



■ Joseph Legbe who attends Avocet House, Heckingham was invited to attend the 'This Is England' Film festival in France. Picture: NICK BUTCHER

## Joseph enjoys film festival experience

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A 15-year-old pupil has returned from an exciting trip to France which saw him attend a week-long film festival dedicated to British cinema.

Joseph Legbe got the chance to see a selection of the short films being showcased at the This is England festival in Rouen, as well as the opportunity to interview some of the directors and review their work.

Joseph is a pupil at Avocet House in Heckingham, a small independent specialist education school and children's home.

The school has a link with the College Emil Zola in Sotteville, Rouen, and Joseph was invited to spend the week at the festival with French students from the school and stay with a host family, joined by his teacher Ros Pearson.

Ms Pearson said: "Last summer Joseph and another boy went to France to take part in a spoof Oscars ceremony at the school.

"On the back of that someone who runs the film festival was at the event and asked if one of our boys would like to go to the festival.

"It was a brilliant experience for Joseph. You usually have to fight to get him to put pen to paper, but he was firing



■ Joseph Legbe attended the This is England festival in France. Picture: ROS PEARSON.

away questions and writing in his notepad."

The festival showcases the work of emerging filmmakers as well as more renowned auteurs. The films ranged from one minute to 25 minutes long, and as well as a set of judges choosing their favourites their was also a public vote.

Joseph's favourite film was called Crack, a spoof film about gangs in London.

He said: "It was funny because the whole way through you thought it was about drugs, but then you got to the end and it was actually about a conker craze."

Joseph has written his own review of the film, which he

will be emailing to director Peter King, and he has also screened it at school.

He said: "It was a good week, it was really exciting and the films were really interesting and tense.

"It was good staying with a French family. They had different things in their house, different hobbies and different food."

Joseph has been at the school for two-and-a-half years and also attends Easton and Otley College one day a week where he is completing a construction course.

He has been learning French since his first visit, and hopes to return to the festival again next year.