

# Coach firm 'signs up' with footballers

**M**idsomer Norton-based coach travel firm Centurion Travel has signed up as the first-ever sponsor of Norton Radstock College's Football Academy.

Centurion managing director Martin Spiller said: "This is a new venture for us. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of our business in November, so we were wanting to do something special for the local community.

"Norton Radstock is our local college, and as we've been providing transport for the students for a number of years, we decided to support the young footballers playing for the Academy."

Centurion Travel has its headquarters in Welton and has been in business since 1989, but coaching has been in Martin Spiller's family for four generations. His great great grandfather, George Alford, began operating charabancs in 1925.

The Football Academy is run in partnership with Odd Down Football Club in Bath. The Academy team plays in the British Colleges

Sports League and team members are coached and managed by Everton Griffith, formerly of Bristol City.

Footballers in the Academy sign up for a one year full-time course, which combines football with studies for a Public Services BTEC qualification at levels 1 and 2, and the National Certificate in Public Services at level 3. Students can also take additional courses such as Football Coaching Level 1 and the Sports leader award.

**For more information on the Academy call Everton Griffith on 01761 404440 or mobile 0798 9166448.**

Four students from Norton Radstock College were called up for the South West football team trials in Bridgwater. Gary Percy, Steve Haliwell, Sean Derrick and Adam Bowering represented the Football Academy and the College.



The College's Football Academy team wearing their new kit, which has been sponsored by local coach travel firm Centurion Travel. From left, front, is Centurion director Steve Spiller, Academy team coach and manager Everton Griffith and Centurion managing director Martin Spiller.

## Mayor of Bath hosts a reception for College's European visitors



The Mayor of Bath, Cllr Colin Barrett, with the College's guests.

**F**ourteen representatives of vocational colleges and training organisations in Finland, France, Greece, Romania, Italy, Germany and the UK were welcomed at a reception hosted by the Mayor of Bath, Councillor Colin Barrett, at the Guildhall.

In a short welcoming address, Cllr Barrett stressed the importance of such international visits. He said: "We always learn something from each other."

During the three-day visit group members carried out work on the International Development Officer Learning project, known also as IDOL, in which the College is a partner.

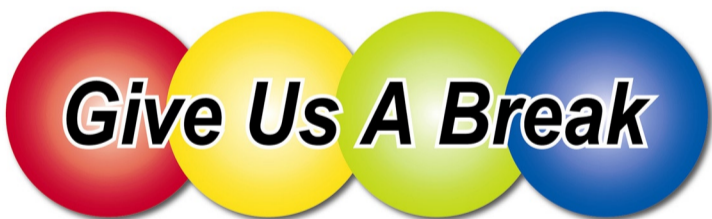
The project's UK co-ordinator, Rosaleen Courtney, who is based at Norton Radstock College, said: "The

project aims to help those who work or wish to work in international roles to develop their skills and for those skills, including cultural awareness, to be recognised. We are developing a training course for use across Europe."

The project's Finnish co-ordinator Liisa Lofman said the training course would be useful for teachers and others working in education who were responsible for organising international links and exchanges.

At present there is no formal recognition or benchmark for the skills which these people acquired informally as a result of their experiences.

The IDOL project has just entered its second year and is being funded by the European Union's Leonardo da Vinci programme.



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For more details contact Sarah Chu at Norton Radstock College on 01761 433161 or email [sarah.chu@nortcoll.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.chu@nortcoll.ac.uk)

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