

24 hours on the bounce to help raise cash for astroturf pitch



Lawrence Pryor, 15, trampolining, in superhero costume, to help raise funds for a state-of-the-art astroturf football pitch at Ashlyns School in Berkhamsted (09-691-60).

A HUNDRED students took part in a 24-hour bounce to kick-start a school's £1.3million fundraising drive for a state-of-the-art football pitch.

By next March Ashlyns School, in Berkhamsted, wants to have enough money for The BerkoAstro Project – a full size, floodlit pitch with high-tech changing rooms.

The pitch is to be named after Nick Walsh, who was a popular student at the school before his sudden death, in 2007, at just 17.

To start the fundraising students and staff took to trampolines. On Friday throughout the day and night pupils and staff bounced away, raising more than £1,000.

Tracy Crosland and Colette Mitchell from the school's PE department, who organised the event, said: "The students have really got behind the bounce to raise money for the new all weather pitch and we are so proud of them all.

"They showed real stamina and determination to keep going for 24

hours, especially during the graveyard period when tiredness started to take over about 5am."

Headteacher James Shapland was a welcome sight at 6am when he arrived with breakfast.

He said: "The atmosphere when I arrived on Saturday morning was just as electric as it had been at the start on Friday, I don't know where the staff and students got all their energy from, but they did, congratulations and thanks to them all."

Corinne Fleming, a governor involved in the raising of funds for the BerkoAstro project said: "Everyone did so well to keep going and it was fantastic to see them all enjoying themselves throughout.

"The sponsorship money will make a real difference to our fundraising efforts, thank you to everyone who took part."

To donate to the schools campaign visit the website at www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk/berkoastro/