



A £3.2m redevelopment project transformed a historic educational institution into a modern, sustainable learning environment

Location: Collyer's College, Horsham

Value: £3.2m

Architect: HNW Architects

Contractor: Sunninghill Construction

Education / New Build / Steel / Innovation



Project Overview

The College of Richard Collyer, established in 1532, is one of West Sussex's leading sixth-form colleges, serving over 2,000 students. To accommodate its growth and enhance facilities, the college embarked on a significant redevelopment project. This included the construction of a new two-storey teaching block and the conversion of an existing ground floor into a café and exhibition space. The project was part-funded by the Department for Education and the Collyer Endowment Trust.

Engineering Challenges and Solutions

Given the site's constraints and proximity to occupied buildings, AWA Consulting Engineers provided expert structural and civil engineering services. In the new teaching block, a steel frame with precast concrete floors was chosen over timber to mitigate collapse risks. The use of lighter precast units allowed for installation via a mobile tower crane without oversailing existing structures. Additionally, AWA ensured seamless integration with the existing drainage systems, maintaining minimal disruption to the college's operations.

Outcome and Impact

The redevelopment culminated in the opening of the Shelley Building, featuring 10 modern classrooms and a café. The project was officially opened by Jeremy Quin MP and has been well-received by staff and students alike. The new facilities support the college's strategic plan to provide high-quality teaching spaces and accommodate future growth, ensuring that the institution continues to thrive as it approaches its 500th anniversary.

