



Princethorpe
College

The Science Centre

Science Centre Official Opening

Friday 22 September 2023

Message from the Foundation Principal

I am delighted to welcome Yewande Akinola, MBE FIET HonFREng, to officially open our wonderful new Science Centre, along with other VIP and special guests.

The successful completion of the 10 laboratory, state-of-the-art Science Centre is a significant milestone in the development and history of the College, not only in terms of the positive impact it will have on Science teaching and learning, but also on the aspirations and STEM-related career choices of generations of Princethorpians to come.

The project, the College's largest and most ambitious to date, underwent a comprehensive and lengthy design, planning, costing and tendering process over five years.

Approval was granted by Trustees in January 2022, construction began in February 2022 and continued for 18 months. To the delight of staff and pupils alike the building opened its doors for teaching in September 2023.

At nearly 1,800 square metres the Science Centre provides four Biology laboratories, three Chemistry and three Physics laboratories, two staff bases, two preparation areas, two offices, a Science gallery and study area and additional toilet facilities.

Architecturally the building is distinctive and modern but harmonises well with the existing built and natural environment at Princethorpe. It also has excellent green credentials - an 'intelligent' building, it is driven by an integrated digital Building Management System to optimise heating and ventilation; it has underfloor heating and the latest standards of insulation. There is LED illumination throughout, with presence sensors and daylight sensors to control light levels. Photovoltaics on the roof will generate 21.821MWh annually with a Carbon offset of 6.8 tonnes/annum. The building's energy performance can be monitored in real time.

The Science Centre project has brought with it so many benefits, transforming the College's entire campus and allowing other areas to be redeveloped and departments such as Geography, Business and Economics and History and Politics to be neatly clustered within the main school building. We have also gained new multi-use outdoor courts for Tennis and Netball.

We are delighted that our vision for the future of Princethorpe has become a reality and we thank all those who have contributed to the project and worked so hard to bring it to fruition. In particular, I want to thank Alex Darkes who has led this project for the school from the initial design to completion – a truly remarkable achievement.

Ed Hester

“It is fantastic that our vision for the future of Princethorpe has become a reality.”

Key Facts

Gross area of building **1,792m²**

Ten laboratories, ranging from **72m² to 96m²**

Science Gallery

Two prep rooms

Two staff bases and two staff offices

237 lockers

Staff and pupil **toilets**

Time capsule buried under the entrance

Solar photovoltaic panels providing a capacity of **27kW**

Energy saving lighting throughout

Intelligent heat recovery and minimal reliance on air conditioning

Specialist glazing and **brise soleil shuttering**

High levels of insulation

Digital **building management system**

25nr lorry loads of ready-mixed pumped concrete for the foundations

18,000nr breeze blocks for the internal walls and inner skin

65,000nr bricks for the external facings

10,000 roof slates

Construction time **18 months**

Cost **£8m**

Project Manager, Quantity Surveyor and CDMC
Ainsleys London & Finedon

Architect
AT Architects Leamington Spa
Mechanical & Electrical Design
Couch, Perry, Wilkes Leicester

Structural Engineer
Richard Strauss Associates
Stratford-upon-Aven

Construction and MEP Clerk of Works
John Burke Associates
Remford

Main Contractor
Trendgrey Construction Ltd
Southam

Local Authority
Rugby Borough Council





Trustees give 'Green Light'

Spring 22

Turf Cutting Ceremony



Earth works began



Warwick Steels visit



Steels craned in

Summer 22

Final bolt goes in



Work begins on brick work

Autumn 22

Steel work continues



Time Capsule buried



Site hoardings go up





Main structure complete

Winter 22



New Headmaster, Grove du Toit's, first visit



Science staff visit



Internal work gathers pace and brise soleil installed



Break through into *The Limes*

Spring 23

Topping Out Ceremony



Last Portacabin removed



Internal labs fitting out under way



Project Team handover building to school



Summer 23



The
Princethorpe
Foundation



Finishing touches
and landscaping



Autumn 23



JLR engineering exhibit



New multi-use courts



2023-24 academic year begins