

University in partnership bid to find MK's leaders of tomorrow

BY Neil Pickford

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Grant Thornton Milton Keynes has teamed up with Cranfield University to deliver a new Executive MBA programme to create leaders of tomorrow.

MK businesses were invited to find out how they can use the upcoming Apprenticeship Levy to take advantage of the new programme to improve their management teams.

The programme has been developed in collaboration between the Milton Keynes office of financial and business advisers Grant Thornton, which employs 160 staff in MK, and Cranfield School of Management.

The Executive MBA is designed for managers and directors, or those with exceptional development potential, and can be accessed at no extra cost by employers through the Apprenticeship Levy, which comes into force next month.



Grant Thornton Milton Keynes employer solutions director Mark Morton

Mark Morton, employer solutions director at Grant Thornton's Milton Keynes office, added: "The pressing need for management skills represents a growing challenge for businesses both across Milton Keynes – and the UK as a whole – and is a common barrier to growth. "Evidence suggests invest-

Developing management skills and knowledge is critical
Mark Morton

ment in management and leadership development can lead to a 23 per cent increase in organisational performance."

Professor

Cranfield EMBA programme director Professor Paul Baines said: "Our partnership with Grant Thornton is an innovative step in MBA delivery that will see many exciting developments for the programme. From April, the new Apprenticeship Levy will mean all organisations with a pay roll of £3m or more will have to pay a 0.5 per cent levy on their wage bill. This money can then be used to fund approved apprenticeship training for new or existing staff, including the Cranfield Executive MBA which has been designed to meet the requirements of the new Level 7 Strategic Leadership Master's Degree Apprenticeship."

Cybercrime warning

Businesses in Milton Keynes have been warned of the dangers of cybercrime – including the perils of impersonation fraud. Police cybercrime expert Sean O'Neil passed on his online safety message to business leaders at a breakfast meeting of the Grapevine networking group at Abbey Hill Golf Centre. For more about Grapevine visit www.grapevine-mk.co.uk.

Expansion for new staff

Cloud accounting software company Xero is expanding its Milton Keynes headquarters to accommodate 100 new sales and customer experience staff. The global company, which will soon surpass 200 staff and £25m revenues in the UK, employs more than 1,600 staff worldwide as one of the fastest growing software-as-a-service companies globally.

SECOND HIGHEST SCHOOL IN MILTON KEYNES ON ACADEMIC PROGRESS



Shape your future @ Lord Grey School

Lord Grey Sixth Form A-Level students have achieved academic progress above and beyond 85% of sixth form schools nationally for 2016. We are currently positioned second in the performance tables for Milton Keynes secondary schools and we are striving for an even higher "Value Added" score for 2017,

"Your time at this school will be the best time of your life as you create friends and memories that will stay with you forever. Embrace it all and enjoy the experience."

Tracey Jones, Headteacher

"The teachers in the Sixth Form are so helpful and supportive. I love my choice to stay at Lord Grey." A-Level student



Associate Assistant Headteacher, Angela Murphy said, "We are thrilled with the academic progress our fantastic students made last year. We have spent a lot of time and energy ensuring students in Year 12 and Year 13 have a daily diet of excellent teaching from specialists who are passionate about their subjects. We have a superb range of courses to choose from to suit both Level 2 and Level 3 learners. We continue to work



incredibly hard to ensure they all have an enriching and enjoyable Sixth Form experience. Every year we see students leave to pursue exciting career pathways with learners going on to study at top universities and take up excellent employment and apprenticeship opportunities."

Dr Tracey Jones, our Headteacher commented; "We offer a wide range of experiences; great Level 3 and Level 2 courses and a large dedicated study area.



We offer enrichment such as the Graduation Certificate scheme, Sports' Leaders, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Young Enterprise, Cranfield University Business Challenge and National Youth Service. All Sixth Form learners have fabulous pastoral care and support from their own Academic Mentor and examination success outcomes are very strong indeed."



We have excellent teaching from specialists, a superb range of courses available, so why not join Lord Grey Sixth Form in September? So please come and talk to us...

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OUR SCORE FOR ACADEMIC PROGRESS IS +0.16, WHICH IS THE SECOND HIGHEST IN THE TOWN. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THIS.