

Case Study: Newcastle Girls High School

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Kawneer architectural glazing solutions selected for leading girls' school

The £11 million redevelopment of Newcastle Girls High School into arguably the region's and one of the UK's leading girls' schools includes AA®100 mullion-drained curtain walling, AA®541 top-hung casement windows and AA®720 doors on both the refurbished and new-build elements as well as AA®3110 horizontal sliding doors on the new-build element.

Building: Newcastle Girls High School

Location: Newcastle

Architect: EllisWilliams

Main Contractor: Wates Construction

Installer: Quest Solutions

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Kawneer helps Newcastle girls in their Quest for glory

The school redevelopment follows the merger of Central Newcastle and Church high schools to create Newcastle High School for Girls and sees the senior school facilities in Jesmond now match the already superb junior school facilities in Sandyford. The schools are now located on a single site designed by architects EllisWilliams for The Girls Day School Trust (GDST), the UK's leading network of independent girls' schools. Their masterplan was developed to determine the best way to develop the two schools' various sites across Brandling Village to create a new vibrant and cohesive school.

The majority of the school is located on the Church High Tankerville Terrace site where the project consists of the total refurbishment of the existing Victorian building, including a three-storey infill with a vertical core to provide level access to all floors. But it also comprises a new three-storey 3,625m² building to provide a state-of-the-art hall/theatre, a city centre-style café/dining area, general classrooms and a suite of science classrooms located on the top floor with access to a terrace for outdoor teaching. The ground floor also features a fitness suite facing the games court.

The scheme was carefully designed to fit within its Conservation Area setting and received praise from English Heritage and Newcastle Conservation Advisory Panel.

The Kawneer systems, including the AA®541 top-hung casement windows (most of which are automatically rather than manually opened) were installed for main contractor Wates Construction by specialist sub-contractor Quest Solutions (UK).

Quest's Chris Mills said: "There were a large number of raked screens along the different elevations to form the pitch feature of the roof which were of a large size and required varying specifications to meet the project design parameters, combined with safe loading and containment for a school environment. Shaped glazing is always a challenge as its design and manufacturing parameters are so finite and limited, with zero allowance for error. The interface with the bronze cladding was also a particularly interesting feature for the finished aesthetic of the façade and isn't something we encounter regularly."

As part of Wates' commitment to creating engagement initiatives with the school, the contractor held a number of building workshops and site visits for pupils over the course of the project. And to mark the completion of the flagship scheme, the school and main contractor held a "move in day" when staff and students were invited to take a sneak peak at the new premises before the start of the new school year.

Headmistress Hilary French said: "Our new senior school is absolutely incredible. The quality of the build inside and outside is exceptional: "Every day, girls at Newcastle High will benefit from a 21st Century education environment that is inspiring, exciting and designed to enhance learning. Every day, our staff will be able to extend their teaching by making full use of our outstanding resources and spaces. Our whole school community is so proud to have the finest facilities in the north east."

GDST director of estates Christine Sillis added: "This development marks a new beginning for senior school pupils and staff. A lot of hard work has gone into making it the very best environment for teaching and learning across every subject area."

Please contact our Architectural Services Team if you have a project you would like to discuss: Tel: 01928 502604 / Email: kawneerAST@arconic.com

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