

Northfleet School for Girls



Delivered for Kent LEP

Facilities: Redevelopment of the existing school into five new learning worlds
Completed September 2011 | Value: £16.3m



WILLMOTT DIXON
GROUP



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Introduction Redevelopment of the existing school into five new learning worlds. Part refurbishment, part new build and part refresh.

Details It consists of five new learning worlds including new entrances and receptions, sports hall, performing arts hall, LRC, dining hall and kitchens. There are also new classrooms and offices. The IT network has been completely renewed.

Externally the new building is clad in either aluminium curtain walling, brick, render, timber cladding and rock panels. The roofs are flat, single ply membrane.

The project was completed in three phases while the school remained fully operational throughout the construction period. This involved a series of temporary moves of faculties, students and staff, all of which were planned and co-ordinated in full consultation with the school leadership team. It was recognised that any potential disruption to teaching and learning was to be kept to an absolute minimum, despite the complexity of the construction works. Consequently, some moves were delayed until the school holiday period, and great care was taken in providing a more powerful switch room while the school remained live.

The large amount of refurbishment works within the overall project created significant logistical problems for the site team. Previously undetected asbestos had to be dealt with in some instances, and a series of temporary works were made to existing buildings to facilitate the later joining of the new build elements. Finally, the external works had to be completed in a piecemeal fashion, as parts of the site were released and following an entire relocation of the site compound and accommodation between phases one and two.

Community initiatives The Northfleet School for Girls project has, from the outset, geared itself towards actively engaging with both the school and Construction Skills.

Assemblies given to school (including a Health & Safety assembly)

The site team organised and participated in a number of curriculum activities, such as career days, where students were able to explore the employment opportunities within our industry. Our Construction Ambassadors played a key role in these events, acting as positive role models for the students and contributing to a series of Construction Skills Case Studies.

Successes

- Work experience placements for students aged 14+.
- Apprentices placed with sub-contractors and all worked on this site.
- 70% of the people working on site were residents of Kent.

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