

# Students fly in to sixth form

by **Veronica Webb**

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THE sixth form at a Huntingdon school is proving a magnet for foreign students – thanks to an international organisation which aims to break down barriers of language and culture between young people.

Through the non-profit making Education First Foundation for Foreign Study (EF), the sixth form at Hinchingsbrooke School has seven students from Germany, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela, as well as other students from the EU whose families have moved to Cambridgeshire.

Each foreign student, who spends approximately nine months in the UK, lives with a host family who provide a room, meals and a stable environment.

The student is expected to follow household rules, help with chores and fully participate in all aspects of family life.

To help with expenses, the EF provides host families with a monthly grant.

Head of the sixth form at Hinchingsbrooke School, John Norris, said that by attracting students from abroad, the senior form has become an exciting melting pot of cultures and backgrounds.

Mr Norris praised the work ethic of the students. He said: "They work like Trojans and are so enthusiastic.

"We have a commitment to welcome foreign students and will be offering EF 10 places for next September."

He added: "Our students welcome them



**CULTURAL EXCHANGE:** Some of the foreign students studying at Hinchingsbrooke School in Huntingdon.

and, quite frankly, after a while there is no difference between them and the local students."

He continued: "Their gratitude and loyalty is something special. They work so hard it raises the bar for all our students, so we are in a win, win situation."

Mr Norris added that as part of Hinchingsbrooke School's international aspirations, headteacher Keith Nancekievill will soon be visiting a Chinese school in Shanghai.

Mr Norris said local students take part in student exchange programmes, but not yet with EF.

International exchange co-ordinator for EF, Maggie Smith, said they are now recruiting for host families for the new programme, starting in August and running until June 2009.

>> For further details call Maggie on 01480 383180