

Educational



Christ the King Sixth Form College, Lewisham

The teaching space at Christ the King Sixth Form College, Lewisham, was significantly expanded by the conversion of a redundant double height gymnasium. A lightweight steel frame and timber mezzanine floor construction was used to create two new levels of classrooms. This form of construction was chosen to minimise the increase in weight of the new construction compared to the existing. This allowed support to be taken from the existing concrete frame without the need for significant strengthening works.

Where new windows were formed in the existing masonry in-fill panels the reduction in overall stability required the incorporation of additional steel bracing.

In order to provide easy access into the new teaching spaces and to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements for access, a new covered link bridge and corridor were formed between the main school building and the new classrooms. This also incorporated a new lift and an external escape stair.

Cedar cladding to the lift shaft and a large glazed curtain wall created a light, modern space. A large timber cross, which was to be hidden behind the new link bridge, was transferred from the school's chapel onto the front face of the new lift shaft in order to maintain its prominence.