

Nunnery-based International Business School is 'doing all the right things'

What a partnership!

By JOHN QUIRK

THE vice-chancellor of Liverpool John Moores University believes its collaboration with the International Business School is among its best educational partnerships.

Professor Michael Brown visited the Island for the first time last week to meet staff and students at the Nunnery-based school.

He also met Education Minister Steve Rodan and secondary school head teachers and visited the sixth-form centre at Queen Elizabeth II High School in Peel.

The business school is now in its third academic year and offers three of the university's degree programmes — BA business studies, MBA and MSc international banking and finance.

Professor Brown explained he'd been briefed by his colleagues about the school and its operations and said he was pleased to find a 'very good, well-run business school with high academic standards which is going places'.

'In terms of many collaborations, this is one of the best,' said Professor Brown.

He said the business school's growth over the last three years was in line with what could be expected.

'People here would have liked it to



Great collaboration: Dr Edgar Mann (Chairman IBS Board of Directors), Professor Michael Brown (Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool John Moores University) and Professor Roger Carey (Director of the IBS) (OS)

grow a bit faster, but when you start something new, until people come out of the process and say how it's been beneficial to them, it's difficult,' explained Professor Brown.

'The quality of the people here is fantastic and the students are great, a really lively bunch. The school is doing all the right things.'

He added: 'Quality is what sells and we must make sure people understand that and the best way of doing that is to produce quality students, particularly in the international field, because the international network is that people tell people when something is good and they do not get fooled by fancy marketing.'

'The Manx people and government can be assured that the vision they supported is coming through.'

Professor Brown said the secondary school heads are pleased with what the business school has to offer and the feedback they're receiving from the students that move on to the Nunnery.

Professor Roger Carey, director of the business school, praised the part played by Liverpool John Moores in laying the school's foundations.

'This is what the partnership is about,' said Professor Carey. 'It is about ensuring that we get the right advice when we want it. It is about establishing something of quality and this is what the Island wanted when we set out — and it's very pleasing when someone from outside comes and says "yes, you've got it right".'

The professors said market research is being carried out and discussions are ongoing about extending the university's degree programmes on offer at the business school, with tourism one of the areas likely to be developed.

Professor Carey said the number of international students continues to grow and, as a percentage, is about on a par with the average number of overseas students at UK institutions.

However, he said efforts will be concentrated on widening the school's international population.

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