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Ofsted inspection praises HRUC's 'high-quality teacher training'



A recent inspection by Ofsted has praised Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges' (HRUC) teacher training apprenticeship programme, highlighting strong teaching practice, effective mentoring, and high levels of trainee achievement.

HRUC's Initial Teaching Education programme met the Expected standard in the Ofsted report, published earlier this month. Inspectors found that HRUC trainee teachers develop a wide range of professional knowledge and practical skills through a curriculum that successfully combines educational theory with classroom application. Trainees were commended for their ability to structure lessons effectively and use a variety of teaching approaches, including demonstrations, modelling and clear explanations, to support learning.

The inspection (which took place in the spring) noted that trainees are well prepared for careers in the further education and skills sector. They demonstrate a strong understanding of teaching principles and increasingly use reflective practice to improve their decision-making and classroom effectiveness. Most apprentices complete their programme successfully and achieve distinction grades in the teaching practice component of their end-point assessment.

Inspectors highlighted the quality of mentoring arrangements, describing them as a key strength of the programme.

The report also praised the programme's commitment to safeguarding and inclusion. Trainees receive comprehensive training on safeguarding procedures and are confident in identifying, recording and reporting concerns. They also develop a strong understanding of how to support learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), applying strategies such as differentiated learning, reasonable adjustments and collaboration with learning support staff.

Inspectors found that HRUC leaders have created a positive and inclusive learning environment, with trainees encouraged to disclose any learning needs or barriers to learning, and are provided with appropriate support. Tutors were praised for adapting teaching methods to meet individual needs, particularly for trainees with dyslexia and other learning difficulties.

Dylan McTaggart, HRUC Group Executive Principal, said "We are delighted that inspectors recognised the ambition and quality of our teacher training programme. This report reflects our commitment to developing outstanding teachers, particularly in vocational areas facing skills shortages, and providing flexible pathways into the profession. We are proud of the support our trainees receive and will continue to build on this success through a culture of innovation and continuous improvement."

The report highlighted the programme's focus on professional development and innovation. Tutors receive regular training in areas including curriculum design, observation and feedback, educational technology and artificial intelligence.

Inspectors also found that trainees benefit from extensive wellbeing support, including resources to help manage stress, anxiety and change. Attendance across the programme is high, and trainees demonstrate strong motivation and commitment to improving their professional practice.

Louise Southam, HRUC Deputy Principal for Apprenticeships, Quality & Student Services, said: "I have seen for myself how our training helps to create effective and compassionate teachers, so it's great that this was confirmed in our recent Ofsted report. We look forward to working towards opportunities to be graded Strong in all areas in the future."

At the time of the inspection, 33 apprentices were enrolled on the Level 5 Learning and Skills Teacher Apprenticeship. And inspectors concluded that trainees leave the

programme well prepared for teaching careers, often progressing into leadership responsibilities and taking on expanded roles within their departments.

The report concluded that the programme provides a high-quality training experience that equips future teachers with the skills, confidence and professional behaviours needed to succeed in FE. To read the full publication visit www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk

Note to editors: Following a merger in 2023, HRUC (Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges) has rapidly evolved into a thriving educational hub with three colleges and a strong apprenticeship provision.

The diverse and aspiring college group now serves nearly 15,000 learners across west and south London, offering a range of courses, including A-Levels vocational programmes, T-Levels, and apprenticeships. The College group also proudly supports over 850 learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), providing tailored programmes and internships to help them thrive.