safeguarding children board. Dates are set for training all staff in safeguarding children as the recruitment process is completed. Four members of staff are identified and trained to take responsibility for first aid. Suitable policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety and fire safety risk assessments are in place. A report from the fire authority has been obtained (copy seen). Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The college meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 by having a suitable access improvement plan.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The college's completion of the required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. All required checks have been completed for the proprietors and for the staff already appointed. These are recorded on a single central register which meets requirements. Checks are completed and entries on the register are updated as new staff are appointed. The college does not intend to employ supply staff but is aware of the requirements should such staff be appointed in the future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The college is likely to meet all the regulations. The college is situated within six acres of land, in a preserved historic Grade 2 listed building, formerly the Webster's Brewery. The building was recently renovated and refurbished. There are seven sections to the classroom provision: hair and beauty; hospitality and catering; child care; horticulture and agriculture; automotive and engineering and sports and

fitness. Each section is equipped with the latest tools and equipment and the accommodation is designed to represent a work environment. All the sections are equipped with new computers and furniture. In addition, each section contains three large classrooms and some tutorial rooms. Classrooms are of adequate size and sufficient in number for the planned intake. There are sufficient washrooms and showers and there is a suitable room for medical examinations or for students who may be ill. There are appropriate facilities for the preparation and serving of food. There are two indoor sport facilities with the latest physical training equipment and good changing and shower provision. There is sufficient safe outside space for play and recreation, including playing fields and a football pitch. The buildings and access points to the grounds are fully secure.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

- **YES. This school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration.**

If registration is recommended, please state:

Recommended number of day pupils: 300

Recommended number of boarders: N/A

Recommended age range: 16-19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.