

19 October 2010

Press Release

CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS MATRIX STANDARD

Cambridge Regional College has been awarded the prestigious Matrix Standard for its support services across the College, putting it among the elite few further education organisations to do so.

The College underwent a rigorous five-and-a-half-day assessment to receive the national quality mark, which looked at all aspects of information and guidance provided by the College.

The assessor praised the professional way in which staff always ensured learners came first, and welcomed and supported them during their time at the College.

And she was impressed by the pride students said they felt in the College and the enthusiasm of staff working to help them.

Chris Sherwin, CRC's Director of Learning and Achievement, said securing the College-wide Matrix accreditation was an immense achievement.

"The assessor was particularly impressed with the contributions from the students she met and said they were very proud of the College and impressed with the enthusiasm of staff," she said.

"She also praised the approachability of staff and their willingness to help, as well as their highly valued personal style of communicating with students. In fact, her main area for potential development was that we should share our good practice with others.

“We are absolutely delighted to receive such a glowing report from the assessor and to be awarded the Matrix Standard across the whole College – it is a remarkable success for all staff.

“The assessor’s feedback accurately reflects the commitment staff show in ensuring a first class experience for learners new to the College and in ensuring that they are placed on the right programmes to enable them to achieve their ambitions.”

The assessor identified particular strengths, including the strong progression monitoring of students and the good use of motivational success stories.

Other strengths she identified were CRC’s highly customer-focused culture, the capacity of staff to network across the college, the College’s commitment to continuing quality improvement, its rigorous approach to supporting employers, its strong partnership working and the opportunities for staff to try out new ideas.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information, please contact Lynn O’Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has around 3,500 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.