



Speech 23/7/14

Thank you Nigel, it has been an honour and a privilege to have lead the delivery of this project on behalf of the college. It falls on me to say something about the delivery of this outstanding facility, to say a few words of thanks to those who have helped create these amazing spaces and to explain from my perspective why what we are doing here is truly transformational before I hand back to you to ask you to pull the chord smoothly and efficiently.

Those of you that know me will know I'm a bit of a fan of numbers. So I thought I'd describe this building to you, and say our thanks, in numbers.

Starting from the biggest and ending with the smallest.

So let's begin with the money:

This is a £12million project overall - and we have delivered it within budget with enough funds set aside for reasonable post project adjustments.

The Corporation approved a 7.3million pound construction budget in July last year. We agreed the final account last week with Leadbitter at, yes you've guessed it, bang on £7.3million. I'd like to thank Paul, Colin and our Jacobs cost consulting team for helping us secure a contract that could so easily have been £9m rather than 7.3.

Next I'd like to thank our funding partners for each showing their faith in Fareham College's ability to deliver. To Hampshire County Council, to the Skills Funding Agency, to the DCLG's Regional Growth Fund and to the Solent LEP growing places fund we thank all for of you for your £3m contributions.

My next thank you is to Annie Lennox our landscape architect who has helped us carefully place 1,626,122 pebbles, 6,182m² of grass and wildflower meadow, 4,068 plants and bulbs. Too often landscaping on major projects is culled as part of value engineering. And whilst we did have to make some savings I'm sure you'll all agree that our CEMAST beach front creates a remarkable setting. I'm glad we were brave enough to create a little piece of Derek Jarman's Dungeness garden here on Daedalus.

This is a steel framed building and thanks go to Scott White & Hookins who are our structural engineers. I'm reliably informed we've used 150,000kg of steel with a total length of 5,500m of beams. Yes that's over 3 miles of structural steel. Mostly painted in RAL7012.

Today's buildings are not complete without a digital backbone. I'm no fan of conduit and am proud that we have delivered classrooms and conference rooms devoid of ugly plastic trunking. No one can say we have under provided data points. Indeed Marlin our M&E subcontractors have installed 40,000 metres of Cat5e Cabling. A massive thanks to our very own in house IT team too. Not only have we managed the AV install, PC and laptop roll out but, because we don't do things by half, we are also installing a new voice over IP phone system, a cashless vending and access system, 1gb Janet link and a brand new disaster recovery solution for the College too. We just need the road to be complete so BT can pull through both lines to help create our resilient wide area network. I will be thanking the HCA fulsomely once that job is done!

A few years ago the term Design & Build contract gave architects sleepless nights. Contractors referred to them as 'Design and Dump' contracts, often executed after the client had lost faith in the QS's cost plan. I have to say our experience of working with both Perkins Ogden and the Leadbitter team has been supremely positive. We have collaboratively developed the design and in

many instances improved the building specification as a result. For instance the 4,275 Strata tiles laid in this concourse are borrowed straight from Victoria station - a beautiful resilient product that will last for decades to come.

This building is just over 4,000m² in footprint and with 997m² of glazing creating a glorious shop window onto Broom Way we owe a huge thanks to Nick and the Perkins Ogden team for designing, without doubt, the best box in Hampshire. People often look suspiciously at Computer generated images. Well 146 architectural drawings later, this one looks even better in real life. Thank you! And thank you too to colleagues in Fareham Borough Council's planning committee and planning department for your support - you have demonstrated that Fareham is a borough where great things can 'get done'.

Part of the funding rationale for the works here was the clear business case that construction creates jobs. So let's talk jobs. We've had over 640 operatives working on this site and probably 3 times as many in all the supply chains. We've kept it local - architects, painters, main contractors and landscapers have all been Hampshire based. Not only have we helped create over 150 new full time jobs, the creation of CEMAST has been a catalyst to the Redevelopment of our main campus at Bishopsfield road where our £16m investment will create another 200 jobs and 120 much needed houses too.

Too often I've seen in educational buildings shiny new facilities with dull, uninspiring furniture. Not at CEMAST. I'm not allowed to disclose the discount rate we negotiated with Vitra but we are delighted with the impact of 239 Charles Eames Chairs in the concourse, LRC and IT drop in areas. And it's a big thank you to Peter Scott and Rachel Webb for managing the procurement and fit out process for us so smoothly.

