

British students to visit Gar-Field, area

By **AMANDA STEWART**

astewart@potomacnews.com

The British are coming to Gar-Field Senior High School.

Today, 24 students and two teachers from The Ridings High School in Bristol, United Kingdom, will arrive for a six-day visit in Virginia.

Gar-Field students and their families will be hosting the visitors during their stay.

Gar-Field and Ridings are partner schools in the International Baccalaureate program.

While here, Katie Coleborn, a 17-year-old student at Ridings, wants to share her thoughts and reflections on her visit to the area.

She will be writing a daily



Katie Coleborn

Will write about visit to area

blog about the students' visit.

Readers can follow the students' visit beginning Saturday in the print and online

editions of the Potomac News and Manassas Journal Messenger.

"We see tremendous value in this project because it provides an opportunity to reach more people than just the host families and students who will actually meet and interact with the visiting students," Gar-Field's IB coordinator Brian Bassett, who helped to organize the students' visit, said in an e-mail.

"With a published blog, the greater community will also be able to share in these experiences and learn about the different perspectives our visiting students will bring with them," Bassett said.

The British students will arrive at Dulles International Airport today and then travel

to Gar-Field to meet their host families.

On Friday they'll spend the day attending classes at Gar-Field and following their host student's schedule. Friday night the students will attend the Just World Festival at Annandale High School.

On Saturday the students will visit Washington, D.C., with their host families and tour the Capitol and several museums.

Sunday they will visit Jamestown, Monday they will attend seminars at Gar-Field and Tuesday they will visit Mount Vernon before returning home to the United Kingdom.

"I'm really looking

See **STUDENTS**, Page **A2**



Photo submitted by Ridings High School

Students from Ridings High School in Bristol, United Kingdom, pose for a photo before leaving to visit the area for six days and stay with Gar-Field Senior High School students and their families.

STUDENTS

Continued from page A1

forward to meeting my host family and the other students," Katie said in an e-mail from the United Kingdom.

"Although both Britain and the United States are considered western countries it will be really interesting to see the differences between

Follow Katie Coleborn and other students from The Ridings High School in Bristol, United Kingdom, as they visit Virginia. Read Katie's "British Invasion" blog in the print and Web editions of the Potomac News and Manassas Journal Messenger beginning Saturday.

the cultures, routines and preconceptions people have about us on a more personal scale because I will be living with an American family," she said.

This will be Katie's second

trip to United States, she said. In 2006, she visited San Francisco for three weeks with her family.

She said she and many of her classmates have already been in contact with the

families who will be hosting them during their stay here and are excited about their upcoming visit.

"In some ways we don't really know what to expect, making it all the more exciting!" she said in an e-mail.

Visit PotomacNews.com or ManassasJM.com starting Saturday to follow Katie and her classmates' visit.

Staff writer Amanda Stewart can be reached at 703-878-8014.