

26th July 2023

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 400m² 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.

Rushden Academy is part of the Tove Learning Trust, established in Northampton in 2018. The vision for the trust is simple: to ensure that all students in their academies are provided with inspiring educational experiences that lead to outstanding outcomes. The trust is committed to ensuring that all pupils achieve their full potential and works hard to offer stimulating environments that enable every child to develop and flourish.

At Rushden Academy, they recognise the importance of Physical Education (PE) and the role it has to play in promoting long term, healthy lifestyles and making a positive impact on physical, mental, and social health. The intent of their PE curriculum is to provide all students with high quality PE and sport provision. It is their vision for every student to succeed and achieve their potential, as well as to lead physically active lifestyles beyond their years at secondary school.

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, slippery 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."

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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 eventually 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 404m². 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."

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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."

Product overview of Taraflex® Performance

Taraflex® Performance is a synthetic indoor sports flooring that can be specified for a wide range of sports applications, in a variety of sectors. It delivers optimal safety, comfort, and performance for users, as well as being available in an extensive choice of vibrant designs, making it the ideal choice for a host of locations.

Taraflex® Performance is perfectly suited for a variety of applications, including most sporting and leisure activities, and is also a popular choice for sports halls in education and leisure buildings, as well as the go to preferred option for many prestigious elite and elite sporting events. In fact, Taraflex® sports flooring has been fitted at every Olympic Games since 1976 and is approved by many National and International governing bodies as a world class sports surface.

Taraflex® Performance easily meets the rigorous demands of a vast array of sports activities, it provides excellent co-efficient of friction, this means twists, turns, stops/starts can be carried out without the fear of slipping or gripping and subsequent injuries from physical activity. The shock absorption qualities of Taraflex® Performance, also helps players gain even more enjoyment from sport. It offers a P2 category shock absorbency of 35% to 45%. Taraflex® Performance is available in 18 colours and 4 wood-effect designs as standard, with an addition of 110 solid colour options available.

Over 6 million pupils everyday enjoy the benefits of Taraflex® sports flooring as it delivers a versatile range that can be used for various multi-specialist applications. Taraflex® is ideal for new build projects and refurbishments and is extremely durable and cost effective to maintain. The Triple Action ProtecSol® surface treatment ensures that no polish is ever required for the lifetime of the floor, it also saves on both water and energy consumption, as part of a cleaning and maintenance regime, excellent news for the planet and future generations. Taraflex® is manufactured with a minimum of 30% recycled vinyl content and is also 100% recyclable.

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Taraflex® meets the EN 14904 Standard, which is the minimum performance requirements to be met by indoor sports floors. Its objective is to draw attention to the necessity of installing safe and comfortable floors that will reduce the risk of injuries. With a complete range of outstanding sports surfaces that can meet specification requirements for compliance with P1/P2/P3 shock absorption Taraflex® sports floorings are perfect for delivering optimal safety and protection for users, regardless of their age and sporting ability. The combination of D-Max™/D-Max™+, CXP™HD foam, ensures that Taraflex® sports floorings are durable, high-performing and stand the test of time. The exclusive Taraflex® technology ensures that the sports floors are longer-lasting ...a massive boon, when long-term planning and budgeting are perceived as being two key considerations for specifiers.

Taraflex® is a sustainable solution thanks to its unique product construction:

1/ Indoor air quality - Meeting ISO 16000 standards, it has some of the lowest. VOC emissions on the market.

2/ Energy saving - A colour selection with high light reflectance values assists with lighting energy saving.

3/ Reduced maintenance costs – the Protecsol® surface treatment is the most durable on the market. It ensures minimal maintenance and exceptional sustainability of the product.

4/ Proactive post manufacturing waste management - Use of recycled content in product design and the PVC is also 100% recyclable.

5/ A second life programme for post installation waste - Re-use of post installation waste and redundant materials

6/ Selected and responsible raw materials - NO heavy metal, NO solvent, NO formaldehyde, NO substance potentially subject to REACH* restrictions

*REACH is the European regulation on registering, assessing and authorising chemical products within the European Union.

Isolsport is a vinyl isolating membrane specially designed for sports environment. Its design enables loose laying on sensitive subfloors (risks of humidity, coated) when it is associated with a Taraflex® sports floor. The raised effect allows humidity to circulate.

Learn more about Gerflor solutions, ask for a free sample or contact us to speak to a specialist today by calling 01625 428 922, emailing contractuk@gerflor.com, or visiting gerflor.co.uk for the latest innovations.

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