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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.”



Louise Robinson, Project Architect at NPS South East, said, “This scheme has changed our perception of modular building. It feels robust and secure and has good sound quality – you would never know it is a modular structure. We are impressed with the finish, particularly externally, and the cladding is crisp and well executed.”

She added, “Foremans’ performance was excellent at every stage. The building was installed in just one day and the modular approach gave us the benefit of a critical saving on time. The project had to be delivered in just three months before the start of the new academic year, which was a major challenge. I am pleased to report the school was actually able to move in several days earlier than planned – a significant achievement for the design and construction team.”

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.

Wymondham High is a mixed academy specialising in the arts and sciences. Its sixth form has been recognised as 'outstanding' by Ofsted and it has been listed as one of the best performing schools in East Anglia.

All Foremans' recycled modular buildings are fully refurbished with new windows, wall linings, partitions, mechanical and electrical services, doors, flooring, and cladding, to create high quality accommodation for a wide variety of education applications.

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For further information about recycled and refurbished modular buildings for schools, academies and colleges, visit www.foremansbuildings.info, email info@foremansbuildings.co.uk, or call 01964 544344.

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Editor's Notes

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2. The company has a full range of construction services, including planning advice and submissions, Building Regulations approvals, funding options, and all aspects of the building design, space planning, project management, groundworks, fitting out, delivery, site installation, testing and commissioning.