

News

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Morgan Sindall delivers £8.2 million sports, business and arts block at Canterbury College

Morgan Sindall has completed work on an £8.2 million project at Canterbury College.

The project, which was part funded by the Skills Funding Agency, involved the construction of a sports centre and business block, in addition to a separate arts block which represents the final phase of development at Canterbury College City Centre campus.

The sports hall with wooden sprung floor accommodates many sports, including badminton, basketball, netball, and cricket, and is located close to the campus entrance. It also comprises a fully equipped gymnasium, fitness rooms, changing facilities and teaching space. It will be used by the whole campus and surrounding community.

The business centre provides exceptional facilities for students and the local business community and includes a business lounge, conferencing space, numerous training rooms with the latest generation of audio visual equipment and specialist I.T. training facilities.

The arts block comprises large sculpture and ceramics workshops for all students and a separate ceramics and art workshop for supported learning. It has several storage rooms, including a drying room, a plaster and clay store and a secure space for the many craft materials. The new block is a light and inspirational area for creativity to flourish.

The external finish comprises buff brickwork and metal faced composite panels in colours matching the rest of the campus buildings, with the main entrance facing the college's other buildings to create an integrated campus feel.

The efficient 65-week build programme was developed with innovation and sustainability at its core and is set to achieve a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating of Excellent.

Morgan Sindall also delivered hard and soft external landscaping which was designed and implemented with the aid of specialists who introduced 35 plant species and a biodiversity corner on-site. This includes a 'bug hotel' and three bird boxes which have already been occupied by robins and sparrows.

As part of Morgan Sindall's skills investment programme, 18 work placements, six apprenticeships and six full-time contracts were offered to people from the local community. In addition, Higher and Further Education Building studies lessons at the college were supported by the Morgan Sindall project manager and site manager. Students from the college's bricklaying department also helped construct a section of the project's boundary wall.

Alan Carver, Capital Projects Manager at Canterbury College, said: "The superb facilities for the staff, students and business community are to the highest standards, and complete the campus redevelopment programme which started in 2004. The college team has worked closely with Morgan Sindall in all aspects of the project from initial design through to commissioning. It has been an excellent team effort throughout and we are all proud to have delivered such special facilities. We look forward to them being used."

Stephen Paine, Morgan Sindall's project manager, a former student at Canterbury College, said: "We are incredibly proud to have delivered this ambitious and important scheme. Throughout the duration of the project, Morgan Sindall has been dedicated to creating an innovative learning space and has set a benchmark for other sustainable construction projects.

"It has been fantastic to see so many young people enthused by the project. This has a personal element for me, being a former student of Canterbury College, so it's been a particularly poignant process revisiting my old college.

"The exceptional sports centre gives visitors a real sense of arrival as they enter the campus and will provide students with a first class sports facility and learning environment. Morgan Sindall has extensive experience in delivering high-quality education schemes across the country and we are delighted to add this project to that record."

For more information about this news release please contact Niamh Conway at Influential on 0151 239 5000 or email conway@thisisinfluential.com