

Island features in Bloomberg broadcast

by Nicola Gibbons

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LEADING business figures were put under the spotlight yesterday as an international financial news agency broadcast live from Elizabeth College.

London-based anchor from Bloomberg News Guy Johnson spent the morning interviewing industry figures to get the island's perspective on potential tax changes ahead of the general election in May, as well as accusations that the island was a tax haven.

Among those who spoke in support of Guernsey and how transparent it was, were: Chief Minister Jonathan Le Tocq, Channel Islands Securities Exchange chairman Jon Moulton, Guernsey International Business Association member Andrew Whittaker and KPMG's head of tax, Tony Mancini.

It comes after would-be Prime Minister Ed Miliband threatened that a Labour government would have the Channel Islands black-listed if they did not sign up to a public register of beneficial interests within six months of his government coming to power.

Mr Johnson, who attended Elizabeth College between the ages of 11 and 18, said it was important for Guernsey to have its say on the international stage.

'With the general election coming up, it puts the focus on places such as Guernsey, and because of that we thought we would come over to try and get the island's point of view because we haven't heard much of that.

'Bloomberg is a huge financial company, so issues like this are very important to us and we thought it would be a good opportunity to see what was going on,' he said.

Mr Johnson said transparency was clearly a big talking point, given accusations that the island



A team from Bloomberg News broadcasting a live programme from the top of Elizabeth College. Old Elizabethan and London-based anchor from Bloomberg News, Guy Johnson, is pictured.

(Picture by Steve Sarre, 7881132)

was not transparent on issues of tax and beneficial ownership.

'The chief minister was clear that the island had nothing to hide and Jon Moulton said the Channel Island should be put on a

white list rather than a black list.'

Mr Johnson said being back in the island and at his former school had brought back a lot of memories, including swimming from the La Vallette bathing pools

to Castle Cornet.

He was only over for the day and filmed from the Le Marchant room right at the top of the college building, which has views overlooking St Peter Port.