



In this newsletter:

- * Learn how you can take a more active role in using your schools budget
- * Find out how to find the right people to help with Project Management and Design

Construction News

Chorlton High School recognise the benefits of procuring services using their own management resources with selective support from external parties. They have for example outsourced cleaning and maintenance services via a competitive tendering process. Recently they have been able to improve their facilities through a series of small capital projects. Building on the successful partnership with Construction Project Management experts Wilcox Construction Services, designs have recently been developed to provide an exciting new dining facility that will allow a change from three lunch sittings to one. Further details of this scheme are in this and future editions of the newsletter.

The story so far...

Following the opening of the school in 2004, it was soon apparent that some of the facilities did not fully meet the school needs. One of the main issues was the capacity of the disabled lift. In 2009 the school approached the local authority project

WCS saves school £310K

management organisation who then proposed a new lift shaft and new lift to be formed within the existing courtyard for a projected cost of £450,000.

The school were concerned that they would not have the funds for such a scheme so they then sought a second opinion from Wilcox

Construction Services Limited (WCS) who they had separately appointed to Project Manage and design some internal school alterations. WCS suggested an innovative design and approach for the new lift and shaft for a much lower projected cost.

Consequently, following a fully competitive tender process WCS were appointed and a new Otis 16 person capacity lift was installed right in the middle of the school without impact on the schools activities for a cost of £140,000

The new Dining Extension



Things to think about when planning your scheme . . .

- School Management teams should seek the support of external Project Management Services who can provide design, procurement and construction knowledge and guidance.
- Select PM services on a basis that will promote the highest level of service. Good PM services do not aim to make short term profits but seek to develop longer term relationships with clients.
- Commission an early feasibility for your scheme from your preferred PM to include outline costs and a sketch design. This will be relatively low cost and will ensure a) you are happy working with this business and b) you can make financial plans to facilitate the scheme.
- Architects and other skills can be provided through the Project Manager.
- Allocate a key member of the school team to support the Head who will coordinate with the Project Management team. This makes the scheme run much smoother and faster.

It includes:

- An exciting, fresh and open dining facility with options for alternative teaching uses also available to the community.
- Seating capacity to allow 1 sitting for lunch for the school which currently has 3 sittings, giving significant cost savings to the running of the school.
- A design, which through the innovative approach of the Design and PM team working closely with the school, will be constructed for costs much lower than the industry standard.

“Wilcox Construction Services are now a vital part of the process and provide excellent Project Management, Architectural, Cost and Contract services. Alan and his teams’ experience and knowledge of Construction within educational facilities ensure we get what is needed on time and on budget with minimum fuss and disruption.”

Head Teacher, Chorlton High School

The future...

- Renewal of communal lighting.
- New student gym.
- Bigger and better student toilet facilities.

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