North West Kent College celebrates Ofsted result

27th March 2014

Staff and students are celebrating at North West Kent College following the publication of the recent report from Ofsted, which rated North West Kent as a Good College with some Outstanding Features.

David Gleed, Principal of North West Kent College says: “Every single member of the College, both students and staff, should feel immensely proud of this achievement. This has been a whole team effort, throughout every single department and richly and rightly reflects the efforts that everyone has put in.”

NWKC offers a wide range of vocational courses and higher education and aims to provide students with real industry experience. This gives our students an advantage when they are looking for their first job, by providing a working knowledge of the industry.

The Ofsted report praised the teaching staff to that effect: “Teachers work successfully to ensure that students develop their skills in realistic work situations”. The report also goes on to say how staff at NWKC have developed a range of industry contacts that can, and have, helped students to progress into relevant work.

NWKC staff are employed because of their industry expertise that they are able to pass onto students. This means that they are able to drive and mould students to become ideal candidates for the industry in which they want to work: “Teachers expect students to perform to a high standard and, as a result, students’ work often exceeds the requirements of their programmes.” The Ofsted report goes on to say: “students are motivated and encouraged by the high expectations of most teachers....”.

It wasn’t just the teaching that was praised, college facilities and resources, additional support and the students themselves were also highly commended. The Ofsted report stated:

“Students receive good quality information, advice and guidance that help them choose appropriate programmes of study. High quality ongoing advice and support from teachers and well-trained careers advisers, coupled with good links with local employers, the National Careers Service and Jobcentre Plus help prepare students for progression on to higher-level courses or employment.”
On facilities Ofsted said: “Teachers make excellent use of high-quality facilities and resources, including the use of information and learning technology, to enliven lessons and provide good resources”.

NWKC has the ethos that its students are its best ambassadors, and the Ofsted report supports this: “Students have a good work ethic and acquire skills that enable a high proportion to gain employment or move on to higher levels of study “

“Staff have created an inclusive culture with strong mutual respect... Most students are highly motivated to succeed and all benefit from good pastoral and academic support...The vast majority of students have a clear awareness of their responsibilities.”

David Gleed says: “We’re extremely proud of this grade and it reflects the reasons why, based on published success rates, we’re the top performing general further education college in Kent and South East London. These results and external assessments such as this demonstrate why more and more parents and students are choosing NWKC as their number one choice to provide a high quality education.”

The inspection took place during the week of 10th February 2014, at NWKC’s campuses in Dartford and Gravesend. To see the full Ofsted report for NWKC, please see www.ofsted.gov.uk.

To step up to College in September 2014 and to find out more about the courses offered at NWKC, visit the website at www.nwkcollege.ac.uk or call 0800 074 1447.

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For further information, please contact Sarah O’Rourke 01322 629 582, sarahorourke@nwkcollege.ac.uk