

The Read Hall, Town Close House School



Town Close House is a co-educational school for children aged 3-13. Until recently the school had no dedicated space for drama, music or assemblies. The existing sports hall had previously hosted these activities but neither the architecture nor the acoustics were remotely suitable for such uses. When in 2008 work started on a new sports centre, the opportunity arose to re-develop the old hall as a dedicated space for school assemblies and the performing arts.

The hall was refurbished with new ceilings, thermal wall linings, radiant heating panels and fixed tiered seating. Working closely with LSI Architects, we developed a scheme which used the natural acoustic characteristics of these changes to best effect, minimising the need for special acoustic finishes. Radiant heating panels were angled to eliminate flutter echoes and optimise acoustic reflections from the stage to the audience, and both the size and acoustics of the stage were made adjustable using free-standing panels and curtains.



We were also appointed to design and commission a high-quality but affordable sound system for the many different uses of the hall. This is operated through a simple digital control system with presets so that a dedicated technician is not required.

The result is a visually exciting and acoustically excellent hall which meets all of the school's needs for a wide range of functions at a fraction of the cost of a new auditorium.