



Brick types: Breckland Reserve
Smooth Blue

Location: Wirral

Project Architect: BDP (Building Design Partnership)
Contractor: Kier Construction

The brickwork features some modulation and effects, including curved walls on the blue brick sections, to create a functional, striking and modern building.



Woodchurch High School

Woodchurch High School was procured as an academy as part of the Building Schools for the Future initiative. The new school has been built on the playing fields of the former one and the land on which the old school stood is now being returned to playing fields.

The old school had a very good reputation both educationally and as an inclusive school and these values have been upheld in the design of the new building by BDP, which uses a traditional layout and materials.

But the new design is worlds apart from its 1960s forerunner. It features strong, clean lines and good quality brickwork in blocks of red and blue/black to create a strong contrast and add to the building's presence. The brickwork features some modulation and effects, including curved walls on the blue brick sections, to create a functional, striking and modern building.

The two bricks chosen for the project were Forterra's Blue Smooth engineering brick and the company's Breckland Multi Reserve, a red tumbled brick that has some variation in colour, shape and texture to give a hand made look.

At the elevation overlooking the playing fields large glass panels are flanked by modules of Blue Smooth bricks that feature curved walls and contrast with the straight lines of the adjacent rectangular red brick wings.

At the south of the new building the design brings together the maths, science, ICT and technology faculties into two adjacent teaching wings. The special nature of this faculty is expressed with a larger extent of alternate Blue Smooth brick being 'revealed' behind the consistent red brick of the facades.

The Blue Smooth engineering bricks, which feature a crisp surface and consistent colour in contrast to the more rustic red bricks, were also used to reflect the nature of the engineering department.

In total the development used 120,000 Forterra Blue Smooth engineering bricks and over 300,000 Breckland Multi Reserve bricks.

The new £25 million school was officially opened by Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, and Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead. It is a co-education comprehensive school for over 1,350 pupils aged from 11 to 16.



The two bricks chosen for the project were Forterra's Blue Smooth engineering brick and the company's Breckland Multi Reserve, a red tumbled brick that has some variation in colour, shape and texture to give a hand made look.