



## CASE STUDY



# A BETTER CLASS OF COLOUR FROM CROWN TRADE

*Using Crown Trade coatings in bright, contemporary colours, Bagnalls have helped to deliver attractive, stimulating learning environments at six new flagship schools developed for Education Leeds.*



In conjunction with main contractors Carillion, Bagnalls was awarded a £750,000 contract to decorate Carr Manor High School, South Leeds High School, Primrose High School, Shakespeare Primary, John Smeaton Community College and Ralph Thoresby High School. Thanks to Seymour Harris Architects of Leeds each of the new schools boasts interiors that have more in common with design-led corporate premises than traditional educational establishments.

"Our objective was to create impressive and truly inspirational learning environments that would give pupils and staff alike a real sense of self worth and pride in their surroundings," says architect Mike Varlow. "Through the use of modern interior styling, fixtures and fittings and the confident use of strong colour palettes we wanted to design attractive 'business-like' settings to help to promote effective learning and encourage positive pupil behaviours."



Certain core functional and aesthetic design themes run throughout all six buildings yet each school has its own very clear identity as Mike explains: "From the outset we worked closely with the headteachers who were all keen to use colour to express the unique 'personality' of their schools. A good example is John Smeaton Community College's use of deep aubergine, a distinctive contemporary colour that welcomes visitors at the main entrance to the building and is then used widely throughout circulation areas."



"We've also used colour to help pupils, staff and visitors to navigate their way around," says Mike, "Particularly at Ralph Thoresby, an 'inclusive' school catering for physically disabled and visually impaired learners."

"Here we've used strong, highly contrasting colours to help everyone to find their way, even those with limited vision. The feature walls in the 'main street' running through the building are painted in bright blue, with a white 'tactile stripe' at waist level providing a secondary guiding feature. Strong yellow entrance areas denote primary circulation routes feeding off the main street and leading to classrooms."

CLEAN EXTREME SCRUBBABLE MATT & STRONGHOLD MASONRY

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continued



Across all six schools, vibrant and distracting décor has been avoided in the classrooms. Mike says "In these light, bright and airy rooms we've introduced calming pale neutrals to encourage concentration and effective learning. In each classroom we used a slightly darker colour for the 'learning wall' to help direct pupils' attention towards the teacher and the whiteboard."

The choice of finish was also important as Mike explains: "To avoid an institutional feel and to achieve a more contemporary look we specified flat matt finishes for walls and low sheen eggshell for trim. At the same time we needed coatings with high opacity that could stand the test of time. As sustainability and environmental concerns were always uppermost in our minds we also insisted that Bagnalls used water-borne finishes wherever practicable."

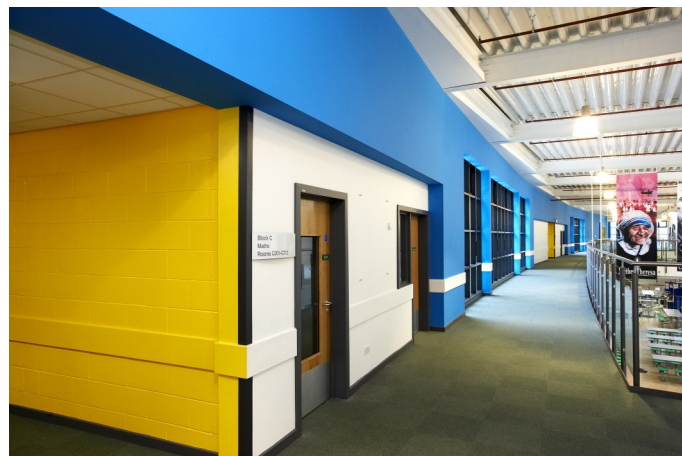
Bagnalls chose to use Crown Trade finishes at all the schools, from the external entrance areas where Stronghold Smooth masonry paint was applied, all the way through the interiors, where Crown Trade Matt Vinyl, Acrylic Eggshell and Clean Extreme Scrubbable Matt were the predominant coatings used.

Lee Jones, Bagnalls Contracts Manager said: "We were very keen to work with Crown Trade because we know from many years of experience that we can always rely on the quality, opacity and consistency of the coatings and we always achieve a good longlasting finish."

He added: "Clean Extreme Scrubbable Matt emulsion was launched in time for it to be used at John Smeaton and Ralph Thoresby. Aesthetically the coating was perfect for broadwall areas because it was available in a wide colour range and had the chalky flat matt finish the architects wanted. Because it cures to an exceptionally durable finish that can be scrubbed clean without burnishing, it had ideal performance attributes for heavy traffic areas most prone to scuffs, scrapes and soiling."

The Leeds Combined Secondary Schools Project is now completed and all six schools are fully operational. Mike Varlow says: "Bagnalls have done a fantastic job in each of the new buildings. We're delighted with their professionalism, the way they translated our vision and with their choice of Crown Trade decorative coatings, which provided the colour choice and quality of finish we required." He concluded:

***"Everyone involved can take pride in the fact that thousands of school children across Leeds are now being taught in some of the most attractive, stimulating and inspirational buildings ever built in the education sector."***



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