



Wakefield Girls' High School

A miracle transformation for school library

The newly refurbished 'Langham Library' at Wakefield Girls High School, an independent day school for girls age 11-18 yrs, is a brand new library space that cleverly brings together a blend of old and new features to create a modern learning resource space. The project was designed and managed by design consultancy Insight Design, who commissioned Demco Interiors to bring their specialist library design knowledge and expertise to the project, including space planning, supply and installation of bespoke shelving and all furnishings.

Michaela Lanacaster, Head of Design and Products, Demco Interiors said: "It was a pleasure working with Insight Design on this project and to support them in delivering their concept and vision for this new learning resource centre."

The bespoke oak perimeter shelving was designed and manufactured by Demco and their standard Cantilibra steel grey library shelving, with oak cladding, was used in the centre of the space. Both feature discrete but colour-popping red, blue and green back panels, revealed when the books are removed. End of bay display shelves are resplendent in red and study chairs in bright greens, red and yellow continue the colour jewelled theme.

Rose Rowe, Learning Resource Manager said: "Teachers can show girls how to access the many resources available, especially now the books are easier to locate and attractively displayed in a more logical sequence. Many teachers are already using the library with their classes and I am encouraging more to integrate the teaching spaces into their lesson planning - using the area as an extension to their classroom."

The steel grey of the central bays is completed with dove grey shelving plinths. This matches the grey and cream feature walls and creates a soothing, understated theme allowing the stained glass windows to shine out. White shelving trims look contemporary and crisp and a million miles away from traditional library shelving. Flexibility was key and the central shelving bays are on castors so they can be moved around easily as and when needed. Hand built modular seating in hues of blue breaks up the space and softens formal study tables and chairs. This variety of seating options gives students a break away from heads down study. Now the new library is flexible enough to accommodate class teaching, small group work and independent study.

The newly refurbished 'Langham Library' has now officially been opened by former Head Pat Langham, CBE and is destined for a rosy future built on a solid past with Rose Rowe having many ideas on how to use the brand new space.