



● China-bound – Notley High School pupils improve their Chinese knowledge after winning a trip to the Beijing Olympics. From left, Ruth Metcalf, Adam Shambrook, Sophie Whitaker, Emily Price, Zoe Webb and Josh Pearson, with, centre, teacher Pauline Charnock.  
Picture: SEANA HUGHES (78885-b)

# Pupils earn Olympic trip

LUCKY students are gearing up for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Six pupils from Notley High School, in Notley Road, Braintree, are preparing for an eight-day adventure, which begins on August 21.

Josh Pearson, 14, Sophie Whitaker, 14, Emily Price, 14, Ruth Metcalf, 14, Zoe Webb, 14, and Adam Shambrook, 14, have a packed schedule in the Chinese capital.

Highlights include watch-

ing the athletics finals and the men's mountain biking final, visiting the Laoshan mountain biking courses and attending a ceremonial dinner, as well as the chance to meet some of the Chinese Olympic athletes from Jiangsu Province.

When the Games have finished, trips have been arranged to Tiananmen Square and the Temple of Heaven, in Beijing, and the Great Wall of China.

Josh said he was "looking forward" to all aspects of the

experience, while Sophie said she was "really excited" and could not wait to go.

Emily said: "I'm expecting the atmosphere to be really, really great because everyone will be excited to be around the Games, and I'm looking forward to tasting the authentic Chinese food and meeting the athletes."

Notley High School scooped the prize after winning a competition, organised by the county council, to perform their own versions of the morning exer-

cises with which Chinese pupils traditionally start their day.

The school then had to pick six year nine pupils and one teacher to go to Beijing, which they did through a scoring process.

The students were graded on performance in the exercises, in a test about China and in an interview asking why they wanted to go.

PE teacher Pauline Charnock will accompany them as she trained the students in their routine.