

# Richmond School & Sixth Form College



## Press Release

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Issued: November 2009

### **TITLE:** Students flock to new community sports facilities

SPORTS facilities among the best in the country have opened at a North Yorkshire school as a £32m development reaches its latest phase.

More than 1,600 children at Richmond School will be able to experience an expanded sports curriculum thanks to a huge sports hall, state of the art multi-gym and an activity room.

The school is also to be opened up to local primary schools, clubs and the community at large so people can make the most of the fantastic facilities.

The massive sports hall has room for six badminton courts when most facilities normally have four.

It can be divided into sections so that sports such as five-a-side, basketball, cricket and table tennis can be played simultaneously.

There is also a huge screen on the wall linked to video which will allow coaches to film, play back sport in action and analyse sportsmen's techniques.

The multi-gym features the latest machines and would rival any private facility. The activities room overlooks the sports hall and is ideal for gymnastics, pilates and aerobics.

Luxurious changing facilities allow people to change in comfort, the sports centre is accessible to people with disabilities and there are also washing facilities so the school can launder kit.

"We have moved from having really poor facilities at the school to having those ranked among the very best," said head of PE and outdoor development Chris Thomson.

"And this means we can develop and expand the sporting curriculum at the school more than ever before," added her assistant Martin Burgess. "It is just such a bright, light, healthy, wonderful space."

A host of local clubs are expected to use the facility, which will be managed out of school hours – 6pm to 10pm and at weekends – by the Richmond Leisure Trust.

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Sports will include football, basketball, table tennis, gymnastics, boxercise, martial arts, handball, aerobics, netball, badminton, girls' football and ultimate golf.

The community will get a chance to see the new facilities at an open day on November 29 from 10am to 4pm.

Richmond School's administration director Audrey Pledge said: "It has gone way beyond being just for the school; it is a community facility that will be used as much as possible."

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