



THE ENGLISH COLLEGE IN PRAGUE
ANGLICKÉ GYMNÁZIUM



SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

CZECH INSPECTION

BSO INSPECTION

IBO FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

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All good schools are always thinking about how to improve the learning experience and the outcomes for students. We achieve this by reflecting on what we do. We ask ourselves questions like: How do we improve teaching and learning? What can we do to enrich our students' experiences with more co-curricular and community-based activities? How can we work with local companies and all the historic and cultural riches of Prague to connect the classroom to the real world, to raise aspirations and help students get great examination results? How do we keep our knowledge of the global marketplace up-to-date and help students choose the right path at university and beyond?

We are trying to do this every day through our teaching, through the relationships we foster, through our long-term strategy meetings and through links with the community and businesses. It is only natural that we can become so focussed that we are too close to see really clearly what we are doing well and what we need to do to improve.

School inspectors, however, are not hindered by such familiarity. They come with a fresh set of eyes to the school and have much greater knowledge and experience of both the regulatory environment and best practice.

In October 2021 we underwent our latest British International Inspection. Less recently we welcomed a Czech team to inspect the school and also went through a full IB five-year review. The British Inspection cycle is a three-year programme where the school is formally assessed against British international standards agreed by the UK Department for Education in London. But being a Czech gymnasium we also need to comply with the best of Czech educational practices as required by MŠMT (Czech Ministry of Education). Our last Czech Inspection took place in 2019. The International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) review, also in 2019, did not involve an actual visit by inspectors but was a detailed self-study of our IB programme and how we bring the IB philosophy into the whole school. This was externally assessed and detailed comments and recommendations were presented to us, just as with the British and Czech Inspections.

We were delighted with the outcome of all three inspections, especially the most recent British Inspection in which we were judged to be outstanding in all categories. Between them, these inspections have validated our academic, aspirational, socially liberal and community-minded approach to education. This publication brings together a summary of the excellent practices that these three official inspection bodies saw in our school.



Nigel S Brown

Dr. Nigel Brown, Headmaster
The English College in Prague - Anglické gymnázium o.p.s.



Czech Inspection Report - February 2019

Examples of inspirational practice

It is even more rare for two examples of inspirational practice to be pointed out. We are therefore very pleased that this was the case in our Czech Inspection.

"An above-standard involvement of pupils in co-curricular, educational and free time activities and conceptual work with talented pupils supporting the development of pupils' competencies and an all-round development of their personalities."

"A systematically created environment supportive of the teachers' professional growth, helping to increase the quality of the educational process."



Czech Inspection Report

Strengths

- Conceptual multi-level management of the school reflecting the specifics of the school's systematic support of the professional development of teachers
- staff coverage of education using qualified teachers with relevant subject specialisation and with a majority of native speakers
- use of a wide range of teaching forms and methods including purposeful use of modern didactic technology
- systematic differentiation of lessons according to the knowledge level and study potential as well as a focus on the pupils
- a complex system of formative assessment providing progress tracking of individual pupils within a given subject as well as overall results of education
- excellent results in IB examinations as well as in other externally assessed examinations in the long term
- a sophisticated system of merits and commendations for pupils for their performance as well as for their participation in school events, which raises the motivation of pupils for education and their identification with the school
- successful formation of a multicultural environment, where the English language is the shared medium of communication in lessons as well as in everyday interactions of all stakeholders in education.



Czech Inspection Report

The School Development

- There has been a steadily high demand for education at the school and the number of pupils has increased.
- The new school management has been developing successfully the concept of a grammar school education in the English language with an emphasis on open communication amongst all the stakeholders in education.
- The high standard of the provided education is reflected by the high quality staffing, especially the sophisticated system of further professional development of teachers.
- In accordance with the legislative norm the school enables pupils to complete their studies, apart from the IB examinations, with an exam on Czech language and literature within the common part of the Czech Maturita examination.
- The achieved level of pupils' competencies and their success rate in passing the final exams has increased further; the overall quality of the school is above-standard within the given category of schools.

