

# BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

## for independent further & higher education

### NEWSLETTER

## August 2007

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### NEW PRESIDENT FOR BAC

We are delighted to announce that Lord Watson of Richmond is the new President of the BAC. During his distinguished career in the media, business and politics he has been Chairman of Corporate Television Networks, International Chairman Emeritus of the English Speaking Union, and Chairman of the Coca-Cola European Advisory Board. He became a familiar TV face in the 1970s as presenter of "Panorama" and "The Money Programme." A former President of the Liberal Party, he was appointed CBE in 1985 and created a Life Peer in 1999, sitting in the House of Lords as a Liberal Democrat. Having been Front Bench Spokesman for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and member of the EU Select Committee, he now serves as Lib-Dem Spokesman on Universities in the House of Lords.



*Lord Watson of Richmond, new President of the BAC*

Lord Watson is married and has two sons. He was educated at Diocesan College Preparatory School Cape Town, Kingswood School Bath and Jesus College Cambridge. He lives in Richmond and Somerset.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWLY ACCREDITED COLLEGES

**W**e are pleased to welcome the following colleges to the growing family of institutions that have received BAC accreditation:

- *Bliss College* – [www.btiuk.net](http://www.btiuk.net)
- *Buckingham College* – [www.buckinghamcollege.co.uk](http://www.buckinghamcollege.co.uk)
- *Kings Langley College of Management* – [www.klcm.co.uk](http://www.klcm.co.uk)
- *St Joseph College of Further & Higher Education* – [www.stjosephcollege.org.uk](http://www.stjosephcollege.org.uk)
- *West London School of Management & Technology* – [www.wlsmt.co.uk](http://www.wlsmt.co.uk)
- *Winston School of Art & Technology* – [www.winstonschool.co.uk](http://www.winstonschool.co.uk)

And welcome back to:

- *Bellerbys College, Brighton & Hove* – [www.bellerbys.com](http://www.bellerbys.com)
- *Bellerbys College, Cambridge* – [www.bellerbys.com](http://www.bellerbys.com)
- *Bellerbys College, London* – [www.bellerbys.com](http://www.bellerbys.com)
- *Davies, Laing & Dick* – [www.dld.org](http://www.dld.org)
- *Edinburgh School of Food & Wine* – [www.esfw.com](http://www.esfw.com)
- *Williams College* – [williamscollege.co.uk](http://williamscollege.co.uk)

## ACCREDITED INSTITUTION PROFILE



Midlands Academy of  
Business & Technology

Based in the Highfields district of Leicester, Midlands Academy of Business and Technology (MABT) was established in autumn 2004 by a group of educationalists with considerable experience in higher education. Teaching got underway a year later. The Academy has grown in terms of its student numbers, the range of courses offered, and the diversity of its lecturing staff. MABT offers programmes leading to recognised qualifications, valued by educational establishments and employers alike.

The Midlands Academy prides itself on the high success rate of its students in external examinations. Constant monitoring of standards and the involvement of students in providing regular feedback have helped achieve this. Successful students are guaranteed a place at Middlesex University, which moderates MABT's foundation course.

The Academy takes its pastoral responsibilities toward its students seriously, and makes considerable effort to ensure their well-being and security, from their country of origin through to their arrival and settlement in Leicester.

Students planning a career in business can take courses in Business Administration, Travel Tourism and Hospitality, Human Resource Management and Accountancy (Management and Financial), all accredited by one of these professional bodies: The Association of Business Executives (ABE); Institute for the Management of Information Systems (IMIS); The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA); The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

The Midlands Academy also offers courses in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) aimed to develop and improve skills in spoken English, listening, reading and writing. Courses are available at different levels to suit various abilities, and students can enrol on courses of varying duration, from two weeks in length up to a full academic year.

Following an early inspection in the summer of 2006, and a supplementary visit in January 2007, the BAC was pleased to confirm accreditation of the Midlands Academy of Business and Technology.

## NEW RULES FOR COLLEGES TEACHING OVERSEAS STUDENTS

The BAC is delighted to have received Home Office approval as an accrediting body for colleges recruiting students from abroad. This approval allows us to demonstrate that we have verified such institutions as genuine education providers. All colleges will need such accreditation in order to be included on a new Home Office Sponsors' Register.

Announcing this policy on 24 July, Bill Rammell, Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, said: 'The Government welcomes the many genuine international students who come to study in the UK each year. But a minority of less reputable colleges in this country work with people overseas helping them to get round the immigration rules and enter the UK to work

illegally. That is why new rules for colleges who teach overseas students have today been announced.' The Minister went on to state how 'These improvements will mean we are better equipped to protect the UK against those individuals and colleges who want to misuse the student route of entry to this country. We are also able to offer international students the assurance that they are applying to trustworthy and good quality learning institutions in the UK. This will further enhance the reputation of UK education abroad.' The BAC has already communicated with our accredited colleges by e-mail, drawing out important points in this announcement, and explaining how we will be playing a positive role in implementing this significant new policy.

## **LIFE IN THE UK “DOS & DON'TS”**

The education website of the Guardian newspaper recently published a brief, helpful and amusing quiz to help students from abroad adapt to “the idiosyncrasies of British life”. Subjects covered include transport and travel, food and drink, geography, language, sport, television and manners. How do you think you would score? Find out by taking the quiz at <http://education.guardian.co.uk/quiz/questions/0,,1947596,00.html>

## **BAC SEMINAR SERIES**

The BAC is planning a series of seminars for October and November, involving group consultation as well as a presentation by an experienced and knowledgeable lecturer. The topics are: “An Introduction to Accreditation”; “Falling Foul of the Law - A Guide to Business Law for Colleges”; “Health and Safety in the College”; “Provider or Partner - How to Get the Best out of Your University Relationship”. Email [seminars@the-bac.org](mailto:seminars@the-bac.org) for full details.

