



TOP MARKS FOR EXCEL OFF-SITE LOW CARBON BUILDING SOLUTION

Leading off-site construction specialist, Bedfordshire-based Excel Off-Site (a division of Excel Group), has provided a low carbon building solution that lies at the heart of a new sports changing pavilion at one of Oxfordshire's leading independent day schools – Cokethorpe.

KEY FACTS

- > Excel Package (Designed, Supplied & Installed) – Timber frame superstructure
- > Architectural Design – Purpose-built, single storey sports changing pavilion
- > Architects – ADP Architecture
- > Main Contractor – SDC Special Projects Division, Bedford



Constructed by the Special Projects Division of main contractors, SDC of Bedford, the single storey pavilion features a timber frame superstructure designed, supplied and installed by Excel Off-Site. Located within the school's 150-acre site set in spectacular West Oxfordshire parkland, the purpose-built facility occupies a location central to Cokethorpe's extensive sports facilities, providing improved access for pupils, staff and visitors.

The brainchild of DKA Architects of Bath, the new facility houses 10 individual changing rooms arranged for teams of 22, as well as showers, individual WC's, a department office/medical room, staff changing rooms, a sheltered bag store and boot removal facilities.

Serving to blend sympathetically with its parkland surroundings, the pavilion incorporates design features such as a green roof, punctuated by 10 roof lights that provide additional natural down lighting into the building's interior. Adding to the pavilion's fusion with its immediate environment is the use of Scandinavian Brimstone Ash timber cladding that adorns the walls of the main timber frame structure. Additionally, a series of outer and non-structural screens have been created using fins of the same timber cladding. Positioned under the cantilevered roof structure, this is a further design feature that provides both functional protection, as well as serving as a visually clever adornment to the overall project.

Equipping Cokethorpe's 660 students – aged between 4 and 18 - with the very latest changing facilities is fundamental to the school's philosophy of providing its pupils with access to a diverse and unrivalled range of sporting activities – both curriculum and extra curricular-based. Founded in 1957, Cokethorpe provides a liberal education with exceptional breadth and an individual focus to boys and girls from four to eighteen.

Commenting on SDC's collaboration with Excel Off-Site, Construction Manager, Andrew Johnson said:

“ Given that the project dictated deploying the use of a low carbon and off-site building solution, Excel Off-Site were an obvious choice. Not only are they uniquely placed to offer a variety of sustainable systems, they also have a wealth of experience in the low carbon sector and are locally based. The timber frame system they designed, supplied and installed was via a seamless and straight forward process that proved instrumental in delivering the finished project.”

Excel Off-Site's Managing Director, Jason Pritchard said:

“ To be given the opportunity to deliver a low carbon building solution for a school that stands as one of the region's most exceptional when it comes to its academic and sporting prowess is obviously extremely pleasing. The project clearly demonstrates how effective off-site construction systems are and we are noticing a marked increase in their uptake across all sectors of the industry, education being a main one.”



Photography: SDC Special Projects Division

EXCEL GROUP

9 Abbey Court / Fraser Road / Priory Business Park / Bedfordshire / MK44 3WH
 t: 01234 924050 / e: enquiries@excelgroup.uk / www.excelgroup.uk