

LAMBETH

London's new generation of career colleges will provide young people with skills to equip them for the world of work. Creating the right environment is crucial.

In South London students at Lambeth College are continuing to enjoy their brand new facilities following the completion of phase 2 improvement works. These improvements mark the completion of a two-stage, £12 million upgrade and expansion of the college's Clapham facilities.

The first phase of its campus transformation was completed in 2014, with staff and students taking occupation over a year ago. This phase of work included 'The Restaurant SW4', which provides a range of service environments such as shops, a salon, spa and a restaurant in which students and staff can simulate real service situations and students can gain hands-on experience of running a business. The Skill Exchange Recruitment Service is also part of The Restaurant SW4 and gives learners the opportunity to register their interest and availability for part-time work, volunteering, apprenticeships and project work with employers, as well as for permanent work.

We were appointed as the main contractor for the second phase, which saw an upgrade to the college's facilities to include new classrooms, a sports hall and gym, as well as a nursery. Located behind the existing college, the new facilities cover 3,972 sq m in a steel framed structure, with a concrete roof covered by single-ply membrane, curtain walling and a black and white brick façade.

"We have been on an amazing journey here at Lambeth College, from Portacabins with leaky roofs to the first phase of our new buildings, which we moved into at the end of 2014, to this second phase which is almost the last part of rebuilding Clapham," Principal Mark Silverman said of the works.

PROVIDING A WIDE SKILL SET

The Clapham Centre, which is situated on the south side of the common, provides access to higher education courses in sciences and social work, accounting, art and design, business and administration, childcare and education,

counselling, computing and IT, hairdressing, beauty and spa therapy, health and social care, media, performing arts, science and dental technology, sport, teaching, and uniformed public services. It also provides courses for students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD).

STRENGTH IN PARTNERSHIPS

"These exciting new developments will enable us to build stronger partnerships with schools and employers. They ensure that our curriculum is fit for purpose and reflect the skills gaps and future job prospects within Lambeth and south London. Our vision is one where learners can put their skills into practice, get ready for the world of work and obtain real work experience to put on their CVs," says Silverman.

The new facilities mean that Lambeth College is now London's first Career College. Aimed at 14 to 19 year olds, their objective is to ensure that young people have the relevant skills to equip them for the workplace.

"This building provides a modern, open environment for people to develop and achieve their ambitions in life to the full. It's a great resource for the whole college, one that better meets their needs and gives them greater access to the tools that will help them train, learn and progress. We completed the building two weeks ahead of schedule, which is a great achievement on a scheme of this size."

DAVID HUXLEY, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
(LONDON AND SOUTH EAST)

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MARK SILVERMAN, PRINCIPAL

