



BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIM VISIT (Short Course Provider)

ORGANISATION: The Summer Academy

ADDRESS: 5 Ravenscourt Road
Hammersmith
London
W6 0UH

HEAD OF ORGANISATION: Mr James Hewer

Accreditation status: Accredited

Date of visit: 26 July 2016

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION AND DATE: 13 October 2016

PART A - INTRODUCTION

1. Background to the organisation

The Summer Academy is the trading name of Academic Summer Academies Ltd, a limited company with three directors/shareholders. The Summer Academy is a two-week residential summer school for international students aged 9 to 13. The programme's first year of operation in 2015 took place at Sunningdale School, a well-known private preparatory school in Berkshire on a 26-acre site, hired for two weeks on an exclusive basis.

The Summer Academy's three directors all have a background in education. The first director was a qualified teacher at independent boarding prep schools for over 13 years, including five years as a Senior Master in charge of pastoral care. The other two directors, who are experienced private tutors and TEFL qualified teachers, founded a leading Hong Kong education and tuition company focusing on teaching high-level Academic English. The directors design programmes for students, who are in transition to attend UK boarding schools, and also recruit and train teachers to implement their educational projects.

A key feature of the first summer programme in 2015 was the combination of academic, social, cultural and sporting activities matching the abilities and interests of young people with whom The Summer Academy has an excellent understanding. These strengths are reinforced by the previous experience of the directors with the families of the young people, particularly in Hong Kong.

2. Brief description of the current provision

The Summer Academy programme has been planned by two directors who have a background in designing Academic English courses for international students. They undertook extensive market research, with existing clients in Asia, to help design the programme. The directors' existing Hong Kong company has operated similar programmes in Hong Kong for the past seven years.

The current 2016 summer programme is almost identical to the programme delivered in 2015. There are only slight alterations in lesson content, which have been made in order to update and upgrade content of the provision. The programme includes Academic English lessons, focusing on the study of literature, combined with excursions to Oxford, Windsor and Bath, and a range of extra-curricular enrichment activities to develop skills such as leadership and teamwork. The programme is run by the three course directors and a team of academic and pastoral staff, of which two housemistresses have been appointed from the existing staff from Sunningdale School. Some other school staff are on site, including the bursar and site manager. The three activity leaders are freelance university students. All lessons take place on site. Some 20 students aged from 9 to 13 are enrolled, mostly from the Far East, Bermuda, and Greece.

3. Inspection visit process

This interim inspection visit took place over half a day by one inspector at the Summer Academy's premises at Sunningdale School. The inspector observed parts of the lessons in operation, scrutinised documentation and had meetings with staff associated with the delivery of the programme; these included meetings with the course directors. Meetings were also undertaken with some students. This inspection report is in relation to the provider's provision in the United Kingdom only.

4. Inspection history

Full inspection: 23 July 2015

PART B – JUDGEMENTS AND EVIDENCE

The following judgements and comments are based upon evidence seen by the inspector(s) during the inspection and from documentation provided by the provider

1. Significant changes since the last inspection

None.

2. Response to actions points in last report

None.

3. Compliance with BAC accreditation requirements

3.1 Management, Staffing and Administration (spot check)

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments There is strong evidence from the first inspection of July 2015 that the programme is exceptionally well managed and that all support services are highly effective. There is no reason to suspect, from the evidence gained on this visit, that the situation has changed in any way.				

3.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment (spot check)

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments Brief observations were made of three separate teaching sessions. These were well supported by IT-based activities and paper-based learning resources. Individual attention was given to students. No individual group was larger than eight students.				

3.3 Participant Welfare (spot check)

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments Close attention is paid to the welfare of all students and the monitoring of attendance is an exemplar of good practice so that safeguarding and welfare requirements are met well. The students spoke warmly of the help and support they received.				

3.4 Premises and Facilities

	Met	Partially met	Not met	
The standards are judged to be	✓			
Comments The premises provided at Sunningdale School are excellent. They provide ample space supported by high quality facilities, including a good range of sporting facilities.				

PART C – SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND ACTION POINTS

Institution’s strengths
 The institution’s strengths are many. They include:

High quality management supported by excellent administration.

An excellent location for the delivery of the curriculum which provides high quality facilities for day to day living, including boarding facilities.

The high priority given to welfare requirements by all staff.

A group of pupils who clearly enjoy and benefit from the programme on offer.

Actions required	Priority H/M/L
None	

COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Declaration of compliance has been signed and dated.	YES
Further comments, if applicable	