

Laboratory case study

Penwortham Priory Academy Lancashire

Contractor
Timescale
Architect

| F Parkinson
| 3 weeks on site
| Cassidy + Ashton Architects
| Innova Design Group

INNOVO
Education

Based in Preston, Penwortham Priory Academy has some of the best educational facilities of any school in Lancashire. As part of a £750,000 investment programme, Penwortham wanted to enhance science learning by extensively remodelling their existing laboratories to create cutting edge learning spaces.



Brief

The old labs, where student Jamie Edwards became the youngest person in the world to create nuclear fusion in 2014, were in need of modernisation to enable students to continue to make their own personal scientific breakthroughs.

After working with staff and students at Penwortham on a pilot scheme for our Lab of the Future competition, Innova were delighted to be awarded the contract to help this forward-thinking school transform its laboratories and make them fit for the scientists of tomorrow.

The brief was to create an open plan learning environment to help deliver more cohesive and collaborative teaching approaches in science. The improved facilities would enable more in-depth study and investigation, helping to build students' enthusiasm for STEM subjects.

The ultra-modern facilities were to include both wet and dry labs, preparation areas and a research area.

Always looking to the future, the school wanted to replace traditional labs in enclosed spaces with a grown up environment to create a workplace feel which would prepare students for life beyond Penwortham.

Carcase		Manufactured from 18mm MF MDF	Seating		Ergonomic stools
Worktops		Trespa Toplab	Handles		Zinc alloy inset handles
Edging		ABS Colour matched edging	Hinge		240° pivot safety hinges



“
Exciting, innovative and engaging ... we are very proud of our new science facility!
 ”
 Matt Eastham, Headteacher



Solution

An open plan central research and collaboration area was designed with flexible tables for group working to encourage independent study. A large, colourful storage wall was designed to exhibit scientific artefacts and fossils along with stylish, futuristic orb display units to stimulate enquiring minds.

Colourful wall displays, including one based on Jamie Edwards’ remarkable achievement, encourage Priory’s budding scientists to aim high. The addition of a dramatic constellation ceiling adds a real ‘wow’ factor, making this a truly inspiring study space.

Adjoining the research area, wet and dry labs provide teachers with space for practical and theory lessons. The wet lab was designed using Innova’s unique Hot Corners concept, providing both a working classroom and practical laboratory within the same space. With services located on the front face of the units, the layout maximises desk space, allowing sufficient room for both practical and theory lessons.

An ICT area, complete with sawtooth desking, provides space for online research. The layout is designed to create individual workspaces, guaranteeing pupils sufficient elbow room to conduct their studies.