

## Laboratory case study

### Southport College Merseyside

Contractor | Innova Design solutions  
Timescale | 3 Weeks  
Architect | Innova Design Solutions



With increasing pupil numbers and buildings dating back to the 1930's, Southport College has upgraded their science facilities to provide students with an inspiring, dynamic and flexible laboratory for practical and theory based work.



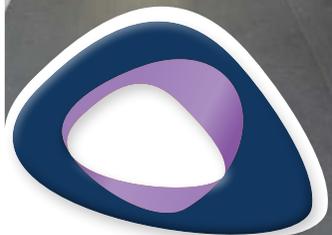
### Brief

Science as a subject has become more popular at the college with student roll numbers rising from 18 to 70 and with over 100 expected for 2014/15. With an increase in student numbers, the college needed more space to deliver the science curriculum. Two existing classrooms were transformed into a bright, modern laboratory designed to create the perfect scientific learning environment for post-16 students.

Innova worked closely with the college in the planning and design process to deliver a state-of-the-art laboratory which meets the teaching and learning needs of both staff and students.

***"The design has given us the feel and atmosphere of a working laboratory in industry."***

*Brian Sheard, Head of Estates*



Carcase | Manufactured from 18mm MF MDF  
 Worktops | Trespa  
 Edging | ABS Colour matched edging

Seating | Ergonomic stools  
 Handles | Zinc alloy inset handles  
 Hinge | 240° pivot safety hinges



*“We can now showcase our staff and students to employers and industry specialists.”*  
 Brian Sheard, Head of Estates



### Solution

As space for practical lessons was a key element in the brief. Innova focused on optimising the space whilst taking into consideration all curricular requirements. In addition, Innova ensured the laboratory retained sufficient circulation space for students and course leaders to navigate the room. Innova designed and installed attractive crescent benching featuring a curved center floor layout, where students can sit safely and comfortably when conducting both written and practical work.

A large teacher’s demo bench with a raised platform provides the perfect space to deliver practical and theory lessons. With integrated services, the teacher can conduct experiments easily, whilst the orientation of the room ensured short lines of communication between the teacher and students.

A graphite and white colour scheme provides the college with a fresh and contemporary look. High quality units and curved worktops in hardwearing and easy to maintain Trespa surfaces were used throughout, to ensure the lab will serve today’s students and tomorrows scientists well into the future.