

Case Study

York College turns to Rapid Racking for Multi-Functional Storage Solution



College Background

York College was formed in 1999 following the merger of York College of Further & Higher Education and York Sixth Form College. Since then, it has continued to grow and expand its services in the region working alongside education providers and local businesses. This has culminated in a move to a brand new, state of the art, purpose-built site which was opened in September 2007. With over 550 staff and 13,000 full and part-time students, York College has become the largest post-16 training provider in the region delivering an extensive range of academic and vocational courses. The new £60 million College development has pushed the boundaries of design by creating an exciting contemporary building which cleverly blends form with function and incorporates modern training facilities that include a three story learning resource centre, a beauty spa, sports development centre, nursery and a range of eateries and vending services. In addition it hosts a teaching restaurant and travel agency. Services are provided to students and the general public.

College Requirements

The Sim Balk Lane College site, on the south western gateway to the city, is a large, iconic landmark construction. Following two years of development, the building was prepared for its final fit-out which included identifying the day to day functional storage requirements of the staff and students. To gather this information, Rapid Racking worked closely with the College in order to gain an understanding of each individual department's needs. Due to the extensive educational activities undertaken by the College, which range from health and beauty to plumbing and mechanical engineering, no two department's requirements were the same. Departmental heads were consulted about their functional requisites to enable Rapid Racking to specify the most appropriate products for each location and to give practical advice on the options available. This resulted in an extensive list of products ranging from secure lockers and heavy duty racking for internal and external use, to mesh enclosures and mezzanine floors. York College wanted a supplier with the flexibility required to address this varied and demanding storage challenge and needed to ensure that the quality and aesthetics of the products reflected those of the new building.



Rapid 2 shelving



Cantilever shelving behind mesh

Rapid Racking Solution

To undertake the response to the College's requirements specification, Rapid Racking formed a dedicated project team drawing on its technical, design, account management and project expertise, to deliver a complete end-to-end solution.

The design incorporated Rapid Racking's Rapid 2 general racking products which were installed in stationery cupboards and cleaner's store rooms. In the general store area, heavy duty shelving was selected from the Rapid 1 range, with each shelf able to withstand 770 kilos. Storage of raw materials such as wood and pipes in the engineering and construction departments was



accommodated with a variety of cantilever shelving which made best use of available space whilst providing easy access to materials. Additional plastic bins served as containers for small engineering components. A large number of personal lockers were also installed which featured attractive coloured doors to complement the interior design.

To divide individual areas and departments, Rapid Racking's lockable mesh enclosures offered an ideal secure storage solution whilst maintaining a modern look and feel. For exterior storage areas, galvanised wide-span and pallet racking, capable of withstanding the environmental conditions, were also installed.

In order to optimise valuable space in the central stores, sports store and workshop store areas, Rapid Racking designed and installed four separate mezzanine floors which took advantage of the five metre high ceilings in these locations. Furthermore, the installation of the raised floors was achieved within just two weeks of the quotation being submitted for the project.



Space optimisation utilising recess

“Rapid Racking was responsive to our needs and delivered a first class service. They understood the project remit and provided a cost-effective solution that didn't compromise on quality.”



Colour co-ordinated lockers

Results

The project was successfully completed within the College's strict timeframe and resulted in a professional, adaptable and practical solution for all departmental staff and students.

“We were conscious of the overall appearance of the storage areas and needed the finish to reflect the contemporary image of the new building whilst delivering the practical and robust qualities required for day to day use in an educational setting,” commented Anne Tyrrell, York College.

Key to the success of the project was effective communication between all parties combined with forward planning and sound project management practices.

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