



# Meet-a-Family Experience

## Overview

Many students have found the Meet-a-Family program to be a major part of their Harlaxton experience. Since 1983, MAF has provided American students with a British “home away from home.” Students have the opportunity to become more familiar with British customs and traditions through time with a British family. The families, in return, learn about American culture, enjoy very nice events at the Manor, and develop lasting friendships with their students. Several British families have even traveled to the U.S. for personal holidays, graduations, weddings, and christenings, visiting their American “children” in their American homes.

British families volunteer for this program, as do the American students. Each of our families is unique: some have young children, some are single professionals, others are retired. But, then, all of our American students are unique too and we seek to match persons of similar interests, backgrounds, and values. Some families request one student, some two, some several.

You will meet your family at a reception and dinner in “your house,” Harlaxton Manor, early in the semester. At this first meeting, you bring your calendars, your family brings their “diaries,” and you set times during the semester when you will get together—usually in your British family’s home. Some families and students meet frequently, others only two or three times during the term. No matter how often you meet, being involved with MAF is a privilege and your commitment to the program should be taken seriously.

**It is very, very important that you keep appointments and stay in good communication with your host family.**

After going to your host family’s home throughout the semester, you will get to host your British family again in your house at a wonderful “Harlaxton Family Christmas” in the Fall (where we go caroling in Harlaxton Village after dinner, in the old fashioned English way) or at a “Meet-a-Family Music Fest” in the Spring (where our Harlaxton Collegiate Choir performs for families and other guests).

## Applying

Meet-a-Family is a great cultural and personal experience and a special opportunity for students coming to Harlaxton. While we try to accommodate as many students as possible, there are not always enough spaces available for the number of interested students. Therefore, **placements are made on a first-come, first-serve basis**, so apply early if you are serious about wanting to become a part of a British family!

For registered students, you apply for the Meet-a-Family program online before arriving at Harlaxton.

**Please note:** There are a lot of opportunities to get involved with at Harlaxton College: academics, travel, sport, student leadership groups, and of course Meet-A-Family, among others. Many students try to “do it all.” Please think carefully about what you want your priorities to be while living in England. Students who do not commit to their MAF may be withdrawn from the experience mid-way through the semester, allowing other interested students on the waiting list to have an opportunity to join.