



# Boosting STEM appeal

Sleek designs that use high spec materials

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## External areas

Green spaces should be approached as a lifetime asset

## Building services

Securing Salix funding for Victorian legacy buildings

## Offsite

New modular buildings framework for education

# School upgrade improves accessibility and circulation

Images: Jack Hobhouse



**D**ONHEAD Preparatory School in Wimbledon has been extended to incorporate new classrooms, a new auditorium, art room and chapel.

The scheme, devised by Phillips Tracey Architects, has carefully adjoined separate elements of the existing school into a coherent building that sensitively juxtaposes old with new, improving accessibility, general circulation and facilities throughout the school. All ground and first floor areas are now fully accessible for the first time in the school's history.

The alterations respect the original building on site and from a distance the school now reads as one entity. Upon closer look, however, each of the buildings are sensitively joined through transparent links, retaining a visual story of the school's development.

The addition of a chapel, a 150-seat auditorium for music and drama, a two-storey art centre and four classrooms for the younger years has provided the school with much needed resources. The chapel

is the centerpiece of the development - with capacity for 50 people, it enables the school to hold mass services, prayer services and the daily examen for individual

classes at the end of the school day.

[www.phillipstracey.com](http://www.phillipstracey.com)

# Industry-standard musical facilities for historic school in Somerset

**P**LANNING consent has been secured for a new building for the Music Department at King's School in Bruton, Somerset, designed by Levitt Bernstein.

Under the proposals, a disused corner of the school site will be transformed to create a new building for all of the musical facilities, including teaching and rehearsal space, a recital hall and industry-specification recording suite.

This purpose-built facility will create a space that can accommodate growing numbers of pupils, as well as offering exceptional music facilities for the community.

Sat in the heart of the 16th century estate and within the Bruton Conservation Area, the design is inspired by, and carefully responds to, this sensitive context. The site is enclosed on three sides by listed stone walls, which will be protected to create and define a new landscape at the heart of the estate - linking the new building to the rest of the school and encouraging activity where there is currently very little.

A new two-storey tower, inspired by the character of the nearby Headmaster's tower, will mark the entrance. A new riverside walkway will strengthen the relationship between the new and historic contexts, and between the school and river respectively.

Predominantly single-storey, the form of the building responds to key views into and from the school, maintaining an important connection between the courtyard and wider context. The new wall and tower will provide a complementary aesthetic that references the solid character of the existing stone walls without trying to compete with them.

In contrast to the hard masonry frontage, a soft, natural timber cladding system will wrap around and envelop the building, culminating in a rhythmic arrangement of vertical batons to the courtyard-facing façade of the recital hall. A sedum roof will help to soften the roof appearance when viewed from higher vantage points, whilst attenuating rainfall and insulating practice rooms from rain noise.

[www.levittbernstein.co.uk](http://www.levittbernstein.co.uk)

The new music school will celebrate King's Bruton's 500th anniversary in 2019

