

**CLIENT:**

RUSHDEN ACADEMY

**SOLUTION:**

TARAFLEX® PERFORMANCE

**LOCATION:**

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## Huge success for Gerflor with Taraflex® Performance sports flooring at Rushden Academy, Northamptonshire.

When an Academy school in Northamptonshire needed to replace their dated and dangerous Granwood sports hall floor with a spectacular new 'fit for purpose' indoor sports surface, they turned to international flooring specialist Gerflor to supply 400m<sup>2</sup> in 'Dark Blue' of their world class Olympic standard Taraflex® Performance vinyl sports floor.

It would prove to be a refurbishment project that yielded a fantastic end result for both the Academy and the appointed Specifier.

Rushden Academy is an Academy school in Rushden, Northamptonshire, which was founded in 1977. The school was formerly the Chichele College for Girls until 1991 when it was amalgamated to become The Rushden School, rebranding as the Rushden Community College in 2005 and as Rushden Academy in 2014.

Tom Gidman, Contract Sales, and Specification Manager Gerflor said, "The opportunity came from our customer Sam McQuarrie the Commercial Manager at Garrard Waters, which is part of the Headlam Group.

"His customer Darren Brown from Finest Floors Ltd. had an issue on site with needing to replace an old Granwood system. Sam was aware of our overlay system and asked me to go into the school to discuss the situation with the Site Manager Lee Ward."

Lee Ward from Rushden Academy said, "The old Granwood flooring was becoming very tired, slippy and it was also cracking and it provided no shock absorption for the high impact sports undertaken within the sports hall. We needed to improve the indoor sport surface for benefit of all the participants and users."



“ We chose Taraflex® Performance from Gerflor because of the versatility and durability of the sports surface. ”

Lee Ward, Site Manager, Rushden Academy



On specification Lee Ward went on to further comment, "We undertook a process of getting various sports hall flooring suppliers to visit the site and listened to their recommendations and provide figures for their products. After a comprehensive amount of research and reviewing case studies from other schools, we chose Taraflex® Performance from Gerflor because of the versatility and durability of the sports surface. This was the perfect decision, as the sports hall is used for a wide range of sporting activities, plus exams and occasionally large assemblies. We have just finished the mock exams and there hasn't been any damage to the flooring."

Lee Ward further added, "Tom Gidman indicated that Taraflex® Performance does not necessitate the need to lay a protective covering over the existing floor before setting the exam furniture up. Whereas other representatives all suggested the need to buy protective coverings for their products. So, specifying the Gerflor sports flooring was absolutely the right way to go."

Installing the new Gerflor flooring would need to be undertaken by a flooring company that could deliver an excellent finish worthy of both the school and the quality flooring

specified. The installation would be the responsibility of Northampton-based Finest Floors Limited.

With over 85 years' experience within the flooring industry Finest Floors Limited provide professional flooring applications to commercial and domestic customers. They specialise in commercial floor coverings for the whole commercial industry including health care, office, education, leisure, and hospitality industries across the whole of the UK.

Darren Brown, Director, Finest Floors Limited commented, "We were contacted by Rushden Academy and asked to provide a quote to carry out the sports hall floor renewal. Having carried out flooring works previously at the school, this required a site visit to the school prior to submitting a quote. After investigating, we found that the gym and sports floor was an existing Granwood floor and would require a sports flooring system, which could be applied over the existing floor. After exploring a range of options Gerflor's loose lay system was specified, as the right material for the project including an 'Isolsport' underlay and Gerflor's Taraflex® Performance sports vinyl flooring." Darren Brown continued, "We liaised

with Rushden Academy to provide the colours within the range and the colour decided on was 'Dark Blue' with a total area size of 404m<sup>2</sup>. The project duration was over a four-day period from start to finish including preparation works."

Commenting further on the installation Darren Brown said, "The project was unique in the fact we had never before installed sports flooring on a loose lay system as it is commonly adhered to the sub-floor."

Darren Brown concluded, "Rushden Academy were incredibly delighted with the final result and the Gerflor sports floor system exceeded their expectations, providing them with a solid floor for years to come. We would specify and recommend the Gerflor sports flooring system again for any future projects we take on. We currently already specify and install a large range of Gerflor products, so are confident in the quality of their materials. Their solutions are competitively priced for all budgets and readily available for all projects."

Lee Ward ended by saying, "We are extremely pleased with the overall performance of the Taraflex® sports product and its durability."

For further information on Gerflor's extensive range of flooring solutions please contact us:

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