

Chaucer rap! Scholar reworks Canterbury Tales



A CANADIAN hip hop artist who doubles as a mediaeval scholar has reworked Chaucer for Uttoxeter students.

Baba Brinkman and his one-man tour of The Rap Canterbury Tales landed last week at Ryecroft Middle School, in Denstone Road, and Oldfields Hall Middle School, in Stone Road.

The artist and historian has recreated the 15th century masterpiece using updated language, in an effort to make it more accessible for modern audiences.

Mr Brinkman has already performed 25 sold-out shows at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and is touring schools and theatres to introduce youngsters to one of England's most influential writers.

Sandy Pierzchalla, Ryecroft Middle School's head of English, said: "Each year seven class was taught the basics of rapping and Mr Brinkman did a bit of freestyling in assembly.

"He asked the students to shout out subjects and then he made up a rap about them. That went down extremely well with everyone — even the teachers."

IT'S A RAP . . . Baba Brinkman with pupils Laurin Brown, Jade Foster, Ruth Laidler and Abbie Russell