

Meet five prize guys

Contest winners honoured by Pakistan's president

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PREMIER MEETING: Pictured meeting President Musharraf, from left to right, deputy head teacher Elizabeth Clarke and pupils Paul Williams, Peter Taylor, Joshua Gigg, Anthony Starr and Benjamin Rogan

Pershawar for a tour.

But the highlight of the whole trip had to be the group's two hour meeting with the President of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf, at the presidential palace in Islamabad. The President gave a speech, answered the children's questions then had tea with the group in a marquee within the Presidential Palace grounds.

Mrs Clarke said President Musharraf was warm, friendly and very approachable. He even answered one student's question about why he wears a military uniform.

They also met prime minister Nawaz

Sharif and other dignitaries.

Head teacher John Fairhurst said: "This was a magnificent opportunity. The boys did extremely well to win the competition and have enjoyed a spectacular 10 days as the prize.

"The visit was all at the expense of the Pakistani government and was literally a trip of a lifetime for all involved."

The team was also presented with medals, certificates and a plaque for the school at a ceremony at the House of Lords.

Mrs Clarke added: "I suppose our visit

helped to put our lives into perspective and to understand our place in the world. It is difficult to look objectively at your own life, particularly for youngsters. Once you have travelled and seen places so completely different to yours it really helps you have better appreciation of what you've got.

"Things our kids take for granted all the time, like running water, 95 per cent of the population of Pakistan do not have."

By Wendy Pike

A GROUP of five students from Shenfield High School had the honour of meeting and taking tea with the president of Pakistan during a recent trip which they won in a national ICT competition.

Paul Williams, Anthony Starr, Ben Rogan, Joshua Gigg and Peter Taylor won places for the 10-day visit with their 15-minute multimedia presentation about Pakistan, entitled *Pakistan Today*. The year 10 boys, described by the school as extremely gifted students, used the internet and reference books to research their project.

Deputy head teacher Liz Clarke accompanied the group on the visit. She said: "I think we'll all remember the trip for the rest of our lives. It was a very moving experience and exciting. We were so privileged. It was fantastic."

Understanding

The national competition, now in its fourth year, is sponsored by Akhter Computers based in Harlow. Its aim is to foster better understanding between youths from Pakistan and the UK.

During the visit the group received five star treatment staying in luxury hotels and visiting some amazing sights of Pakistan. They had lunch at the British High Commission, travelled under armed guard to the Khyber Pass and flew to the city of