

CHALLNEY HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, LUTON BSF

Project: Challney High School for Girls

Clients: QED and Wates Construction

Cost: £24m

The project separates Challney High School for Girls from Challney High School for Boys by relocating the girl's school to the northern end of their shared playing fields. This new arrangement facilitates improved identities and spatial qualities for both of the Challney Schools, whilst maintaining shared use of the playing fields and the retained swimming pool. It also helps to maintain close links between the schools and maximise future utilisation of the sports facilities being developed by Active Luton on the adjoining site to the north. The all new building will increase the capacity of the school from 900 to 1050 students.

Key design principles that were evolved to support and promote the objectives for the new school are: -

- Focal entrance plaza and striking library rotunda above the main entrance;
- Teaching clusters with flexible heart spaces that can host a range of pedagogies;
- Science specialism emphasised in the design of the science cluster and its key positioning adjacent to the main entrance;
- Two large community heart spaces; and
- Colour scheme supporting the school's ethos of Respect, Opportunity and Achievement.

The school borders the M1 Motorway and the very high levels of noise and pollution necessitated a sealed building with no opening windows. To address this all of the accommodation is mechanically vented with the increase in the operating energy counteracted with heat reclaim from the exhaust air and electrical usage supplemented with a large wind turbine. Heating is via biomass boilers.

Project Team

Client: QED & Luton Borough Council

Contractor: Wates Construction

Architects: Architects Co-Partnership

Structure and Civil: Curtins

Building Services: Briggs & Forrester

Landscape: The Landscape Partnership

Sustainability: Briggs & Forrester

BREEAM Audit: Jacobs

