

Towering achievement

A Norfolk school has opened a new activity centre – and it's not just the pupils who will benefit from it

Since returning to school in September, Gresham's pupils have been enjoying the challenges of the new on-site outdoor activity centre – the first of its kind for a school in the area.

The centre features an obstacle course; 250 metre zip wire; high and low ropes courses; 20-person bunkhouse or teaching facility; and 20-metre 'Boardillon Tower' with abseiling facilities.

Named after Gresham's alumnus Tom Boardillon, one of England's greatest mountaineers in the immediate post-war era and the first president of the Alpine Climbing Group, the climbing tower is one of Britain's tallest. Pupils will be able to use the facilities and, for instance, can attempt the Boardillon Tower as part of regular Saturday hobby times.

As part of the school's support of the historic London Children's Camp charity, which was originally established after the end of World War Two by

BELOW: A pupil tackles the netting on the obstacle course while others prepare to climb the tower



ABOVE: Ascending the impressive Boardillon Tower



Gresham's teachers and alumni to offer young Londoners an escape to the countryside, the centre will welcome groups of disadvantaged children from across the country for week-long residential activity camps.

Set in Gresham's 200 acres, within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and just four miles from the north Norfolk coast, the camps are run by Gresham's staff – led by headmaster Douglas Robb with support from sixth form volunteers and specialist

instructors for climbing and sailing. The first three school groups were welcomed in July and, as well as being among the first to experience the new tower, obstacles and bunkhouse, the pupils enjoyed the school's woodlands, nearby beaches, sailing courses, boat rides, and a hike to see the seals at Morston.

With the opening of the new Centre, Gresham's pupils and children from across Norfolk and further afield will now benefit from having acres of space to have an adventure. ♦