In the educational process, pupils achieve excellent results in the long-term. Within the period monitored, about one third of pupils passed with distinction and the number of failing pupils was minimal. The consistently excellent results of Year 4 pupils in externally assessed exams (IGCSE, Modern Foreign Languages CEFR exams) indicate that pupils have adapted to the learning environment successfully and that the quality of teaching is high. 65% of pupils achieve the top level of assessment. The pupils' success rate at the point of completing their educational programme (IB, Maturita in Czech language and literature) serves as a decisive indicator of the pupils' qualitative development. The results of pupils enrolled in the IB programme are consistently above the worldwide average. Approximately 65-80% of pupils also sit the Maturita exam in Czech language and literature.

* Full text of the inspection report is available on our website (www.ecp.cz).



IB 5-Year Review - May 2019

The IB Self-Evaluation Review takes place every 5 years, focused not only on our IB provision but also how we uphold the IB ethos throughout the entire school. It is a "paper-based" inspection in that we submit a very detailed questionnaire that takes 3-4 months to complete. The questionnaire highlights areas of a school's IB Diploma Programme, that are considered particularly vital to its overall success. It covers all aspects of school life but especially concentrating on the school's educational philosophy, its teaching and learning, the assessment of students and the curriculum. It also double checks the suitability of the educational qualifications and training of ECP teachers.

The review involves contributions from all school stakeholders: parents, Governors, students, teachers, and management. When the review is completed, the outcome is a report detailing opinions. These fall into 3 categories: commendations, recommendations and most seriously, when there are problems the IBO lists these as "matters to be addressed." We amassed 19 commendations and now have 17 recommendations to work on. But the IBO found there were no serious matters that needed to be addressed. These statistics reflect the fact that we are implementing the IB Diploma Programme well, and it is very reassuring to see that the IBO sees us as a very successful IB school.

Strengths

- There is a structure and processes for staff to collaboratively monitor student process.
- The pedagogical leadership team has established an ongoing process of revision of school resources focused on access to information on global issues and diverse perspectives.
- There is a positive impact on the community resulting from meaningful action promoted by the school.
- Implementation of Attitude To Learning skills is reflected in the staff professional development and school philosophy.

(by the International Baccalaureate Organisation)



British School Overseas Inspection by Penta International - 6th - 8th October 2021



Outstanding in Every Category

The school recently had a visit from the British Schools inspection team. This inspection takes place every three years, unlike Czech inspections, which are conducted approximately every six years. The inspectors judge both the lessons and the school's general operational health against the full gamut of British governmental standards that schools in the UK must comply with.

Relationships

The lead inspector of Penta International, Dr. Mark Evans has personally inspected the school four times since 2012. He was delighted to see the progress we had made from the last inspection in 2018. For the first time he judged the school to be "Outstanding in Every Category". The report goes on to say that, "The College offers an excellent British education that meets the needs of its students in a truly context-sensitive manner." In particular, they said that "The relationships between students and staff are outstanding...based on mutual respect and providing the foundations for excellent learning and teaching."

Curriculum

It added that "The curriculum provision is excellent. The College blends the required Czech curriculum with the best of the British curriculum very effectively". The inspectors really liked the pre-IB curriculum, saying that it "provides students with the necessary skills to meet the IB learner profile attributes and ultimately achieve high IB grades". We also received praise for our respect for humanist traditions.

Czech Context

In the context of Czech culture, they said that "There is a strong and palpable focus on the promotion of the values of the founders, such as freedom, respect for diversity and equality. The College also deeply values the Czech heritage, history and traditions, including them in the curriculum, presentations, assemblies and projects."



Overall effectiveness of the College

"The College offers an excellent British education that meets the needs of its students in a truly context-sensitive manner. It is excellent in all the BSO standards. The students are well known to staff and supported appropriately. The curriculum is rich and fit for the particular requirements of the Czech Republic. Teachers make good use of the wide range of resources; students are often excited by and highly engaged in their learning. Parents and students are very supportive of the College, the provision of education and also the positive manner in which the Covid-19 pandemic has been handled. Students' behaviour is outstanding and they clearly enjoy being at College. As a result, they make excellent progress, becoming eager, confident speakers of the English language and articulate learners."

Teaching and assessment

"The quality of teaching and assessment across the College is excellent: there is outstanding practice evident in classrooms in all year groups."

"Teachers create a positive, warm learning environment in which students are able to articulate their thoughts and feelings clearly. They feel confident and comfortable about asking for help from their peers and readily offer that support when it is required. This proactive, constructive and non-judgemental attitude is another strong element of the college ethos and culture."

* Full text of the inspection report is available on our website (www.ecp.cz).