## **NEW HOME OFFICE POLICY ON “OVERSTAYERS”**

The Home Office has announced a new policy on applications from “overstayers” (i.e. people who have come to the end of their immigration permission to be in the UK but have remained without applying to renew it). Currently, when overstayers apply to the Home Office to “regularise” their position, the Home Office considers their applications, and decides whether to grant or refuse them. From July 2007 the Home Office will automatically refuse anyone who overstayed for 28 calendar days or more before applying. There will therefore be no point in such people making an application to the Home Office (unless there are truly exceptional circumstances meaning that special exception should be made – but such cases will be very rare). Students constitute 40-50% of the overstaying population.

The Home Office already views overstays of 6 months or more as especially serious, so if a student has overstayed for 6 months or more, they should be referred for immediate advice to an immigration specialist. They should not consider making any sort of approach to the Home Office without such advice.

It is recommended that at future student induction, it should be stressed that students must renew their immigration permission in time. The Home Office has not said anything about how Entry Clearance Officers abroad will be instructed to view applications for entry clearance from students who have previously overstayed in the UK. Details of the policy may alter before it is publicised on the Home Office’s own website.

## **CHARITY SKILLS**

Charity Skills proclaims its mission as providing trustees, chief executives and senior managers with the resources they need to run their organisations; raising core governance and management skills; and providing high quality, low-cost web solutions to charities. It also has a specialist division - WebEnable - providing websites accessible to people with learning difficulties. It provides high quality content-managed and CSS-driven websites at a fraction of the cost of commercial providers. Find out more about services offered by Charity Skills at [www.charityskills.org](http://www.charityskills.org)

## **INQA/AHE EVENTS**

News and information about a series of upcoming international conferences on issues related to higher education from a global perspective can be found on the website of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education ([www.inqaah.org](http://www.inqaah.org)). These events, each dedicated to a significant issue, are spread over the next six months and will take place in Italy, Tanzania, Switzerland, Jamaica and England. Capping off this round of meetings, the biennial Members’ Forum will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in May 2008.

## **BAC STAFF PROFILE - GERALD VINTEN**

Professor Gerald Vinten - the BAC's newly appointed Chief Inspector - holds postgraduate qualifications from the Universities of Leeds, Oxford, City, Glamorgan and the Open University Business School. His doctorate was on business ethics, corporate governance and internal audit. He is a Past Chairman and existing council member of the Royal Society of Health, as well as a Past President of the Institute of Internal Auditors. He serves on the council of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, and is the first chair of the new London region of the Royal Society of Arts. In December 2006 he escorted the Duke of Edinburgh at the official launch of the region, when 250 Fellows attended at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace. He served on the main council of the RSA for five years, chaired the History, Records and Collections Panel, and was the link person for the "Tomorrow's Company" corporate governance initiative. He has been on the staff of Cass Business School, University of Bedfordshire (as Whitbread Professor of Business Policy and faculty Director of Research), Southampton Business School (as Professor of Management and Deputy Dean), the Open University and European Business School. He comes to the BAC from the position of Deputy Principal of EThames Graduate School.



***BAC's new Chief Inspector,  
Professor Gerald Vinten***

Professor Vinten was joint principal of two private colleges. He edited the Managerial Auditing Journal and has published some 300 articles, several books, and has had the occasional poem published on business related topics. He has been known to play recorder, clarinet and piano, and is keenly interested in classical music and jazz. As an arts graduate he has wide and varied interests, including the interplay of religions and business.

## **CHANGES TO BRITISH COUNCIL CONTACTS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Changes to the British Council's internal structure have taken place, which will make it more flexible and customer-focused. The promotion of English Language study opportunities in the UK will be wholly included in the work of the Education UK Marketing Division, led by Christine Bateman, Director Education UK Marketing and Communications. The English and Exams Department will no longer have responsibility for this work. The British Council's work in English, led by Bhaskar Chakravarti, Director English and Exams, will continue to include accreditation and the promotion of UK ELT through the Innovation Awards.

- *For enquiries related to Agent Strategy, contact [jane.lowther@britishcouncil.org](mailto:jane.lowther@britishcouncil.org)*
- *For enquiries about the Education UK website, contact [ginny.cobbett@britishcouncil.org](mailto:ginny.cobbett@britishcouncil.org)*
- *For enquiries about PMI 2 and marketing campaigns, contact [colin.beaver@britishcouncil.org](mailto:colin.beaver@britishcouncil.org)*
- *For enquiries about accreditation, contact [accreditation.unit@britishcouncil.org](mailto:accreditation.unit@britishcouncil.org).*
- *For general enquiries, contact [educationukmarketing@britishcouncil.org](mailto:educationukmarketing@britishcouncil.org)*

Angela Sexton is currently on maternity leave. When she returns in March 2008, she will take up the post of Communications Manager, English and Exams.

**BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENT FURTHER & HIGHER EDUCATION**

**44 BEDFORD ROW, LONDON WC1R 4LL**

phone **020 7447 2584** fax **020 7447 2585** email **[info@the-bac.org](mailto:info@the-bac.org)** website **[www.the-bac.org](http://www.the-bac.org)**

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