



The new, Sixth Form boarding facilities at Wymondham College. From left to right: View of courtyard from Lincoln Hall; View along walkway towards stage; View of courtyard towards Lincoln Hall; View along walkway towards Lincoln Hall. All Images to be credited to LSI Architects LLP. Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988: Reproduction is permitted providing authorship is credited

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
15th September 2008

### MAJOR EXPANSION AT UK'S LARGEST STATE BOARDING SCHOOL COMPLETED

Norwich and London based LSI Architects has announced that the £6.75 million expansion scheme which provides new, Sixth Form boarding facilities at Wymondham College in Norfolk has been completed. Wymondham College is both the UK's largest State Boarding School and one of the few State Boarding schools in the country, classified by the DfES as a 'Successful and Popular' School. Today, the building will receive the first of many distinguished guests, Hilary Moriarty, The National Director of the Boarding Schools' Association.

The new Sixth Form boarding facilities, designed by LSI Architects, provide a 'wishbone' style extension to an existing boarding block, with 115 new ensuite single study bedrooms and support accommodation, library, IT rooms, new communal activity spaces and an expansion of the existing dining facilities. The new building links to the existing Lincoln Hall building to provide a single base for all Year 12 and Year 13 pupils.

The design of new Sixth Form complex at the College was won by LSI Architects in a limited competition in 2005 and the Governors awarded the contract to local contractors, RG Carter and structural design engineers Ramboll Whitbybird.

The main concept behind the design for the new complex was to provide all residents with a view outwards over the Norfolk countryside, from rooms organised in three and four-storey wings arranged around a large, landscaped courtyard. Access to the new wings is via a

covered walkway surrounding the new courtyard. The wings meet in a dramatic westward pointing 'prow', which is clearly visible on entry into the campus.

As time was an important factor to the project, the bathroom 'pods' were pre-fabricated to make construction quicker. As every student knows – noise travels fast in close-knit dorms so to minimise this problem the structures team used a reinforced concrete frame construction with alternating loadbearing crosswalls.

Melvyn Roffe, Principal of Wymondham College and current Chairman of the Boarding Schools' Association, commented "The College secured funding of £9.844 million from the DfES under the Government's 'Successful and Popular Schools' Programme of which the £6.75 million for the Boarding Block represented the lion's share. The balance was allocated to various works across campus and to an 11 classroom expansion project. We are delighted with the new boarding facilities. They will raise the profile of our 16+ provision and hopefully attract even greater student numbers applying to our Sixth Form."

Phil Cowen of Cowen Consulting, the Project Manager for the scheme, said: "From the outset the College's brief required a building that provided a bridge between school and university and defined the sixth form within the campus. Hearing the positive comments, from the staff and students alike, underlines that it has been a rewarding process for all on the Project Team to have worked with the College to assist them to realise their aspirations for the new Boarding Block."

LSI Project Associate, Jeremy O'Rourke, said: "The new building makes a bold, contemporary architectural statement, with large areas of white render, timber cladding and glazing. The idea is that the new building provides high quality accommodation akin to that which the student may experience at University. To this end, the design concept allows each new room to enjoy distant views, whilst making a diverse range of activities possible within the landscaped courtyard at the heart of the scheme. Here there is a stage for performance, places for outdoor lessons and areas for the display of students' art."

Mr O'Rourke concluded: "The sustainability agenda has been a key determinant of the design. The highly insulated building has exposed concrete surfaces internally to provide cooling in the summer, has hot water produced by solar panels, and is largely ventilated by natural means."

Design Director, Simon Smith of Ramboll Whitbybird, said: "Education projects form a key part of our business, we have been delivering education buildings at the rate of almost 1 a month for the past 8 years.....each one is different which keeps things exciting. Disruption to the teaching calendar was minimised by keeping the college open while the building works were carried out."

## **The Project Team**

Client: Wymondham College

Architects: LSI Architects

Project Manager: Cowen Consulting

Services Engineer: Integrated Building Services

Contractors: RG Carter

Quantity Surveyor: Davis Langdon

Structural Engineer: Ramboll Whitbybird

Landscape Architect: Sheils Flynn

Planning Supervisor: D Mulley Associates

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## **Notes to the editor**

1. For a stunning range of high resolution day time and night time images, further information or an interview, please contact: Carri Crook, Carisma Communications on 01842 815910 or email [carri@carismacommunications.co.uk](mailto:carri@carismacommunications.co.uk).

2. LSI Architects is amongst the most highly regarded design practices in Norfolk and the Eastern Region. It is known generally within the Industry for professionalism and design quality and sustainable design, and by its clients for quality of service and creative cost effective solutions. LSI Architects main clients are corporate and public bodies with major sectors being: the workplace, retail, education, health and master planning. LSI Architects is a practice of 50 personnel, operating throughout the UK from its bases in Norwich and London. LSI Architects website: [www.LSIarchitects.co.uk](http://www.LSIarchitects.co.uk)

3. All images are subject to the Copyright and Patents Act 1988 and must be accredited to LSI Architects.

4. Wymondham College is a non-selective state boarding school for girls and boys aged from 11-18. It has over 1100 students comprising both boarding and day students. Outstanding academic results place the school regularly in the top 200 comprehensive schools in the UK (163rd in 2007), with 100% of students gaining 5 or more A-C passes at GCSE in 2007. It is nationally recognised as a centre of excellence, with Technology College Status for Mathematics, Science, IT and Design Technology. It also holds special status for Languages. Wymondham College was awarded the International Schools Award by the British Council and DCSF in August 2008. Demand for State Boarding Schools has risen by 50% in the last four years. Source: Boarding Schools' Association (BSA). State Boarding Schools combine a free, state education with paid-for accommodation for boarders, with the average cost currently £7,500 to £8,000 per year. Fees in the independent sector average £20,000 – 25,000 per year. There are 5,000 places currently available in the UK across 34 state boarding schools. Wymondham College expansion programme with £9.8 million of funding was completed in Summer 2008. This has provided increased availability of places, with a focus on boarding in a state of the art new Sixth Form Centre. The sixth form currently has 400 students.

5. Ramboll Whitbybird is known throughout the industry for its flair, style and innovation and has an enviable track record in landmark and iconic buildings and structures. We have evolved an engineering culture over 20 years that sets industry standards others try hard to follow.

As part of the Ramboll organisation, we are a global business, 8,000 employees strong with a broadened services portfolio that now includes energy, water, environment, consultancy and management. For further information please contact Helen or Karen on 020 7631 5291 or email [press@rambollwhitbybird.com](mailto:press@rambollwhitbybird.com). [www.rambollwhitbybird.com](http://www.rambollwhitbybird.com)