

Steve Cram opens new Sports facilities

On September 20th Olympian and former world champion Steve Cram opened the new £2.4 million sports centre at FSD. The state of art facility is home to a four-court sports hall and fitness suite, classrooms and a large climbing wall which extends across the whole of one wall. Phase two of the project will see the addition of a 3G multi-games pitch by the end of the year.

Steve Cram is one of the North East's best known athletics stars. He worked with more than one hundred students from nearby Blue Coat and Framwellgate Moor primary schools, together with students from FSD, before the official opening event. In a short speech he said how pleased he was to be in Durham. He applauded the enterprise and hard work by the school to obtain the funding and complete such an impressive facility. He remembered Framwellgate School Durham from many years



previously when he competed at his first national athletics finals held on the school running track. He unveiled a plaque marking the opening event. Steve also thanked the many Framwellgate students who had volunteered at the Prince Bishops Durham City Run on July 19th. This event, organised by Steve Cram's company Events of the North, was a great success for Durham City with over 2,500 runners participating. The FSD students organised the drinks and tee-shirts for the runners in addition to giving out hundreds of medals. The students had a great time and have agreed to help out at this event next year.

Mr Byers, the Headteacher, said "This is a fabulous building which will be used by both our students and the local community". Ms Wendy Pattison, the Academy Business Director, was thanked because she was responsible for obtaining the funding which made the project possible. She said "There's no comparison with what we had before. The students love it".

The opening celebration was attended by the Mayor of Durham, local councillors, local primary headteachers, the acting Head of Education for County Durham, the architects, staff members, governors and trustees.



Public Art - #what's next?

A piece of public art was also unveiled at the opening celebration. This is a large sculpture of a climber on a rock face placed at the entrance to the new sports hall. The sculpture is called **#what's next?**

The climber was designed by Ian Gill, an award winning sculptor, who has been designing and creating works of art out of metal for 20 years. He exhibits widely and his work is held extensively by collectors across the UK and Europe. Ian attended the opening of the sports hall on September 20th when he met up with the art & design students with whom he worked when creating his design. The climber makes an impressive statement at the entrance to a fantastic building.

The funding for this work was obtained from section 106 funding by Amanda Hopgood one of the most experienced governors at FSD. Amanda, who is also a local councillor, was able to secure £24,000 for the project. This funding, was also used for the purchase of equipment and the training for students in 3D design, will ensure that there is a lasting legacy in a wide range of subject areas from this project for the future.

New Headteacher at Framwellgate School Durham

Mr Andy Byers is the new Headteacher at FSD. He took up his post on September 1st, although he had already been working closely with the school during the summer term. Mr

Byers has moved from Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham where he was Head of School under executive head Graeme Atkins. He started his career at Ridley High School in Blyth where he became Head of Business and Economics. He then moved to Blyth Community School where he became Deputy Headteacher. Mr Byers sees his move to FSD as a new challenge. He is leaving a high achieving school in Hexham and, consequently, he knows that Framwellgate School Durham (a similar school) has all the potential to achieve at the highest level. He is very ambitious for the school, aiming to make Framwellgate School Durham one of the best schools in the county. Above all he believes in “high academic achievement and really good pastoral care”.

