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**BELOVED NATIONAL GYMNAST THEMA WILLIAMS OPENS CHILDREN’S ATHLETIC ACADEMY**

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***Friday 18th November – Port of Spain, Trinidad***

Former Trinidad and Tobago Gymnast, Thema Williams, has entered a new chapter of her sports business career. The 26 year-old award-winning athlete is the proud owner of the Thema Williams Athletic Academy (TWAA). The new facility, which opened its new doors on Sunday 13th November 2022, is an open gym for children from age 1 and older and is located at #44 Saddle Road in Maraval.

Creating a safe space for all-rounded childhood athletic development has always been a focus for Williams, who has competed internationally and finished 59th in the all-around at the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in 2015 that helped her to qualify for the Olympic Games in 2016. “I started by offering private gymnastics classes during the pandemic, and word quickly spread throughout a network of reputable people. Before I knew it, I had 5 clients weekly,” Williams explained. She became so passionate about her calling that she tapped into her innovation with limited resources to make equipment using materials immediately accessible to her. “I made my first balance beam with wood from my home’s storage unit, created my own mats using foam and glue, and sewed leather covers myself.” By the end of 2021, TWAA had enrolled over 100 students. With the rapid demand, Williams decided to relocate to Maraval to accommodate the community’s steady growth.

With the slogan “What We Do Not Have, We Build. Whatever We Imagine, We Create”, TWAA offers a variety of options for class participation, including Mummy and Me classes, Kids’ Fun Fitness Sessions, Kids’ Acro Classes and Open Gym sessions. According to Williams, the goal of TWAA is to contribute meaningfully and positively impact Trinidad and Tobago’s youth by providing a healthy sporting environment. “We intend to create initiatives that foster teamwork through sport and culture,” she explains. “We envision an environment in sport built on the pillars of accountability, equity, integrity, knowledge and transparency.”

In attendance to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Thema Williams Athletic Academy were Thema’s family and close friends, along with eager parents and their excited children. With the attentive supervision of the TWAA team, boys and girls happily engaged in an afternoon of non-stop activities on various gymnastics circuits, including the balance beam, tumbling mats and vaults. Thema hopes to formulate a robust gymnastics programme to nurture talent in Trinidad and Tobago, while providing a pipeline of opportunities for local gymnasts through international partnerships – including student-athlete programmes and athletic scholarships.

Thema Williams Athletic Academy is open Mondays to Saturdays. Registration is open to the general public, both members and non-members. Interested persons are asked to contact 868-774-0039, and are encouraged to follow [@twathleticacademy](http://www.instagram.com/twathleticacademy) on Instagram for updates.

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**For more information, please contact** **press@chambersmediasolutions.com****.**