

2 June 2011

Press Release

GIRLS' FOOTBALL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE GETS THE GO-AHEAD

A new elite Centre of Excellence for girls' football, to be run in partnership with Cambridge Regional College, has been given the go-ahead by the Football Association.

The centre, set up to provide training and talent-spotting for the stars of the future, will be headed by Kate Da Costa, CRC's assistant head of the Academy of Sport, Leisure and Science and Ian Hart, Technical Director for the Centre of Excellence

It is one of just 30 in the country after the FA decided to radically reduce the existing 50 centres of excellence nationwide – with the CRC-backed bid chosen to replace the long-standing centre run in partnership with Cambridge United.

Kate, who was formerly involved with the United programme, said she was delighted the new centre had been given the go-ahead.

“It will be a huge benefit to young players in the region, giving them a very real chance to play at an elite level,” she said. “The FA wanted the new centres to be supported by education, so we were delighted that CRC backed our bid, and we will be working closely with them.

“The centre is open to players from Under 9s to Under 17s - a wider range than previously - with the older girls having the opportunity to feed into CRC's new football academy which starts this September.”

Cambridge was picked as the regional centre ahead of a number of high-profile bids from Ipswich and Northampton, while further afield Watford and Charlton failed to make the cut.

Next season, Cambridge will compete against other elite sides – which will see them coming up against teams such as Arsenal and Chelsea.

Football trails for the new centre of excellence will be held this month, on June 11th, 18th and 25th, at Manor Community College. For further information, or to book a place, contact Kate on kdacosta@camre.ac.uk.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region, with more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk. Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes.