

# NEWS

## Space-bound snapper opens sixth form centre

A woman joining the crew of a civilian space flight later this year has opened a new sixth form centre at her former school.

Rhiannon Adam, a 37-year-old award-winning photographer based in Hackney, opened the Linhope House centre at Francis Holland School near Regent's Park on March 15.

The state-of-the-art "holistic schooling for life" centre promoting perseverance and spirit is for young women to become "future leaders in a rapidly changing world".

It increases the school's sixth form space by 300 per cent for transition from school to university.

Headteacher Katharine Woodcock runs the "schooling for life" curriculum to develop pupils' lateral thinking and problem-solving skills.

"We are educating the women

**MIKE BROOKE**

mike.brooke@newsquest.co.uk

of tomorrow, future leaders who will be the difference in the world," she said. "Our focus is on a holistic 'schooling for life' with exam results key to opening doors."

Those doors have certainly opened for Rhiannon, who left the school 20 years ago to go to the University of Cambridge.

She is one of eight artists and creatives picked by Japanese billionaire entrepreneur Yusaku Maezawa to go into space, the only woman on the civilian trip with the dearMoon crew.

The project, unveiled in 2018, began recruiting two years later and attracted thousands of wannabe astronauts from all over the globe for a place on the seven-day space flight to be in orbit around the moon for

three days.

"Every day I pinch myself," Rhiannon said. "We were all grounded in the pandemic, which was incredibly frustrating. I was craving an adventure when I came across dearMoon while idly scrolling Twitter."

"I cried when I discovered I was selected. It made me think perhaps I should have played the Lottery more."

Rhiannon spends much of her life working with remote communities, so it felt natural "to go into space and explore the most remote community ever."

The Linhope House sixth form centre she opened has had a £5m makeover which combines an elegant Georgian exterior and traditional features like the reading room with a cutting-edge interior that has a "think lab" collaborative learning space.



Rhiannon Adam opens the new sixth form centre at her old Francis Holland School



Students at Francis Holland School



The 'think lab' at the school's new sixth form centre



Rhiannon Adam addressing students and staff in Francis Holland's new sixth form centre