



Sports centre celebrates £1.25m refurbishment

Daughter of footballing legend Sir Stanley Matthews will visit Staffordshire University this week to officially relaunch community sports facilities following a £1.25m refurbishment.

This Saturday, Jean Matthews Gough MBE will reopen the Sir Stanley Matthews Sports Centre which is now home to some of the best equipment in the city courtesy of partners Matrix fitness.

The £1.25m has been invested as part of the University's Campus Transformation programme, creating brand new studio spaces and tripling the capacity of the gym.

Other features include a sports hall with sprung wood flooring, new sports therapy rooms and air conditioning throughout. The refurbishment was carried out over the summer and since reopening to students and the public at the start of term membership has soared.

Jonathan Pace, Head of Sports Development and Active Lifestyles, said: "This investment will have a massive impact on our students and the local community. We have a new class timetable which is much bigger and better than before but still at the same rates."

"Plus thanks to our partnership with Matrix Fitness, we are now equipped with high end kit including top of the range treadmills, cycles and steppers."

The Stanley Matthews Sports Centre will also be the first site in the UK to feature the recently launched Connexus functional training system and Matrix will continue to provide the University with access to their latest exercise equipment.

This Saturday, members of the public are invited to tour the facilities from 1pm and there will be a range of community open day activities on campus including pottery lessons, henna art, free candy floss, popcorn and homemade soup plus a DJ and music.

Jonathan added: "2015 is Sir Stanley's centenary year which makes relaunching the sports centre in his memory all the more special. Jean is patron of the Sir Stanley Matthews Foundation which provides young people with access to high-class sporting experiences and so it is fitting to have her celebrate with us."

"Stoke-on-Trent is the 2016 European City of Sport and we hope these fantastic new facilities will really help people in the area engage with sport."

Find more information about the facilities available at the Sir Stanley Matthews Sports Centre [here](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Jean Matthews Gough MBE will reopen the Sir Stanley Matthews Sports Centre, Leek Road, ST4 2DF at 12pm on Saturday 14 November and you are invited to send a photographer or reporter to the event. To confirm your attendance please contact the Press Office on 01782 292702.

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