

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING HERALDS ARRIVAL OF ACADEMY STATUS FOR WYMONDHAM HIGH

A dedicated sixth form centre is now in use at Wymondham High – a new academy in Norfolk.



The scheme has been constructed using a highly sustainable recycled modular building from Foremans Relocatable Building Systems. It was completed ahead of schedule, reducing the programme from receipt of order to less than three months.

Designed by architects NPS South East, the project marks the start of a significant new phase in the history of the school. In line with Government policy to increase the number of academies across the UK, Wymondham High now has Academy status.

The additional teaching accommodation was needed as the school caters for over 1,600 pupils, with 400 in the sixth form from the start of the 2011/12 academic year and plans are in place to increase pupil numbers to 2,000.

The purpose-designed facility was craned into position in just one day during the school holidays to minimise disruption to staff and students. The single-storey building accommodates five seminar rooms for students studying social sciences, and sixth form facilities, including a break-out area, toilets and administration office. The main contractor was Farrans (Construction) Ltd.

Commenting on the new building, Victoria Musgrave, Principal at Wymondham High Academy said “This project has definitely exceeded our expectations and both staff and students are genuinely thrilled with it.

They like the ambience it has created, the flexibility of the space, and the fact that we now have a dedicated facility for our sixth form.

“The Foremans team was very helpful, personable and efficient throughout and the modular solution has given us the very best scheme for our available budget. It was also sufficiently flexible to meet our project-specific requirements and has provided us with a high quality teaching environment, which symbolises the start of a new era for the school.”

A collaborative approach was taken to the design of the new building. The most appropriate aesthetic solution for the exterior was discussed at workshops with sixth form design students. Students were keen to use timber from a sustainable source and to introduce colour into the project. The architects worked with Foremans to develop a cladding solution using natural larch with vertical ‘windows’ cut out to reveal the modular steel structure finished in three colours – jade, heritage green and wedgewood blue.

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