

Baba Brinkman at Ryecroft Middle School, with pupils Becky Bloor, Jayne Marsfield, Chelsea Maddock and William Kent.



Baba brings medieval classic rapping into life

A CANADIAN rap artist performed an innovative hip hop version of a medieval literary work to children at a Rocoester school.

Baba Brinkman visited Ryecroft Middle School on Tuesday, April 25 to deliver a rap version of Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.

He held a workshop with each year seven class during the day, teaching them how to rap, and then did a per-

formance of The Rap Canterbury Tales at a school assembly.

The tales tell the stories of a group of pilgrims, all of different trades, as they make their way towards a shrine in Canterbury.

Pupils at Ryecroft Middle School have been studying Chaucer's work as part of their English lessons.

Sandy Pierzchalla, head of English, said: "The event went really well. The

performance of the Rap Canterbury Tales was very well received, and brought the story to life for the children."

Mr Brinkman first toured The Rap Canterbury Tales at fringe festivals around the world in summer 2004, stopping at Brighton, Prague, Montreal and San Francisco, among others. Following the success of the show at the Edinburgh Festival in

2004, Cambridge University English Department invited Mr Brinkman to tour English secondary schools in 2005. The Rap Canterbury Tales was delivered to more than 1600 students at more than 30 schools across the country.

The tour was sponsored by Cambridge, for the purpose of introducing young people to Chaucer and medieval literature in an innovative way.