

Case study



About Ashfield School:

Built in 1964 as Nottinghamshire's first purpose built comprehensive school, Ashfield School is a specialist technology, vocational, language college and training school set within a self-contained 40 acre rural campus.

Facilities include state of the art computer suites, an IT Centre, modern on site sports facilities including four gymnasiums, tennis courts, all weather sports fields, running track and a swimming pool, a Dance Studio and Fitness Suite. Other resources include Music Studios, a Theatre and Drama Complex, Photographic Darkroom, Print Making and Ceramics Studios, fifteen science Laboratories, a Business Centre, a CAD/CAM Centre, a Specialist Careers Library, as well as a newly purpose built Dining Centre.

On 16 June 1998 the Secretary of State for Education announced that Ashfield School had been designated a Technology College under the Government's specialist schools initiative. It has enabled the school to develop specialist technology provision in all curriculum areas, but particularly in Science, Technology and Mathematics.



The Challenge

Ashfield School had been granted permission to create a state of the art £6million Post 16 New Build Skills Centre. Completed for the 2007 – 2008 academic year, the centre has created one of the most extensive ranges of vocational and educational provisions of any school in Nottinghamshire and the UK.

Comprising of 5 discrete, but academically linked learning environments; the centre includes an open access study and resource centre to facilitate independent learning, over 100 tutorial rooms, seminar suites and offices.

The new Skills Centre provides a range of opportunities linking education to industry through the use of the three large industrial units with firms such as the RAC, Carillion and the eight vocational units.

GK Industrial was bought in as mechanical consultants to provide a specification for the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning system.

The Solution

GK designed, installed, tested and commissioned a full HVAC system to comply with current building regulations and Building Bulletin 101.

Fresh air ventilation for cooling and CO₂ removal via ducted heat recovery units was introduced across the entire building.

The heart of the building is centralised around a large glass atrium where students congregate. GK utilised the glass louvres in the atrium, integrating with the fire system to automatically open upon activation to ventilate the building from smoke.

Heating was provided via underfloor heating, with energy supplied from ground source heat pumps.

The whole building is managed though a Honeywell Tridium BMS solution which can be accessed via the web and staff and students can see the buildings energy use through the school intranet. Each section of the school is marked into zones, whereby heating and cooling can be remotely altered as well as on control panels for each room.

The Success

The skills centre was completed and open in time for the new 2007 - 2008 academic year in September. The buildings mechanical and HVAC system was fully designed, installed, tested and commissioned by GK engineers and was given an "A" rating for energy efficiency.

Students are now benefiting from the excellent facilities that the centre offers them, in a safe and productive working environment.

Martin Hoof, Assistant Head Teacher at Ashfield School comments:

"I would like to thank GK for their professionalism, expertise, service and support extended to both the school and me throughout the course of the heating and ventilation installation works

It is refreshing to work in partnership with those whose knowledge and skills are accurate and reliable, proven by the finished result fully meeting the initial project brief.

We have every confidence in the quality of service that they offer to their clients and will have no hesitation of continuing to work with GK in the future".

About GK Industrial

As a specialist installation and maintenance provider of environment managed solutions, GK Industrial Ltd manage s climate control and energy efficiency issues on behalf of its many national clients in the retail, commercial, industrial and public sectors.

The company's portfolio covers the entire spectrum of installing complete air conditioning, heating, ventilation, refrigeration and energy efficient lighting systems, to providing service maintenance contracts for both GK installed and client adopted systems.

For more information on how GK can benefit your business contact our Business Development Team on:

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