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Hickton Clerk of Works has completed its latest education project at the University of Teesside.

The company provided Building and Mechanical & Electrical Clerk of Works services on the university's new Centuria South development. The showpiece four-storey, 4200sq metre dental education facility and sports therapy complex provides a teaching and learning environment for a range of subjects including dental nursing and technology, dental hygiene and sports therapy

Hickton was commissioned by the University of Teesside to ensure that the work carried out on site met the very highest standards set by both itself and its architects. Clerks of Works are being commissioned by an increasing number of clients to act as their eye and ears, ensuring that work on site is carried out exactly as specified. This is an essential part of ensuring a long-term low maintenance facility along with compliance with ever more stringent building performance requirements. In the case of Centuria South, the building was awarded a BREEAM rating of 'Very Good' which, for example, was helped by the Hickton Building Clerk of Works ensuring adequate air tight seals and continuous insulation around the walls.

A mix of zinc cladding, through coloured render and brickwork façade to first floor levels were used on the external elevations. One of the main challenges faced by the Hickton Clerks of Works was working with the contractor to ensure that the new extension created a



seamless link with the existing School of Health & Social Care campus building. This meant achieving the same internal floor levels between the two buildings, with users of the completed building now often unaware when they pass from the existing to the new structure.

Installation of a 16m x 7m hydrotherapy pool had the potential to create an issue in terms of the schedule because it had to be assembled on site whilst other work was progressing. Hickton assisted the liaison between the pool installers and other contractors to ensure that assembly of the one metre panels could be done without causing any delays.. Assembly of the hydrotherapy pool itself was a difficult process as it had to be done to exacting tolerances within a tight concrete frame structure around the pool.

The hydrotherapy pool now allows students with an interest in sports therapy and rehabilitation techniques to carry out cutting edge, evidence based research using the underwater treadmills and video analysis features. The second set of challenges faced on the Centuria South building was presented by the dental suite. A total of 20 dental chairs and practice 'phantom heads', along with hi-tech computer equipment, all with identical layouts were required on the first floor and Hickton again ensured that this installation was carried out to the highest standards. During this work, and with all of the other activities on site, Hickton submitted regular reports to the client on progress, which made them aware of any potential issues before it affected the schedule

"We were very impressed with the professionalism of the Hickton Clerk of Works," said a spokesperson from the University of Teesside. "The fact that they were based on site throughout the project and supplied us regular updates gave us the confidence that the project was being completed to the highest standards."

The building was designed by CPMG architects and the main contractor was Morgan Sindall.