



Project Overview

The right environment can vastly improve the quality of learning for students and help them realise wider ambitions. The original site at Bexley College however, did not have the flexibility in its teaching space to deliver the college's aim for a modern curriculum. It also had unsuitable maintenance costs.

The construction of a new college in Erith therefore permitted Bexley College to make their wider ambitions come to fruition, offering considerable educational improvements to local students and ensuring the college's future within the Borough was secured. Beyond this, our work has helped the continuing regeneration of Erith town centre.



Alongside the new college building, Bexley College has formed a new partnership with ourselves and Barrett Homes to also redevelop its current Tower Road site for residential housing. The sale of the site through the Skills Funding Agency and the development of new housing helped to fund the college build, together with small capital grants. The new residential development will help support those in or wishing to return to education with 192 new homes aimed at young families and first time buyers.

Educational development

The construction of the new three-storey, in situ concrete frame building provides teaching and administration spaces. These include an atrium area for events and exhibitions, a Learning Resource Centre, offices and common rooms, 60 car parking spaces and cycle parking.

Public areas on the ground floor with shop frontage have been constructed, such as hair dressing salons which will be of great benefit to the local community whilst also supporting the college's vocational training courses.

TOP: New college building

BOTTOM: Increased car parking facilities



Working in a live environment

This was a project which incorporated many challenges. Firstly, we had to ensure disruption to the live college campus (which has a total of 1,535 students and 233 staff) was kept to a minimum.

In addition, we had to make sure that the new building met the needs of the college's vast spectrum of students. These include students 14-16 years, 16-18 years, +19 years, Higher Education Students with Learning Difficulties & Disabilities (SLDD) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We consulted with the college to understand the different needs of everyone as some of these student groups were identified as potentially vulnerable, making security and segregation essential in our design. For example, there are separate areas for 14-16 year old students where they can be dropped off safely and wait to be collected, alongside understanding the degree of integration between SLDD/ALDD/ASD students and mainstream students.

TOP: Modern facilities for a modern curriculum