

# A PLACE IN THE WORLD LAUNCH

## A foreign path to business acumen



From left, Karolina Skowronska from Holiday Inn Portsmouth serves Polish delicacies to Year 8 German and Spanish students from Cams Hill in Fareham, judges Dawn Wall, translation manager for Fareham company intonation, Jacqueline Snow, recruitment officer for consultancy ARM, and Cath Longhurst, chief executive of the EBP

Picture: Conor O'Reilly

A LANGUAGE challenge for schools was launched with international panache at Portsmouth's Holiday Inn last month.

The Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Education Business Partnership (EBP) toasted to this year's A Place in the World scheme with culinary delicacies from all over the world.

Teams of year eight and nine secondary school students from Portsmouth and Hampshire have been challenged to set up their own relocation companies to take a family of four to a country anywhere in the world and ensure a successful start to their new lives.



Students compete to create the perfect 'fresh start' abroad in an innovative young business scheme. **ALINE NASSIF** reports.

They will have to research jobs, schools and language learning for the family in their care, as well as the marketing, finances and business practices.

Kevin Israel, general manager of Holiday Inn, who has staff from a dozen different countries, said: 'We asked members of our staff to create stalls that represent their home countries with flags, food and drink for all the students to try.'

'We had Italy, Bulgaria,

Spain, Denmark, Poland, Pakistan, Wales, Ireland and England represented, as well as a table to represent the EU.'

'A lot of our staff move around the world with Holiday Inn and that is why we are so passionate about and delighted to be supporting this EBP challenge.'

Senior construction manager, Nicolas Beausseron, from the event's second sponsor, Warings, gave a speech highlighting the importance of learning

languages and giving insight into the career opportunities within international companies.

He said: 'The travelling I have done and projects I have worked on would not have been possible if I had not learned English in addition to my native French.'

Suzanne Lewis, EBP project co-ordinator, said: 'Never before have we had a launch such as this.'

'The Holiday Inn pulled out all the stops to make sure the students were inspired and impressed. We can't thank Kevin and his team enough.'

Teams will be judged at a grand final with a prize of £100 on March 30.