

INTO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE

This letter brings you greetings from St. Anselm's and information about some important and exciting developments which have taken place at the Institute, which takes us into the future with confidence.

First of all, many of you know that we were recently on the last lap of a process of accreditation, not just of our courses, but of the whole Institute. The UK Government identified the need for a more rigorous system for accrediting Independent Colleges of Further and Higher Education which take Visa students. Accordingly, an accrediting body, ASIC, (Accreditation Service for International Colleges), was set up. It has been approved by the Home Office Border and Immigration Agency to undertake accreditation of private Colleges and Institutes, regarding the new points based Visa system for inclusion on the sponsors register. Accreditation through ASIC will help people make a more informed choice and will demonstrate that we are a high quality Institution. ASIC recognises the need for a robust and transparent approach to ensuring that Colleges and Institutes accredited by them will provide the best possible student experience in terms of achieving their potential, whilst having their social and pastoral needs fully addressed.

I am delighted to share the news with you that following a final inspection which took place on 30th October 2008, we have received the news that we are accredited and received very good feedback from the Inspectorate.

As you know, as a result of last review, we have re-focused on the original vision of the Institute, which was *to train leaders and formators*. This was not lost, but had become less evident as we had branched out into other areas in trying to respond to many needs. We are now firmly back on track.

In conjunction with our preparation for inspection and accreditation, and as part of this year's review, we have been looking at:

- Planning and integrated development of the Institute
- Reviewing the existing facilities and identifying gaps
- Provision of adequate facilities – academic and physical.

We Have Moved !

Over the last 25 years, the Institute has given attention to the development of its site and buildings. Particular attention has been given to the provision of good residential accommodation for both staff and participants, and to a programme of updating the facilities keeping within the parameters of our budget.

However, this has resulted in the Institute being housed in a number of disparate buildings in different roads and which are now not really cost effective. They would need a considerable amount of money spent on them to make necessary alterations.

We believe that the learning environment provided for the participants of the Institute should be of the highest standard and fit for purpose. The accommodation needs of the Institute will be properly defined both in terms of the type and location of properties and the amount of space needed.

A key accommodation objective was, therefore, *to improve significantly the Institute learning environment by re-locating the Institute and establishing a compact learning centre.*

In the light of this, and our overall aim of ‘consolidation’, and the immediate availability of suitable accommodation, the Institute has now consolidated its premises by accommodating all participants in two buildings opposite each other. *The buildings are also located in Cliftonville*, the main one is on the corner of Norfolk Road and Cumberland Road, and the other opposite in Cumberland Road. These two buildings provide the necessary teaching space and accommodation, and will allow access for participants with disabilities, which we were unable to provide in our previous premises. This move has therefore resulted in an overall reduction in the number of buildings and the movement of participants up and down the road. It provides a more ‘cohesive’ Institute.

This development facilitates a high quality learning and teaching environment, and enhanced facilities. *All study bedrooms are en suite.* It also provides environmentally sound buildings which will cut running costs. *The Institute has been housed in this new location since the start of the new academic year at the end of September 2008.*

All of the above, plus good corporate leadership and strategic financial management based on sound objectives and priorities will ensure that the Institute achieves a long-term viable and secure position.

With all best wishes and blessings,

Len Kofler (Rev)

Director