Project 450: College Aluminium Window Replacement

Client: East Kent College - Canterbury Campus

Programme: 5 Weeks

Construction Details:

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College Aluminium Window Replacement

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We were appointed as the glazing contractor for this college aluminium window replacement project. The brief was to deliver the replacement of aluminium windows in the Land Based Studies building at Canterbury College. The project formed part of EKC Group's wider estate improvement strategy, with a focus on enhancing energy efficiency, security, and the overall appearance of the campus.

The Challenge

The existing aluminium windows had exceeded their serviceable lifespan. Many of the opening lights had failed, and numerous double-glazed units were misted, significantly reducing thermal performance. As a result, the windows no longer met modern energy efficiency standards and detracted from the appearance of the building when compared with other facilities across the college campus.

In addition, historical subsidence had caused several window openings to fall out of level, presenting installation and alignment challenges that required careful remedial works.

The Solution

EKC Group elected to replace the original blue-framed aluminium windows with new grey-framed aluminium units, providing a more contemporary, commercial aesthetic in keeping with the surrounding campus buildings.

Top-hung opening windows were fitted with cam stay window openers, selected specifically for their suitability within an educational environment. The key benefits of cam stay openers include:

- **Safety and Security:** Cam stay openers restrict the opening to a controlled, limited gap, making them ideal for schools, colleges, hospitals, care homes, and office environments.
- **Controlled Ventilation:** They allow a consistent and fixed level of fresh air to enter the building without compromising occupant safety or security.
- **Durability and Low Maintenance:** Cam stays are robust, require minimal ongoing maintenance, and offer a cost-effective, long-term solution.

To address the existing structural issues, our team realigned external brickwork and internal reveals where required to ensure correct window installation. Internal redecoration was also completed around the new windows, delivering a fully finished solution.

The Outcome

The completed works have significantly transformed the appearance of the Land Based Studies building, bringing it visually in line with the rest of the Canterbury College campus. Enhanced locking mechanisms and safety glass have substantially improved window safety and security, providing reassurance for both staff and students.

Furthermore, the new aluminium window system delivers improved thermal performance. EKC Group will benefit from increased energy efficiency and reduced heating costs during the winter months, supporting both operational savings and sustainability objectives.

Conclusion

This project demonstrates a successful upgrade of ageing educational estate infrastructure, delivering long-term improvements in safety, performance, and aesthetics while overcoming complex installation challenges associated with historical building movement.

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