



Client

Alresford Building & Plumbing Ltd

Project

St Swithun's School, Alresford Road,
Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1HA

Architect

Professor Robert Adam, Robert
Adam Architectural Consultancy Ltd,
Winchester, Hampshire

Masterframe successfully replace Sliding Sash and Bespoke Arch Windows at St Swithun's School

St Swithun's School is a flourishing independent girls school set in 45 acres of rural Hampshire. It educates over 740 girls aged between 4-18 years with a co-ed preschool, across 32 nationalities.

THE CONCEPT

In 2022 Masterframe were contacted by Alresford Building to enquire if we could replicate in the first instance existing Arches in the ground floor of the building. A pilot window from another supplier had been made and installed but this fell well short of matching to the existing design. Following a series of discussions and submission of drawings we were able to confirm that Masterframe could indeed replicate the existing design and enhance the current performance of the windows. A pilot window was made and installed. A meeting was held on site with the Bursar, Estate Manger and renowned Architect Robert Adam, all parties agreed that the Masterframe Window far outshone the other competitors example and was as close to the original as practically possible. In his own words Robert Adam confirmed "this is the best I have seen and matches the existing very well".





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Professor Robert Adam

Robert Adam Architectural Consultancy

Masterframe commenced the project in January 2023 and initially made 34 unique arches for the ground floor. Masterframe were able to replicate the special cobweb design and were able to allow the top sashes to slide an exclusive option now available on all Arches. The work was completed by the end of the Easter Holidays and Teachers, pupils and parents were not able to even identify from the outside that the windows had been changed, they so matched the originals. However, everyone commented on the noise and heating benefits the windows offered internally.

Work then pressed ahead to make a further 189 windows for the first and second floors on the front and sides of the main building. Masterframe again delivered all windows on time ready to be installed over the summer holidays. I am sure you will agree from the footage and photographs that the end result has been sensational, everyone has remarked on how amazing the windows look and perform. The overall benefits of noise and heat reduction are dramatic. Pupils now work in quiet, well ventilated classrooms in the summer and warm and comfortable classrooms in the winter and the savings in heating for the school are considerable.

These windows will keep giving over tens of years, the maintenance once needed for the original timber frames is now a thing of the past, this will literally save thousands of pounds on internal and external decoration, this together with the health benefits offered to the pupils makes the choice of using Masterframe Vintage Conservation Sash Windows the absolute first choice.

THE SASH WINDOWS SPECIFICATION

Vintage Conservation part of our Classic Collection. Our unique frames, sashes, slim meeting rail, and bespoke furniture truly offers as close a match to the wooden originals.

The added advantages offering long lasting benefits to both the school and pupils. These windows reduce heat, sound and literally save thousands of pounds in maintenance.



Here we have achieved a long-lasting legacy product that gives a number of immediate benefits and future value that will mean the product will have a cost zero effect.

THE HISTORY OF ST SWITHUN'S

St Swithun's was founded in 1884 by Anna Bramston the daughter of the Dean of Winchester.

In 1883 Anna and her lifelong friend Amelie Le Roy formed a committee of notable people of Winchester which included the Headmaster of Winchester College Charlotte Yonge and W C Streatfield

The Council started a subscription fund to raise money for the establishment of the school and opened Winchester High School for Girls on 5th May, 1884 with 17 pupils.

The aim of the school was to provide an education that developed the full capacity of every girl and enabled her to become a woman of independent thought.

Originally located in the city centre the school was at the forefront of the development of female education in the nineteenth century.

Its pioneering Headmistress and the unfailing determination of the school founders made St Swithun's internationally recognized and a model that other girls schools emulated.

The school moved to its current site in 1929, the plan for the school consisted of a large range of buildings round a quadrangle with all the buildings facing inward. It was designed to provide accommodation for 240 Boarders and 60 Day Girls.



"We are delighted with the look and quality of the new windows. They keep the look and feel of the original building intact and provide a significant improvement in the insulation and quality of the main building of our historic school"

Martyn Gamble
Bursar, St Swithun's School



The initial cost of the build was £50,000 which was raised from the sale of the original school and donations. In 1932 Mary, Princess Royal and Countess Harewood opened St Swithun's School.

In the second World War it was occupied by the armed forces the Royal Army Medical Corps and the American Medical Corps. The School buildings were turned into a military hospital and pupils and staff moved to the boarding houses on St Giles Hill.

The Schools contribution to the war effort was significant, everyone in the school joined the war savings group and contributed a regular amount each week. They knitted scarfs, socks, hats, stockings and pullovers and grew vegetables.

1984 marked the schools centenary and HRH The Princess Royal visited and opened the new sports hall.

In 2024 St Swithun's celebrates its 140th birthday and has a number of events planned to mark this significant milestone.

The vision of the school is to be a world-class girls' boarding and day school offering a complete education. To do that it provides outstanding pastoral care and teaching expertise to create in every individual student a unique tapestry of strengths and interests.

St Swithun's aims to develop resilient, enquiring and collaborative women. They will stand on their own two feet and pull others up to stand alongside them.