



COME: Pupil Jenna Worrall, 14, French exchange student Arnaud Passerat, 17, and project manager Keith Deakin. Below, headteacher Rod Power with pupils Larry Toomey, Sasha Taylor and Dave Bromilow, all 12

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Pictures: ANDREW TAYLOR

TOP CLASS HOTEL

JENNY WATSON

Reporter

Stars beware . . . if you have in this hotel, you will get sent to the head's office.

It could be lines and detention if television sets get thrown out of windows.

St Cuthbert's is a community school AND a £25-a-night, 54-room hotel called Lindisfarne.

Headteacher Rod Irving has created a thriving business at his school in St Cuthbert's. The school has a television sets get thrown out of windows. St Cuthbert's is a community school AND a £25-a-night, 54-room hotel called Lindisfarne.

Head was left with empty classrooms and applied for European funding coming up with the hotel. Initially, the plan was to attract

School accepts paying guests

foreign students, but after the hotel was completed with a £600,000 grant, it went from strength to strength.

Mr Irving's next plan is to place pupils on the executive board and give them a say in running the £50,000-a-year business.

The 48-year-old from Calderstones, Liverpool, said: "The money we make, after costs is ploughed into a charitable trust and goes to local education groups.

"Pupils have been using the hotel to study the hospitality industry and we encourage them to get as involved in the business as possible."

The teacher says since the hotel opened incidents of pupil misbehaviour have fallen by 80%.

Mr Irving added: "To find out how we could make a success of the business, we sent teachers and pupils to visit companies such as Scottish Power, Sellafield power station and Jaguar."

The Berrys Lane school has built up an entire company, Farne Ltd, run in school grounds and employing 13 full-time staff.

As well as the Lindisfarne House, Farne Ltd runs a members-only gym, an online travel agency and Farne cafe - a restaurant serving 200 people a day.

More than 100 people have joined the gym, paying £12 a month to use £200,000 worth of equipment donated by an American sports magnate.

The gym earns around £1,500 a month.

One paying guest, sports coach David Brand from Manchester, said: "The beds are comfy, the staff really hospitable and it's comfortable and clean."



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