

Sacred Heart Catholic High School The Rose Auditorium M&E Case Study



Sacred Heart Catholic High School, Fenham, Newcastle, New Auditorium

Sacred Heart School is a predominantly all girls high school in Fenham. The school is well established and recognized as an academic centre of excellence in the teaching of Performing Arts.

We initially were involved with the client on this site in 2012, when we were M & E design consultants for a new Dance Studio extension. The client requested our services to join the design team when considering the refurbishment of the existing hall to provide a new Auditorium for the school.

Design works started in early 2017, with the challenge of how to service and accommodate the new auditorium into the existing hall. The original building was opened in 1964, so the existing structure and building is in excess of 50 years old. As expected there were no drawings or records of the existing building structure, so significant site investigation works were required to find the right solution, resulting in major structural works to facilitate the new auditorium and stage.

Tiered seating was introduced to improve visibility during performances, and the auditorium can accommodate upto 400 pupils during a performance.



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The hall is ventilated and conditioned via packaged roof mounted air handling unit. The unit incorporates heat recovery and reverse cycle heat pump technology to minimise energy consumption when in performance use.

Stage Electrics were employed to provide and install the specialist lighting, audio visual and stage equipment. Sine worked alongside Stage Electrics to ensure the required power supply, data, cableways and containment were provided to suit their requirements.

We also assisted with general co-ordination of all other services associated with the auditorium including, stage lighting, curtains, lighting rigs/supports, acoustic ceilings, as well as all other M & E services installations.



The construction of the tiered seating provided additional space which has been transformed to a circulation and meeting area, this room has been named 'The Undercroft', and is used for students and visitors to congregate pre and post performances, and includes a refreshments bar and seating area, and is a welcome addition to the facility.

The project was completed in April 2018, much to the delight of the school and albeit one term later than envisaged considered, a great success and achievement for all those involved.