

James makes bid for football stardom

JAMES Davies (16) of Heacham has taken huge steps in his quest to become a professional footballer after securing a place in the FootballCV Academy, which opens its doors for the first time in September.

James was chosen from hundreds of hopefuls for the Academy, which is the first of its kind in the world – an independent, private, residential football academy, totally dedicated to the footballing and educational needs of its students.

Based at Rushden & Diamonds' Nene Park ground in Northamptonshire, the Academy will play a number of friendlies against Premiership and Football League opposition in addition to daily training programmes.

They will also compete in the Football Conference Youth League against the likes of Birmingham City and Watford.

After training, James – who is a budding midfielder – will head to the classroom with the

rest of the team to continue a comprehensive football education with seminars, workshops, visits to football games, and guest speakers including some of the biggest names in football.

James, who came through a series of Academy trials before being picked, said: "It's a dream of mine to become a professional footballer and play for a Premier League side just like my hero David Beckham.

"The FootballCV Academy is a great opportunity for me to make that dream come true – I'm really excited and looking forward to the start of training in September."

Local fans can follow James' progress by visiting www.footballcvacademy.com which will have regular match reports and updates on the Academy team – the FCV Reds.

Kevin Wilson, the former Northern Ireland international footballer, has just been announced as Academy team manager.