“Aside from its extensive sporting facilities with pupils at its heart, the Sports MasterPlan will offer the kind of hospitality and viewing experience for visitors and parents that will be memorable for the right reasons.”
The Sporting Vision

Sport plays an important part in shaping the values and character of pupils through physical and mental challenges. It helps to develop creative, adaptable and strategic thinkers for the sports field, the classroom and life beyond school. It allows individuals to learn about themselves and their peers in safe and competitive situations, thereby developing courage and confidence.

Our aim is to provide a positive development environment with an inclusive and lifelong participation focus, whilst identifying every individual’s potential.

Danny Grewcock
Director of Sport

Our ambition is to:
- Foster both the physical and mental well-being of every pupil through sport and leisure
- Provide a wide selection of team and individual sporting options for boys and girls
- Run a comprehensive and challenging Sports Scholarships Programme that identifies both potential and ability, with individual development
- Create a motivating and inspiring environment for every individual and every team
- Enable a smooth and consistent progression for pupils joining the School at any stage
- Educate pupils on the importance of nutrition and enhance awareness of appropriate training, conditioning and recovery including first-class medical support, physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

“I am really, really, really excited, especially about the pool being able to split in two and the dance studios.”
Poppy age 10, Laxton Junior School

“The highlight of my sporting career at Oundle was representing the 1st XV. My happiest memories are not restricted to winning however. It was the atmosphere of enjoyment and community that the coaches created, which can only really be described as that of a rugby club rather than just a rugby team.”
Tim Swinson (Ldr 05), Scotland Men’s Rugby International

View from the JM Mills Cricket Pavilion over to the new Sports Centre
Delivering the Vision

The facilities will support sport at a top competitive level whilst catering for a multitude of sports and leisure activities at all levels. This multifaceted, multifunctional sports development will offer maximum flexibility in the provision of sport and physical well-being activities, whilst enhancing the experience of all users including visitors.

Dual use has been factored into the development to ensure that there will be year-round community and sports club access to the new facilities.

Sports Centre

An airy reception with a café will lead into an informal viewing area of the pool, giving access to:

- A new fifty metre, six-lane swimming pool, divisible into two pools through use of a submersible boom. A floating floor will optimise the pool’s flexibility and further features will improve access for less able users and those on rehabilitation and physiotherapy programmes
- An eight-court hall offering retractable bleacher seating, providing an opportunity for large School assemblies. Adaptable playing spaces include badminton, netball, volleyball, basketball and five-a-side football courts
- A separate air-conditioned fitness suite with seventy stations
- A dedicated dance studio and three further multipurpose studios, which can convert into a large hospitality suite or smaller meeting spaces
- Wet and dry changing rooms, offering flexibility between community and School use.

The wider development

The current Sports Centre will be retained as the home of Sports Science and dedicated School sports. This will also ensure continued operation of the existing pool throughout the build.

The Sports MasterPlan includes:

- A new athletics track, eight additional tennis courts, two new AstroTurfs and six additional netball courts, all complementing the award-winning JM Mills Cricket Pavilion which opened in 2015
- Increased car parking capacity as part of a greener and more aesthetically appealing landscaped campus
- Environmental credentials as an integral part of the build, with photovoltaics and solar thermals helping to generate electricity and heat water
- A new one-way system for coaches, providing dedicated drop off areas and an exit via Pavilion Drive.

All facilities will open in the 2019 academic year

A bird’s eye view of both Sports Centres, with landscaped parking and views out onto the new netball courts
Finances and Fundraising

The Sports MasterPlan follows four major building developments over the past decade, all generously funded by donors and supported by School savings; Cripps Library in 2011, Adamson Centre in 2013, the JM Mills Pavilion as part of the Sports MasterPlan in 2015 and the completion of SciTec in 2016.

The use of carefully stewarded savings will sit alongside an ambitious, yet feasible, fundraising target. The School will be actively fundraising, with the hope that many members of the School community will play a part in making this vision a reality. Contributions of all sizes will enable us to deliver our sporting vision successfully.

Fundraising will focus predominantly on the Sports Centre, including the fifty metre swimming pool. The cost of this build is £24m exc VAT and the financing has been carefully and prudently considered with the assistance of Grant Thornton. A highly favourable credit facility has been arranged with HSBC.

“The proposed new sports complex looks very exciting, and will not only provide excellent facilities for pupils and faculty, but could also be used to engage with, and better serve, the wider Oundle community. My fond memories of my stay at Oundle are enriched by how the wider town community welcomed us as pupils”

Ean Kuok (N 74 and former parent, who has pledged a £2m donation)

Fifty metre, six-lane swimming pool, divisible into two pools through the use of a submersible boom
Architects’ Visuals of the Sports Centre

- Multipurpose studios which can transform into a large hospitality area
- Seventy-station fitness suite overlooking the main cricket and sports pitches
- Spacious reception area with a café and informal viewing of the pool
- Adaptable eight-court sports hall with retractable bleacher seating