

Pakefield High School in South Lowestoft has specified cutting-edge Priva BMS technology for its brand-new £12million building, setting the standard in terms of sustainable excellence.

As the first new secondary school to be built by Suffolk County Council in over 20 years, Pakefield High School marks an important addition to the surrounding community. Phase I of the high-spec, environmentally-friendly campus is now complete, with more than 500 students newly enrolled at the school. Purpose-built for the 21st century, the school put a premium on sustainability from the design stage right through to the long-term running of the building.

#### **Long-term energy efficiency**

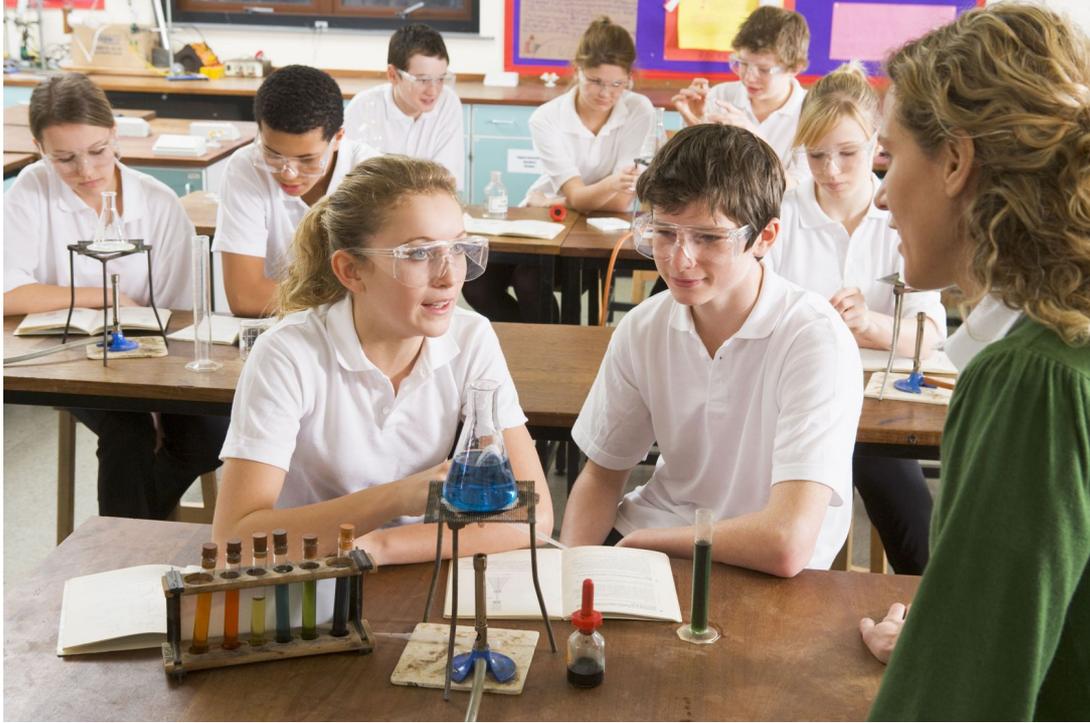
"The council wanted to ensure that Pakefield High School was not only built according to low-carbon, resource-efficient standards, but that it could also maintain those standards throughout the school's whole life," comments Stuart Minns, Operations Manager at Universal Systems and Controls (USC), an Ipswich-based building management system (BMS) installer.

"As an Approved Priva Partner, we were able to knowledgeably recommend the use of Priva technology, to ensure good long-term energy management practices at Pakefield High School," says Mr Minns.

"The new building has been equipped with 8 Priva panels, situated both indoors and outdoors, to provide optimum performance while remaining highly efficient in terms of control and power consumption."

#### **Making energy data accessible**

"What's more, all the information gathered by the Priva system is easily viewed at the front end of the BMS or via the web," comments Mr Minns. "This means that both the school's facilities managers and any other pertinent staff members are able to quickly and simply gain access to all-important energy data, which allows them to monitor and target any sources of waste or inefficiency."



### **Variety of learning spaces**

Pakefield High School has been designed to incorporate a variety of different learning spaces. The new building houses science laboratories, an art suite, a media centre, a music suite, a performance hall, and much more. However, controlling the conditions in such a wide range of different spaces demanded a high level of flexibility from the controls system.

USC's Stuart Minns explains, "The Priva system includes an Energy Centre panel, which controls a biomass boiler. Plus, there are two rooftop panels controlling the air conditioning, air handling units, and environmental conditions, such as temperature, humidity and CO2 levels. There are also remote panels throughout the school for control of under-floor heating."

### **Climate control in the atrium**

The school's innovative architecture and materials also placed unique demands upon the building management system. The two wings of the building meet in a central, internal street that is covered with a roof made of the same material that covers the Eden Project in Cornwall.

"This atrium is a great space for pupils to gather, but the air pressure and climate conditions need to be carefully controlled," comments Adrian Scott, Business Development Manager at Priva Building Intelligence Ltd. "Fortunately, Pakefield High School knew it using the right technology for the task, since a Priva system also controls the indoor climate of the Eden Project!"

With its dedication to energy efficiency already well established, the future looks bright for Pakefield High School. Construction is now set to begin on the next two phases of the school. The intention is that the whole school will be housed in brand new, sustainable buildings by 2014, when its number of students is set to swell to 900.

### **More information?**

Feel free to ask our expert!



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