

Preston School Academy



Background

Preston Academy School, located in Yeovil, Somerset is a mixed comprehensive that caters for learners aged between 11 to 16 years. It currently has a student population of 982 with a proportion of disabled students and those with special educational needs.

Some years ago, Preston Academy undertook a feasibility study for the implementation of new sports facilities. With over 1000 students and members of staff, a need was identified to improve what was currently on offer. Moreover, head teacher Tony Bloxham, felt that new, state-of-the-art facilities would help attract prospective students and as a trained PE teacher, places a huge importance of sports in schools, commenting: "Besides the obvious health and fitness benefits, we want to develop the right habits and attitudes in young people so they continue exercising and playing sports after they have left school."

The Challenges

As an academy, the school does not receive any financial support from the local authority which means any money has to be carefully managed. Therefore through its unique partnership with the school's on site leisure provider, Preston Academy was introduced to bespoke construction company CREATEABILITY.



CREATEABILITY

LEISURE ENVIRONMENTS FROM EVERY ANGLE

The Solution

CREATEABILITY built a new fitness gym, fully-equipped with the latest cardiovascular and weight stations, a studio, used for dance, spinning and other fitness classes, changing facilities, toilets, a netball court, football pitch and additional car parking. The sports hall also had a complete refurbishment, the whole roof was replaced, energy saving LED lights and new flooring were installed.

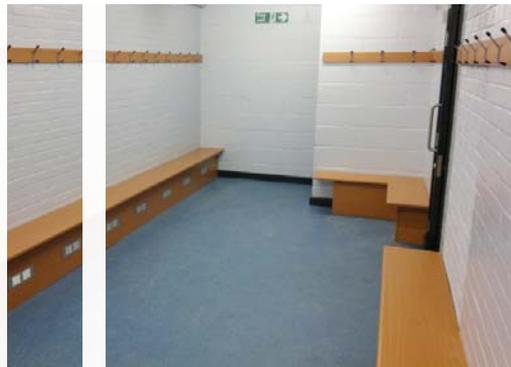
Schools are increasingly becoming the centre of communities, and our vision has always been to make our sports facilities much more accessible to local people...

Tony Bloxham, Principal of Preston School

project

EXAMPLE





Counting the benefits

Since the completion of the new facilities, the school has reported numerous benefits. Of real significance is the difference in participation in exercise of the school's female students. As Tony remarks: "It would seem that traditional physical education is perhaps too games orientated for many of our female students. The new facilities CREATEABILITY constructed have been transformational for female pupils, offering them the opportunity to work out in the gym and take part in more modern forms of exercise such as dance or spinning."

Moreover, the public's use of the facilities has enhanced sports provision and opportunities to the local community and generated revenue for the school. A high proportion of parents use the facilities after dropping their children off to school and there have also been a vast number of past students using the gym.

With the help of a grant from the education funding agency, the school decided last minute to replace the whole roof of the sports hall which CREATEABILITY agreed to the build alongside the rest of their work, which piled on the pressure.

"I would recommend CREATEABILITY to other schools. They are a straight-talking, honest organisation who were great to work with. There were a few special requirements towards the end, in particular the new roof, but they were so accommodating. I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved." Tony concludes.

I would recommend CREATEABILITY to other schools. They are a straight-talking, honest organisation who were great to work with.

Contract value: £855k

Contract Length Phase 1: 17 Weeks

Phase 2: 8 Weeks

CREATEABILITY LTD

First Floor, Oakmount House, Oakmount Road,
Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, SO53 2LH

Tel: 0845 070 4321

info@createability.co.uk

www.createability.co.uk

CS Preston 14.02.14 © Createability Ltd

