SPECIAL GUESTS JOIN GRESHAM'S SPEECH DAYS

Pupils at Gresham's School in Holt celebrated the end of the academic year joined by Gresham's alumni and professional rugby players Tom and Ben Youngs, and former professional cricketer and President of the MCC Matthew Fleming.

The Senior School Speech Day also marked the official opening of the school's new Outdoor Activity Centre, featuring a 21 obstacle armed forces standard assault course; a 250 metre zip wire; a 22 element high ropes course; a 12 element low ropes course for younger children; abseiling facilities and the centrepiece: the 28 metre 'Bourdillon Tower' (below).

The tower is named in honour of Tom Bourdillon, Gresham's alumnus, and half of the two-man team that came within 300 feet of Everest's summit, just three days before Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norgay became the first to successfully reach the top in 1953.

Tom's widow Jennifer Bourdillon officially opened the new facilities.

The outdoor activity centre is the first of its kind for a school in the area and will offer all pupils a chance to learn outdoor pursuit skills.

Local families will also be welcome to enjoy the challenges on offer and, further afield, groups of school children who would be otherwise unable to experience outward bound activity camps will be able to enjoy a week-long residential stay as part of the school's support of the charity London Children's Camp.