

News Release

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Amax protects pupils at The GEMS Hampshire School

Fast expanding security and fire systems installer Amax Security, which offers a flexible one-stop service to residential and commercial customers, has provided a range of equipment for a central London Independent school's prestigious new location.

The GEMS Hampshire School recently moved into a Grade 2 listed former public library just off the Kings Road in Chelsea. The relocation - which follows the school's celebration of its 80th anniversary - offers pupils purpose-built facilities including a gymnasium, state-of-the-art ICT (information and communication technology) suite, a brand new science laboratory and a fully equipped main assembly hall. In total, around £5½ million has been spent refurbishing the building to this specification.

Currently catering for 150 pupils, aged 5-13, The GEMS Hampshire School's Manresa Road complement will soon rise to 240 pre-preparatory and preparatory pupils. Principal Arthur Bray explains that protection of the children is its top concern and the building's security includes door-entry access control at its main entrance and CCTV surveillance measures. The cameras keep watch over both the main entrance and four other doors at street and lower ground floor level, providing pupil and staff entry/egress.

These doors are only open for set periods in the morning and afternoon and the school's receptionist can monitor activity on a flat-screen LCD monitor. Round-the-clock digital recordings stored on the system's hard drive are retained indefinitely on recordable media. Mr Bray and his colleagues can also view the flexible, IP-based surveillance camera images from their computer terminals,

including pictures produced by a discreet internal dome camera keeping watch over the main reception area.

The security equipment is designed to blend inconspicuously with the 19th century building's fabric, for which English Heritage approval has been required during its refurbishment- presenting a challenge to the school's architects and project managers.

In addition to the security steps installed by Amax Security, the company has also overseen the introduction of comprehensive fire detection and extinguishing systems and Mr Bray is full of praise for the standard of equipment and service provided by Amax: "Following installation of the various systems, Amax's engineers have been responsive and flexible in addressing various issues that inevitably cropped up and we've always found the company and its staff easy to deal with and obliging.

"I can't stress how helpful Amax's engineers have been and I'd certainly recommend the company to others - this equipment provides a 21st century solution to protecting our pupils and teaching staff, as well as visiting parents."

Amax Security's MD, Will McMillan, adds that The GEMS Hampshire School installation demonstrates the company's credentials as a nationally available provider of both physical and electronic security. "We provide a rounded service, from installation and project management through to customer training, systems maintenance and after-sales support," he comments.

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