



Sporting chance

More than 80 children and their parents were at Gresham's School in Holt for the launch of the school as a Sporting Centre of Excellence.

The event on October 3 was organised by North Norfolk District Council and included an appearance by Olympic gymnast and Commonwealth Gold Medal winner Craig Heap.

Craig, who has represented England more than 100 times, spoke to parents and children, encouraging them to believe in their dreams and go for it.

The aim of the scheme is to put the spotlight on sporting talent in North Norfolk, helping young people realise their potential.

The unique scheme has brought together talented children with professional coaches to help them maximise their sporting talent to the full.

Craig said: "The council deserves praise for this initiative. People should believe in their dreams and not let anything stand in their



way; this scheme will really help young people go as far as their talent will take them. It's a fantastic project."

Tom FitzPatrick, leader of North Norfolk District Council said: "It's about competing and taking part in sport that's so important – and it is an

inspirational project."

Speaking on the night, mum Holly Smith, whose son Henry, aged 11, is taking part in the running sessions, said: "Henry was bowled over by Craig and was truly inspired by everything on the night.

"We truly cannot believe that these opportunities are available to the children in North Norfolk. This has the potential to be life changing."

The project will provide top-class coaching in netball, hockey, cricket and running over the academic year. The district council is providing £20,000 in funding and supporting the project through the council's sports and leisure team.