



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Violent Student Protests Could Have Been Prevented

~ The violent student protests could be attributed directly to the Government not having offered alternatives to the proposal, to lift university caps to £9,000 ~

London, 11 November 2010 – What was supposed to be a peaceful demonstration, yesterday, turned the capital upside down when student demonstrators smashed through windows.

The violence broke out once the march reached the Conservative Party Headquarters, then the crowd stormed the building and created havoc.

Mr Brink Gardner, Executive Director of Blake Hall College, one of a number of private colleges in London who run degree courses for undergraduate and post graduate students, said that the protest and especially the violence demonstrated could possibly have been averted had the Government offered students a more affordable and viable alternative.

“Had this been done and alternative opportunities identified, I do believe that good sense could have prevailed.”

“What do you expect if you suddenly, seemingly curtail some student’s opportunity to go to university without flagging up the alternatives?” Mr Gardner said.

“Colleges in partnership with UK Universities are ideally positioned to absorb excess capacity students and deliver quality yet affordable tuition. Universities and Government should seriously rethink their strategy on tertiary education.” As Allister Heath of CITYAM, quite rightly says today:

“There will be more two-year degrees and more distance learning; **for-profit companies need to enter the market**, which is currently controlled by charities. More innovation and experimentation is needed. **Students should embrace, not fear, the current, tentative moves towards the commercialisation of higher education***. It is a shame yesterday’s protesters couldn’t see this.”

Mr Gardner continued that “Worldwide, it has now been accepted, that Governments can and will no longer be able to meet the demand for Higher Education and increasingly the

publicly funded institutions are linking up with private, for profit institutions. We have ourselves apart from our UK University partners, now also linked up with other institutions in Thailand, India, Singapore and currently looking at further offers in India, Malta and South Africa”.

Private Higher Education Colleges, in conjunction with their UK University partners are able to be more affordable whilst not compromising on quality because

- They are regularly inspected by the partner University, in order to ensure that they meet all the requirements of the QAA, to which the University needs to adhere to.
- They tend to specialise in courses where there is a higher level of demand
- They don't have the huge infrastructural requirements of Universities
- They do not do research
- Their overhead is generally substantially lower than that of a University

For more information visit www.blakehallcollege.co.uk

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About Blake Hall College

History

From its humble beginnings in Wanstead (where it was founded in 2001), the college has developed into an academic institution of note. In 2004 Blake Hall College was accredited by the British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education (BAC). Blake Hall College is now located in the historic Dock Offices opposite Canada Water tube station in Surrey Quays, London.

Blake Hall College has recently been rebranded and a new logo, brand image, and brand identity were introduced in July 2008. [Learn more about the new Blake Hall College brand and logo.](#)

Our Vision

Our vision for Blake Hall College, is to become, within the next two years, one of the top five Private Colleges in London, with assured international recognition.

Our Mission

It is the vision of Blake Hall College to be a premier London college offering a variety of academic courses that provide culturally diverse students with the means to achieve success in their academic as well as in their personal lives. This will be achieved by motivating and supporting students in their pursuit of knowledge, and providing them with quality education and academic excellence.

Blake Hall College commits itself to attaining the following objectives:

- Establish a tradition of academic excellence and life long learning
- Develop the full potential of our students
- Create an academic institution of note
- Provide quality education
- Discover and generate knowledge

Blake Hall College policies:

Click [here](#) for a list of Blake Hall College policies and procedures.

Blake Hall College values:

- **Equality:** We believe that all students should be treated with dignity and acceptance. All students are equal.
- **Respect and tolerance for diversity:** Each student is valuable. Blake Hall College will support each student in their pursuit of academic excellence by providing a safe environment for them to become the best they can be.
- **Academic freedom:** Every student has the freedom to educate him/herself and live out his/her dreams.
- **Honesty and integrity:** We believe that society is built on the values of honesty and integrity. We believe that each person should express his/her authentic self by positioning him/herself as an outstanding citizen in the world.