

£1-MILLION *refurbishment*

What does a £1-million school kitchen look like? Chartwells commissioned Catering Design Group to build one for leading independent school Millfield.

Catering Design Group (CDG) has completed a transformation of the catering facilities at Millfield, where the brief was to design, install and completely refurbish the catering facilities for students aged 13–18, staff and parents, plus the use of the facilities out of school hours for social engagements and meetings.

Millfield, one of the UK's leading independent schools for boys and girls aged two to 18, wanted the facilities to be able to cope with large volumes at peak times – 1,000 meals during the 45-minute breakfast service and 1,450 meals over the two-hour lunchtime service.

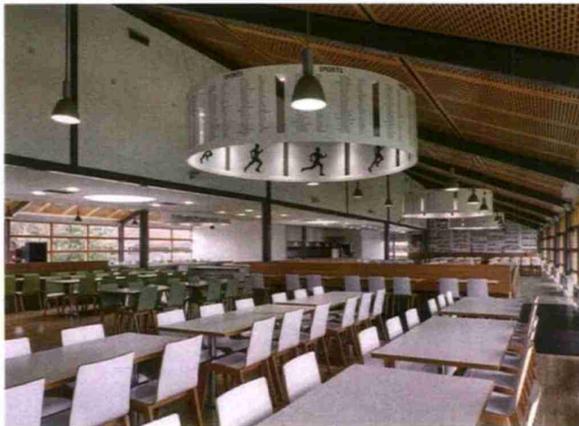
The school, which was established in 1935, said it wanted the catering facilities to showcase and celebrate its rich academic, cultural and sporting heritage while delivering an individual and contemporary dining experience.

For Chartwells, the brief was to deliver an efficient and flexible catering facility that would showcase the quality and breadth of the food on offer while delivering a 'great customer experience'.

A key part of the brief was to make queuing systems and customer flow as efficient as possible within the servery and dining areas.

The layout and the route through the space were reconfigured, creating separate zones to improve the customer journey and increase operational efficiency.

A servery was introduced with new features such as a theatre station to celebrate international cuisine, a grab-and-go area and a bakery counter, together with counters to serve hot food, salads and deli options, and an eye-catching beverage station.



To improve speed of service, the counters were mirrored on either side of the bakery. A state-of-the-art bespoke dishwasher was installed that has the ability to process up to 19 trays a minute.

Millfield was sent to three separate designers, and CDG secured the contract because it correctly interpreted our brief and gave us confidence in not only its delivery on the design elements of the project

“The brief was to deliver an efficient and flexible catering facility that would showcase the quality and breadth of the food on offer.”

The design echoes the school colours, while feature drum lights were designed and commissioned that house the school's roll of honour highlighting and celebrating the achievements of former pupils.

A vibrant focal point has been created using a bespoke wall covering featuring Olympic host cities.

Rohan Slabbert, general manager at Chartwells, said: “The brief for

but also its execution with the management of the whole project.”

Philip Howard, managing director of CDG, said: “Millfield was our largest project to date, presenting many technical, operational and design challenges.

“We're of course especially proud that Chartwells has nominated Millfield as their flagship site within the education sector.” ■