

Altro flooring is first-class investment at State-of-the-art school

A fantastic new resin floor awaits the students and staff of Llanwern High School in South Wales when they return from their summer holidays.

AltroScreed Quartz resin flooring has been used in many areas in the new £29 million state-of-the-art Llanwern High School, in Newport, South Wales.

Llanwern High School replaces the old Hartridge High School and is the second school being built as part of Newport City Council's major secondary school redevelopment programme, following the award-winning Newport High School. The cost of the new building was met from Newport City Council's capital budget as well as a contribution from the Welsh Assembly Government. The school opened its doors to pupils at the end of April 2012.

The old Hartridge High School was housed in three buildings, which were unsuitable for a number of reasons, including the state of disrepair, concrete cancer and lack of disabled access. These buildings have been demolished to make way for school sports fields. The new school can accommodate 1,450 students and facilities include a four-court sports hall, dance studio, fitness suite, JamPod room and Apple Mac suite.

HLM designed the new structure, and its aim was to create a robust, hardwearing environment which was also fun and colourful. The school is an H-shaped construction, with a north and south wing wrapped around a

central glass-roofed atrium. Each of the wings has its own colour scheme; the north uses warm colours such as reds and purples and the south contains cooler greens and blues.

Janine Gemmell, interior designer at HLM, commented: "The AltroScreed Quartz flooring for the school was chosen after a great deal of research by the client, and they visited a lot of schools before deciding what they wanted. They looked at lino and tiles, but finally they chose resin because it is seamless, hardwearing and a great looking alternative."

"We selected a soft, neutral grey AltroScreed Quartz for the circulation areas



and then for other areas we chose shades to match their colour schemes. This product has a superb range of decorative coloured quartz which can be incorporated for a lovely looking finish."

AltroScreed Quartz is a three-part, solvent-free system in which blended decorative quartz aggregate is bound with clear epoxy resin and finished with clear seal coats. The product provides a high-strength, chemically resistant decorative floor surface that can be coved and laid to drainage falls. It is available in 4mm or 6mm thickness.

Due to the size of the project, the Altro flooring was installed by two different contractors, both selected for their expertise in laying resin floors and for their approach to partnership working. Resintek Services Ltd worked on the school's north block, and GR&RG Finishers operated in the south block.

Gary Peak, of Resintek, said: "This was a very complex installation which required a controlled programme of works. We worked closely with the main contractor to ensure each section of floor was laid to an agreed schedule. We installed around 2,600 sq m of AltroScreed Quartz, covering staircases, corridors, classrooms, communal areas and toilets. The project took a number of months to complete."

"We used a five-day system to install each section of floor; priming, laying and then three days of sealing. The most challenging area of these works was the stairs, given the attention to detail required and the need to

provide access to other areas and trades. We consulted closely with the main contractor to make sure the works were finished to a high standard, preparing a number of sample areas to show what detail could be achieved before the final floor was laid."

GR&RG Finishers carried out a very similar job in the south block of Llanwern High, installing some 1,900 sq m of Altro Screed Quartz in various colours. They also installed more than 300 sq m of Altro Whiterock hygienic wall cladding in the school kitchen.

Altro Whiterock Extruded PVCu is a cost-effective sheet extruded from a high-quality, food safe PVCu polymer for operating temperatures up to 60°C. It is easy to clean, impact resistant, grout-free and meets all current EU Directives on health and hygiene.

Gary Lucas, Director of GR&RG, said: "Altro Whiterock is a great product for environments where hygiene and ease of cleaning are paramount. It's very simple to install and looks great long-term. We used the Altro Whiterock FlexiJoint system to install it. This is ideal when you need unobtrusive joints and a superb quality finish."

"Overall Altro and the client were excellent to work with," added Gary Lucas. "This was a huge project and communication and co-operation were vital. It was a very clean site and one of the most satisfying projects I have ever worked on."

Aeron Thomas, Project Manager at Leadbitter Construction, who built the school, said: "We worked closely with Newport City

Council to find flooring that met our requirements of design, longevity and ease of maintenance. The Altro flooring looks great and it's a tough product too, so we are confident it will stay looking good for many years to come. I am very pleased with the Altro Whiterock in the kitchen as well; a seamless, modern solution."

Haydn Ames, Client Project Manager for Newport City Council said: "The installation of AltroScreed Quartz flooring has proved to be a first class investment. Floorcoverings in schools have always been contentious in terms of offering a low maintenance, durable, easy-clean solution. In this regard, Altro Screed Quartz ticks all the boxes. I was also impressed with the installation team who laid the floor to a high professional standard and within a tight programme schedule."



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