DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES, TO OPEN RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH CENTRE

Diana, Princess of Wales, will formally open Leicester University’s award-winning Richard Attenborough Centre for Disability and the Arts on Tuesday 27 May.

At the invitation of Lord Attenborough, the Princess will meet disabled students and see some of the pioneering work being undertaken in the new purpose-designed building which cost £2 million.

Most of the money for the Centre came through strenuous fundraising, both local and national, together with a contribution from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. But it was an award from the National Lottery which finally allowed building work to commence at the end of January last year.

Eleanor Hartley, Director of the Centre, said: “Both students and staff are anticipating this visit with great excitement.”

If you have an opportunity to be there, you can see the Princess of Wales arrive at the Richard Attenborough Centre, Lancaster Road, Leicester (opposite Regent College) at 11 am on Tuesday 27 May. She will be met by Lord Attenborough, who will introduce her to the Lord Lieutenant of the County and the Lord Mayor of Leicester, and she will be welcomed to the University by Dr Kenneth Edwards, Vice-Chancellor.

After a tour of the Centre, which is not open to the public on this occasion, she will leave at 12.30 pm, which will provide a second opportunity to see her.
enormous pleasure. We all feel a
tremendous sense of
achievement now that the
Centre is up and running and the
presence of the Princess will be
an endorsement of everyone’s
hard work.”

Vice-Chancellor Dr Kenneth
Edwards said: “The University is
delighted that the Princess of
Wales has agreed to open the
Richard Attenborough Centre.
The University is very proud of
the success of the campaign to
raise funds to provide a specially
designed building in which ways
of facilitating appreciation of a
wide range of artistic activities for
individuals with disabilities can be
researched and put in practice.
The visit of the Princess, who has
a well-known and deep concern
for those who are disabled, will
highlight the contribution which
the Centre will make.”

Lord Attenborough’s
involvement with the Centre
which now bears his name began
in 1991. In addition to being a
major benefactor, he has been an
enthusiastic and active patron
ever since. He chaired the 1985
Committee of Enquiry into the
Arts and Disabled People. He
grew up in Leicester and is a
Freeman of the City. His late
father was Principal of the
University College and was
mainly responsible for the
achievement of its Royal Charter
of Incorporation as ‘The
University
College of Leicester’.

Speaking about the work of the
Centre, Lord Attenborough said:
“Uniquely, the special needs of
disabled people have been placed
at the forefront of the design.
The architect, Ian Taylor, has
come up with some brilliant ideas
which make this building both
beautiful and totally accessible.
The new Centre will enable
disabled students to engage and
excel in every field of artistic
expression. It will also welcome
many thousands of visitors each
year to its exhibitions and
performances.”

**FULL COVERAGE OF THE VISIT IN THE JUNE ISSUE OF BULLETIN**