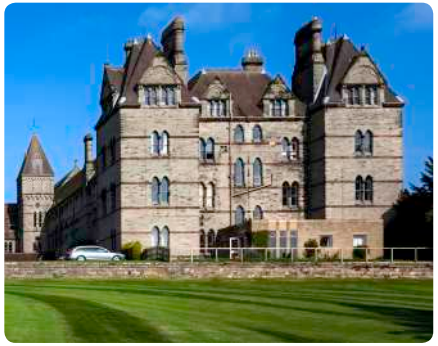
Laboratory
case study

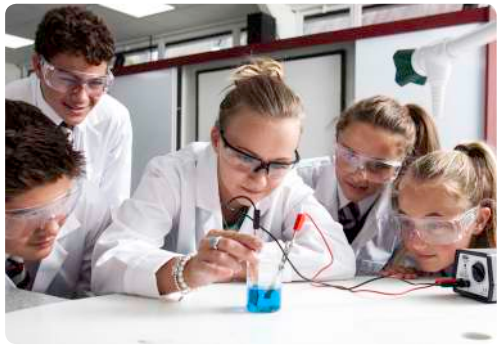
Denstone College Staffordshire

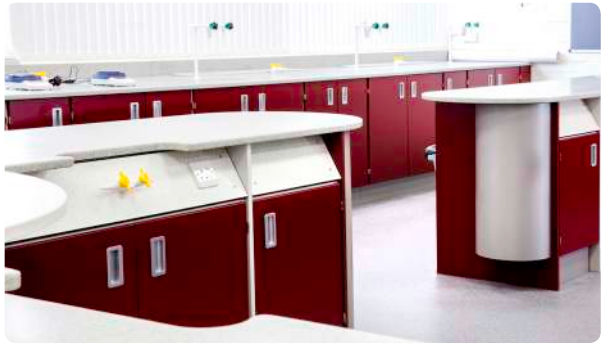
Contractor	|	Innova Design Group
Timescale	|	3 weeks on site
Architect	|	Innova Design Group

innova
Education

Opened in 1973, Denstone College on the Staffordshire/Derbyshire border is an independent, co-educational day and boarding school for children aged 11-18. Denstone was built in the 1870's in a Victorian Gothic style and many of the buildings are grade II listed.







Brief

The school's science laboratories were in need of modernisation to enable them to meet the demands of the modern curriculum and provide first class facilities.

Ageing furniture arranged in a traditional long bench layout gave the rooms a dark, uninspiring feel and a lack of storage space meant surfaces and open shelving were cluttered with books and equipment.

Innova was one of three companies to tender for the refurbishment of two science labs, a dry lab and a prep room. The company secured the project with inspirational designs incorporating our unique Hot Corners layout, teacher walls and hidden services.

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Carcase	|	Manufactured from 18mm MF MDF	Seating	|	Ergonomic stools
Worktops	|	Solid surface, Velstone	Handles	|	Zinc alloy inset handles
Edging	|	ABS Colour matched edging	Hinge	|	240 ◦ pivot safety hinges

Solution

The laboratories were designed with Innova's unique 'Hot Corners' to maximise the space for practical and theory work.

By relocating the teacher to the long wall of the classroom, the design shortens lines of communication, creating a more collaborative approach to learning.

Working closely with the Denstone team to an agreed timing plan, Innova created a furniture-only solution which included the design, manufacture and installation of bright, durable, non-porous Velstone work surfaces and benches to replace existing wooden benches.

Work units fitted with built-in storage ensures surfaces are kept clean and clutter-free, whilst the addition of teacher walls integrates teaching resources from the interactive TV to white boards and display spaces as well as storage for books and equipment.

Re-positioning sinks from student benches to the perimeter of the room and moving power outlets to the front face of units further increased space for students to carry out theory work.