

19th August 2016

‘Bowled over’ with Gerflor!

The Manchester Grammar School (MGS) was founded in 1515 by Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, to provide ‘godliness and good learning’ to the poor boys of Manchester. The school proceeded to build a reputation as one of the country’s leading educational establishments, a position it still holds today.

Sport is at the beating heart of this prestigious educational centre of excellence with their new sports hall providing a facility second to none. The previous sports hall was damaged during severe weather in 2014 and in its place a new two-storey facility has been built. The solution supplied by international flooring and interiors specialist Gerflor for this new sports area would be pivotal in furnishing a high-quality sports solution that could provide comfort, safety and a high degree of performance. Stockport- based Architects WAJW would, after many meetings with the school, specified some 1250m² of Gerflor’s Taraflex® Sport M Comfort and Performance in Lagoon and Oak colours for the main hall and upstairs junior hall areas. The process of selection would entail a number of Taraflex® samples being laid to highlight the products enormous comfort and safety qualities. After a visit by Gerflor’s UK Technical Manager, Nicholas Egan the die was cast. Taraflex® Sport M Comfort would be the preferred flooring solution as it also provided a flooring that would not need an extra matting layer, enabling cricket to be played directly on the Taraflex® surface.

The fitting of this top-end performing sports flooring would fall to Premier Flooring Solutions Ltd. Established in January 2008 Premier Flooring Solutions Ltd are an independent company based in Swinton, Greater Manchester. Since trading they have gained relationships with a number of clients primarily in the retail shop-fitting refurbishment sector and the construction industry. They take great pride in the quality of their workmanship with their staff being trained to highest standards.

Shaun Davies, Managing Director, Premier Flooring Solutions Ltd said, “We were originally sent the tender from Walter Carefoot and Sons, Builders and as it was a sports flooring project this was a perfect fit for us”. Shaun Davies went on to further add, “Gerflor products were chosen as the project required a high quality sports floor which Gerflor are renowned for. We have used Gerflor products on numerous occasions and found them to be really easy to fit and lay”.

Taraflex® from Gerflor has been used in many international and local sporting events and is available in 17 colours and two wood-effect designs. In fact, Taraflex® is making a real difference this year at the Rio Olympic Games as the chosen flooring for the handball and volley courts.

The Sport M Comfort product supplied to Manchester Grammar is in the P2/P3 category meaning fewer bumps, bruises and friction burns for the students and users. In fact, it provides three times the standard abrasion resistance required. It also meets the EN 14904 Standard for indoor sports surfaces and is ECB compliant. Taraflex® is recognised for providing durability, safety and comfort without impairing performance. The range offers greater than 45% force reduction, making it unrivalled in the marketplace in terms of offering comfort for users.

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In 2015 former cricket international Mike Atherton OBE returned to his old school Manchester Grammar when he opened the new sports hall. The former England cricket captain unveiled the new state-of-the-art sports hall. Mike Atherton said at the time, "Sport has always played a fundamental role in MGS life and this has been reflected by the number of talented sporting figures the school has produced across such a wide range of disciplines". He went on to add, "This facility will provide an excellent venue for MGS to host other schools, for pupils to hone their skills and to one day go on to represent their school, county or even country. I'm proud to have been asked to come back and officially open the sports hall which will be used by the school for generations to come".

Taraflex® also meets the EN Standard of 22196 for anti- bacterial activity (E. coli - S. aureus - MRSA) (3) returning >99% levels of growth inhibition. The product is also treated with ProtecSol®, which renders polish redundant and is triple action meaning no polish is ever required, it contributes to easy maintenance and is anti-friction burn and slide/grip. Taraflex® has a double density foam backing and as another bonus, it's environmentally friendly. Gerflor offers a number of installation solutions for Taraflex® including the Eco-Fit System which allows for a fast track, free floating installation.

Taraflex® is versatile enough to be used in various multi-specialist applications and affordable for all new projects and refurbishments. This sports flooring solution is used within the education, community, leisure, health & fitness sectors.

Shaun Davies finally commented, "We would certainly use Gerflor products again".

Learn more about Gerflor solutions, ask for a free sample or contact us to speak to a specialist today by calling 01926 622 600, emailing contractuk@gerflor.com, or visiting gerflor.co.uk for the latest innovations.

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With Compliments:

The Studio 4
Grosvenor House
Central Park
Telford
TF2 9TW
Tel: 01952 234 005
Email: pr@thestudio4.co.uk

Issued on behalf of:

Navjot Dhillon
Gerflor
Wedgnock House
Wedgnock Lane
Warwick
CV34 5AP
Tel: 01926 622 600
Email: contractuk@gerflor.com