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As energy prices continue to rise, better monitoring and control will be critical

A LIGHTING upgrade at Southmoor Academy in Sunderland has replaced all of the school's old fluorescent lights with LEDs.

The project, undertaken by Kier and project partner Minimise Energy, was funded through an interest-free energy efficiency loan from Salix Finance.

Minimise replaced all existing fluorescent lights, predominantly tubes and panels, within the academy's buildings. LED equivalents have been fitted in classrooms, corridors, main areas, the canteen, offices, and washrooms. This has reduced the school's lighting energy load by more than 60%, cutting student energy costs from the current level of £123 per student to £65. Where possible, the new LEDs were used within existing, refurbished and reconfigured fittings to minimise disruption and electrical waste.

The scheme also involved Minimise installing a series of energy sensors and monitors throughout the school buildings, which link to an online dashboard and control system, giving the school an instant and continuous view of its energy use.

Using this system, the facilities team are able to spot and change inefficient behaviours, identify problems such as boiler malfunctions and take action at the earliest opportunity. They are also able to monitor the changes made to ensure they are delivering the best energy performance improvements.

The Minimise Monitoring and Control System has also been configured to provide water monitoring and control, maximising efficiencies and cost reductions across the school.

Southmoor Academy business manager, Pam Davison, said: "The controllability allows the teachers and staff to modify the lighting levels to suit specific activities and the reduction to maintenance leaves the team free to work on other key areas."

www.kier.co.uk

www.minimisegroup.com


University of Kent's Cargo bar and bistro

Wood and stone effect floor completes bar and bistro

DESIGNED by interior design practice Stiff + Trevillion, the University of Kent's new Cargo bar and bistro at Liberty Quays, Medway, features a nautical and industrial-style design.

Taking inspiration from its maritime connection, the university opted for a luxury vinyl flooring design – with a stormy mix of light and grey tones – to complete the look of its new hospitality venue.

The statement concrete effect floor design was created by the large rectangular Opus Urbus SP213 design from Karndean Designflooring.

"Having initially considered a real stone floor, we were immediately concerned with the practicalities of maintaining a concrete floor, and ensuring it retained its original beauty," explains Keith Williams, head of trading at University of Kent. "Having a central location with direct access from the street, we required a floorcovering to withstand high traffic and offer ease of maintenance."

Looking to distinguish and zone out the bar and bistro areas, the Urbus tile has been paired with Karndean's authentic, mid wood rustic timber effect Opus Ignea WP313 planks.

The LVT floor has delivered the functionality and visual finish required to complete the design, as well as being soft underfoot and suitable to cope with spillages.

The Cargo bar and bistro will be enjoyed by more than 20,000 students. Its central location combines the 'high street experience' with the care of a university outlet.

www.stiffandtrevillion.com

www.karndean.com