This building has been designed to be a low energy well lit building. Early on in our design meetings we stripped out nearly £700k of unnecessary costs associated with elaborate and fancy building control systems. Our preference and solutions instead rely on generous openable windows, massive north lights in the workshops, wind catchers in the classrooms to bring in fresh air and oxygen in and underfloor heating in the concourse to help provide constant ambient temperatures. Overall we collected 56.5% Bream points and have installed 50m² of sun louvres making the building BREEAM very good. I'd like to thank Lewis and Rob from Leadbitter, the consultant team from RHB and our Jacobs M&E team lead by Roland for helping to deliver a building that works on the keep it simple stupid philosophy.

Now a major project like this doesn't happen on time and on budget by accident. Over the last 18 months we have had no fewer than 33 Client Project team meetings and a total, so far, of 487 action points. My heartfelt thanks to the woman who is our single handed project support office who has stood by me in good times and bad, Claire you've been brilliant and helped keep the rest of us on our toes throughout. I'd also like to thank Steve Dingsdale and all the engineering staff for your faith and confidence in us. It was quite an emotional day for me last Monday handing over the building to Steve. I couldn't have asked for a more supportive colleague to work with on this project - Steve I thank you.

This building has been constructed under the Hampshire IESE framework. And that means to get to practical completion we have had 5 Gateway Review Meetings. Tim Barton, you've been a robust steward of that process making sure we took each gateway and checked - were we all on board with the project assumptions? Could we move to the next stage with confidence? On time, on budget and on far more than speaking terms, the Gateways have proven a very useful process.

We are now firmly down to the single digits.

For my 3 I'd like to draw your attention to some design detail - look out for the cleverly designed 3 widths of zinc on the cladding of the pods and how that tryptic is repeated in the 3 widths of timber on our 6.8 m concourse ceiling.

For my 2 I'd like to introduce our not so low cost 2 Norman Foster Airline seats.

And so to our 1. The construction industry doesn't always get a great press. I've worked on projects where the client and contractor can barely face being in the same room. Well that's not the case here. To you Geoff, Chris and all of your Leadbitter Bouyugues Uk team I want to thank you for delivering 1 fantastically collaborative building contract. It's been a delight to work with you and we look forward to celebrating the delivery of BRC next September, 2015.

Now if you thought 1 was my last number I'm afraid your wrong. There is one more number we, and the whole construction and design team are even more proud of. No it's not the 103 miles an hour winds that dislodged the toilet block in December, no, it's our safety record on site. We may have had 3 or 4 grazed fingers but throughout our 45 weeks on site we have had Zero, yes **zero** reportable accidents. Now that certainly deserves a round of applause.

Before closing I'd just like to say a few words from my perspective why I believe what we are doing here at CEMAST and at Fareham College is truly transformational. When I was young boy I was in awe of my grandad. There was nothing he couldn't make from wood or from metal, or for that matter from seed and from soil. He met my grandmother whilst they were both working during the Second World War at the factory which later became the BOAC site where they made spitfires and many other planes that both Geoff Pepper and I, and I'm sure many of you, made into air fix model toys. Imagine my delight as a seven year old when I took into school a window from a plane that my grandad helped build. Not any old window but the smallest of openings that went into that great Anglo-Franco venture that was Concorde. Now something rather terrible has happened in the post war state education system. I heard with horror a young 17 year old argue on radio 4 3 weeks ago that we should bring back grammar schools so that the less academically able could specialise in manual work, and engineering in a new wave of secondary modern schools. Now I've been known in the past to say you can never have too many accountants. But the truth is you can. If the pinnacle of our education system is to produce lawyers and accountants then the future of our nation is doomed. A levels may remain the preferred route to the corridors of power that start in Eton and continue into Oxbridge: but be under no illusion the students who pass through our doors here will be some of the very best and brightest talent we have in Hampshire. Britain is a land of the great inventor, the problem solver and the master builder. Let no one believe that an advanced technical education is anything less than the pinnacle of educational achievement: inclusive, practical, vocational - yes to all 3. But secondary, never. My grandad would be proud of what we've built here - and for that I'm deeply grateful to everyone in this room and beyond who has helped make this dream a remarkable reality.

So Nigel it just falls on me, finally, to ask you to pull the chord and declare this building practically complete and ready for learners in late August. Thank you.

Peter Marsh
23/7/14