

STEM Building case study

Mendip Studio School Writhlington

Contractor | Kier Construction
Timescale | 3 Weeks
Architect | Steer Design

INNOVO
Education

Mendip Studio School in Writhlington, Radstock, specialises in Bioscience, Electronic Engineering, Computing and Maths and offers a range of academic and vocational qualifications including GCSEs, BTec, EPQ and A Levels education to 300 students between the ages of 14-19.



Brief

The construction of a new purpose built specialist facility for STEM subjects, costing £4.5 million started in 2016 and was completed early 2017. The aim of the new facility was to ensure students' learning is rooted in the real world through projects and work experience, developing the skills they need that are sought after by employers.

As part of the development Innova Design Group was appointed by Steer Design and Kier Construction to design, manufacture and install flexible, multi-use cutting-edge laboratories and IT suite that students can excel in.

“ During the tour of the new facilities it was clear the school has fostered an environment where students can flourish and become passionate about their learning. ”

Sir David Hempleman-Adams

Mendip Studio School Writhlington

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



Solution

Working in partnership with Kier Construction and Steer Design, Innova delivered a furniture only installation to four laboratories, two engineering rooms and an ICT suite.

As flexible layouts were a key requirement for the school, Innova focused on clever space planning and design to the Genetics, Micropropagation and Physics labs, installing a combination of fixed benching, service pods, housing electrics and gas and loose tables so that the individual rooms can be re-configured easily for group and quiet independent working as well as practical study. Circulation space was also optimised, improving room management.

Perimeter storage was a key feature in the classroom design as it allows equipment and glassware to be stored quickly, ensuring surfaces can be kept clean and clutter free minimising any distractions.

Hardwearing, durable Trespa work-surfaces were specified throughout to ensure the labs will serve students and teachers well into the future.

The studio school is confident that the new state-of-the-art facilities will attract more students to study STEM subjects and better prepare them for fulfilling a career in an engineering related field.

