

# Exclusively executive

**Melanie Butler** surveys business English UK schools with separate facilities for the executive student

**'B**ut what about ranking the schools which have executive centres?' This was the most common response to the *Gazette's* publication last year of a list ranking the members of Business English UK based on British Council inspection reports.

There is no doubt, judging by the response, that many training managers and indeed agents seem to see the existence of a separate executive centre as of fundamental importance to the executive learner; the academic equivalent, perhaps, of travelling business class.

The ranking on this page is based on an analysis of every single language centre listed in British Council reports as offering business or professional English and stating on its website that it has a separate executive centre, whether in another building or on a separate floor. When in doubt, we called the school in question and asked them. We defined executive centres as only for executives, which meant several schools which run adult centres which include courses for teachers or postgraduate students, for example, were left out. These included two of the top

three schools in the UK, English in Chester and Wimbledon School of English.

We were looking for the top twenty schools but since more than one school is likely to achieve a particular number of points, we ended up with 21. The majority are indeed members of Business English UK, although just over a quarter are not currently listed as members on the BEUK website – their names are given in italics. They include York Associates, a well known name in the business English community which was only recently accredited by the British Council and was ranked in the top 10 per cent of schools in the UK, thus giving it *EL Gazette* Centre of Excellence status.

All of the schools ranking higher than fourteen on the Business English listing are Centres of Excellence, as indeed are over 30 per cent of all Business English UK members. This is perhaps an indication that, based on the criteria used in British Council inspections, schools making a serious offering in business English – for which having an executive centre may be seen as a proxy – are among the best in the country. ■



Courtesy LSI Portsmouth

**EXECUTIVE DECISION** LSI Portsmouth tops the UK ranking

## Top 20 schools with executive centres

- 1= Language Specialists International; London School of English
- 3= The English Language Centre Brighton; *St Giles Brighton*
- 5= Accent International; *St Giles London Central*
7. Kingsway English Centre
- 8= Cambridge Academy of English; *Oise Sherbourne Priors*
- 10= *Bell International London*; International House London; *Marcus Evans Lingurama London*; *York Associates*
- 14= Lydbury English Centre; *Trebinshun House*
- 16= Canning School; *Marcus Evans Linguarama Cheney Court*; Professional English Solutions
- 19= Bournemouth Business English School; Oxford English Centre; *Severnvale*

*Italics* = not currently listed as member on BEUK website