

# KENDRICK SCHOOL

## READING

### CASE STUDY

**CONTRACTOR**  
Darwin Group

**WHEN**  
Summer 2020

**PRODUCT**  
Rockpanel cladding &  
Wetherby insulated render  
system

## WIDENING HORIZONS FOR PUPILS AT AN OFSTED “OUTSTANDING” SCHOOL

**Based in Reading, Berkshire, Kendrick school is a popular, high-achieving school for girls aged between 8 – 11 years.**

Following a successful application for a Selective School Expansion Fund (SSEF) in November 2018, the Department of Education confirmed that Kendrick school would be able to fulfil their plans for expansion by increasing their student numbers and improving and extending their facilities.

To accommodate the increased intake of students, the school needed to build extra classrooms and additional canteen space, engaging architect practice Baily Garner as their consultants on the project.

Baily Garner have a strong track record within the education sector and could see the potential on the site that would allow for the expansion of the school. After assessing the school and the classroom sizes, Baily Garner proposed a new three storey standalone building that would provide nine classrooms, an additional dining area and extra office and toilet facilities. A new parking layout and pedestrian routes were also proposed to ensure the safety of the students as they access the school.



"Darwin Group have chosen to work with Eden Facades on several projects now, and the level of competency and experience they bring to a project means we can be confident we are providing our client with the best possible result. Their teams are reliable and professional, able to react quickly to resolve challenges as and when they arise."

**Nick Woodcock**  
Contracts Manager at Darwin Group



Main Contractor Darwin Group, who we've worked with in the past, engaged us to install the insulated render system and the decorative Rockpanel cladding which had been specified for the coloured areas at the front of the building. Rockpanel is a sustainable cladding option created from volcanic rock and is available in a broad range of colours.

The striking-coloured cladding panels work in contrast with the white Wetherby insulated render system used elsewhere on the building. Wetherby are well-known for being the market leaders for insulated render systems in the UK, and their systems offer a wide range of design benefits, as well as being cost effective.

Once on site we could see that the factory fitted vertical battens would need to be released and refixed before adding the insulation to create a completely flat substrate. We knew this would add time to the project, but it was crucial to ensure the end product was aesthetically acceptable. Steve Mountford, our Site Manager, needed to be sure he was happy before the insulation was installed.

In a separate case we found that the windows were out of alignment causing an issue with the layout of the Rockpanel cladding. The layout had to be changed to accommodate the window alignment.

The ability to draw on our experience means we can spot potential challenges and promptly deal with them before they become a problem, enabling us to keep projects on track. However, one challenge we could not have predicted was the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of 'lockdown' in spring 2020, the site was closed and works paused. Once we were able to safely resume work, the whole team pulled together and the site reopened for 14 hours a day, allowing us to achieve handover on time.

The works at Kendrick School mean they are now able to take in an additional 160 students and provide better facilities for staff and pupils, as well as addressing some of the congestion issues that had been happening.

**"It was a pleasure to work with the team from Darwin Group and we are delighted with the finished project. Hopefully the pupils will enjoy going back to school now!"**

**Paul Michaelson, Construction Director at Eden Facades**

## CONTACT US

**T 01268 744 199 E [office@edenfacades.co.uk](mailto:office@edenfacades.co.uk) W [www.edenfacades.co.uk](http://www.edenfacades.co.uk)**

Operations & Accounts Office, Eden Facades Ltd, Cornwallis House, Howard Chase, Basildon, Essex, SS14 3BB