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Press Release

Sponsors and Stars Gather for Unveiling of The Royal Latin School's ek robotics Sports Campus

The [Royal Latin School](http://www.royallatin.org) is celebrating the unveiling of its £3m ek robotics Sports Campus to students and the local community.

More than a hundred sponsors, supporters and special guests are attending the opening ceremony at the school in Buckingham. A host of sporting stars have sent messages of congratulations to the school, and **Professor Greg Whyte OBE** has the honour of cutting the ribbon to formally open the facility. As part of the build up to the opening celebrations, **Olympic rowers Ben Hunt-Davis and Charlie Elwes** will be dropping in to coach some rowing, **Olympic runner Laura Muir** will be meeting students via Zoom to share her experiences, and **England rugby star Rachael Burford** will be delivering a coaching session on the new 3G pitch. **MK Dons FC** also hope to get involved with a coaching session.

"I'm so impressed by what the Royal Latin has achieved for school and community sport, and I love the way they've brought sporting heroes into the heart of the project. I'm really delighted to have been asked to cut the ribbon to officially open the Sports Campus, and to give the inaugural community lecture - it is imperative that we embed positive experiences which inspire people of all ages to be more active, and this is a fabulous model for other schools and communities to follow." - Professor Greg Whyte OBE PhD DSc FBASES FACSM

Following five years of fundraising, the ek robotics Sports Campus has been built on the existing school site in Buckingham, adjacent to a new 3G pitch funded by the Football Foundation. The building is light, bright, welcoming and fully accessible, with a Fitness Suite, Mind & Body Zone, and the Racelogic Sports Lab. It will be used by the school during the day, and available to the community during evenings, weekends and school holidays.

The facility will drastically improve the sporting landscape in the local area, and offer young people and the community game-changing new opportunities to be active. It will also act as an innovative gateway for community education, providing new opportunities to learn about the benefits of an active lifestyle from a network of sports and wellbeing specialists via a free programme of lectures and seminars, all under one roof. Greg Whyte will deliver the inaugural lecture after the opening ceremony.

"We are thrilled to have our friends and supporters here today to witness the opening of this much needed facility" said David Hudson, Royal Latin Headteacher. *"It's fantastic to see our students and wider community getting use from the building and pitch. We've long been concerned about the physical and mental health of students and families, and this has only been accentuated by the impact of the pandemic. I feel very strongly that as a school, we should be at the forefront of helping everyone understand how physical activity provides a much-needed boost to*

our wellbeing, helping us all achieve a good balance between working hard and living well. I'm deeply grateful to everyone who has worked so hard over the last five years in order to make these facilities a reality."

The building has been funded by a combination of corporate sponsorship, charitable grants and community fundraising, along with support from Buckinghamshire Council. Chris Price, UK Managing Director of Sports Campus sponsor ek robotics, said: *"ek robotics are delighted to see the finished sports campus handed over to the students and wider community. It was a pleasure and privilege to be able to help fund such an exciting project that will have great benefits for the future education of our children. We are proud to continue our support of the Buckingham community as a whole. With help from the industry, ek robotics are looking forward to working closely with the Royal Latin School to educate and shape our future business leaders."*

Ian Gould, Head of PE at the school is over the moon: *"The new sports facilities we now have at the Royal Latin are amazing. After so long wanting to improve upon what we already had, I can hardly believe we've finally got them! The Sports Campus is transforming what we're able to offer students and the community, and will bring so many more exciting opportunities to inspire everyone to try new activities. It's come at such a critical time, when we need to work extra hard to help everyone to rebuild fitness and confidence after the pandemic. The Sports Campus will allow us to enhance both provision and equality in outstanding facilities. It adds a new energy to the school, and will change lives for the better. My department is really proud to be a part of that."*

ENDS

Media enquiries to Jo Ballantine, Royal Latin Director of Development, jballantine@royallatin.org

Images & Video

Hi res images and video clips can be found on our media pages at: <https://www.royallatin.org/rls600-media/>

Additional Content

Please also visit our media pages for further material including copy, quotes, biographies and additional links relating to the following Sports Campus stories:

- [Why a Sports Campus? The positive impact on physical activity and mental health](#)
- [Sports Campus: A Story of Community Spirit & Resilience](#)
- [Sports Campus: An Inspiring Story of Businesses Investing in Education](#)
- [The Science of Sport: Bringing Sport & STEM Together in the Sports Campus](#)
- [The Power of Sport: Why Sporting Heroes Matter](#)
- [Bringing the Sports Campus to Life: Our Funding Story](#)

Supplementary Information:

About The Royal Latin School & 600 Campaign

The Royal Latin School, one of the oldest state schools in England, is due to celebrate its 600th anniversary in 2023. The school is a co-educational, state grammar school in Buckingham with Registered Charity status. It has spent a decade running a progressive fundraising campaign to pay for new and better buildings to improve the learning environment and opportunities for students and the community. The school suffered from underinvestment in basic infrastructure over many decades, and in recent years, has received less statutory funding than any other

school in England. Despite this, it is an Outstanding school, with a reputation for excellence, and is committed to helping students develop the skills and qualities necessary to enable them to be happy and achieve their academic and personal potential. Students attend from Buckingham & Winslow, Milton Keynes and surrounding areas, representing a wide range of socio-economic and culturally diverse backgrounds.

The Sports Campus is the latest capital project funded by the school's 600 Campaign - in 2015 the school opened a stunning [£5m STEM Discovery Centre](#), launched a 6th Form Study Centre in 2016, and is currently assessing the feasibility of a Theatre & Arts building.

See our [Media Pages](#) for further information.