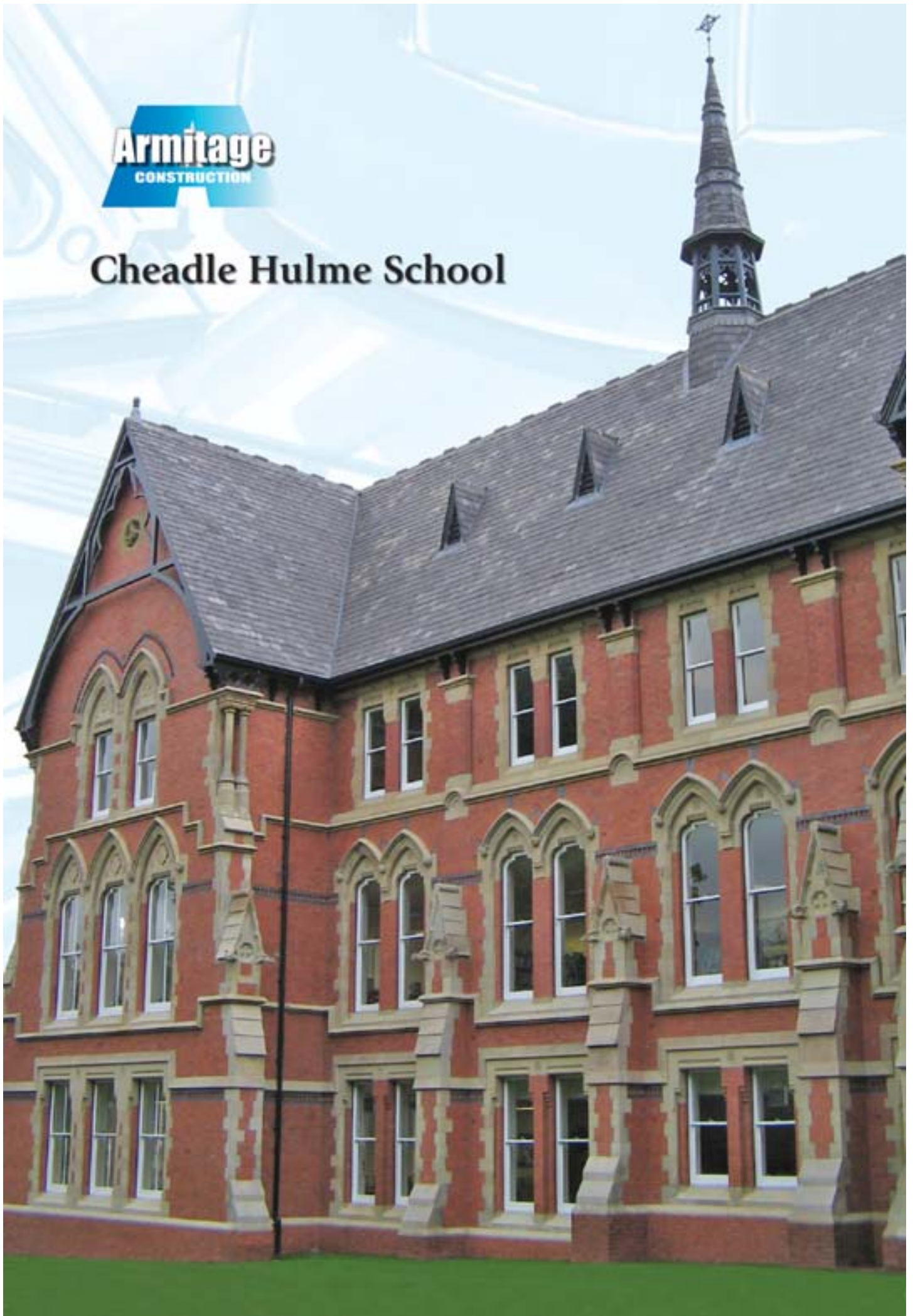


The logo for Armitage Construction, featuring the word "Armitage" in a bold, white, sans-serif font above the word "CONSTRUCTION" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, all contained within a blue, stylized shape that resembles a letter 'A' or a construction element.

Armitage
CONSTRUCTION

Cheadle Hulme School





Construction and re-development work within the education sector is not something new for Armitage Construction. A long list of contracts can be quoted in this area of expertise and the company has developed an enviable reputation for excellence. What is of particular interest on this project is the requirement to link the general construction skills usually associated with a school project with the extensive experience enjoyed by the company in the field of specialist renovation and refurbishment.



Even before the construction work fully started on the prestigious Cheadle School project, Armitage Construction was featured in newspaper and TV coverage for their actions at the site. Understanding the importance and value of related antiquities when working on projects such as this, two employees unearthed a small brown leather wallet dating from 1872 beneath the floorboards of the former boys dormitory, owned by a William Ellis, who was one of the first foundation pupils to attend the school. It contained a number of articles of historical interest including a gold ring, photographs and an old 4d stamp. The press interest complimented the various celebrations linked to the 150year anniversary of the school and helped further highlight the extensive construction and renovation work being carried out.



The external restoration comprised the removal of a hipped roof structure and replacement with a new single-pitch roof version to create a new corridor and storerooms, which were lit by conservation roof lights. Cleaning and pointing of brick and stonework elevations, together with repair or replacement where necessary complimented the maintenance and repair to all woodwork and window frames.

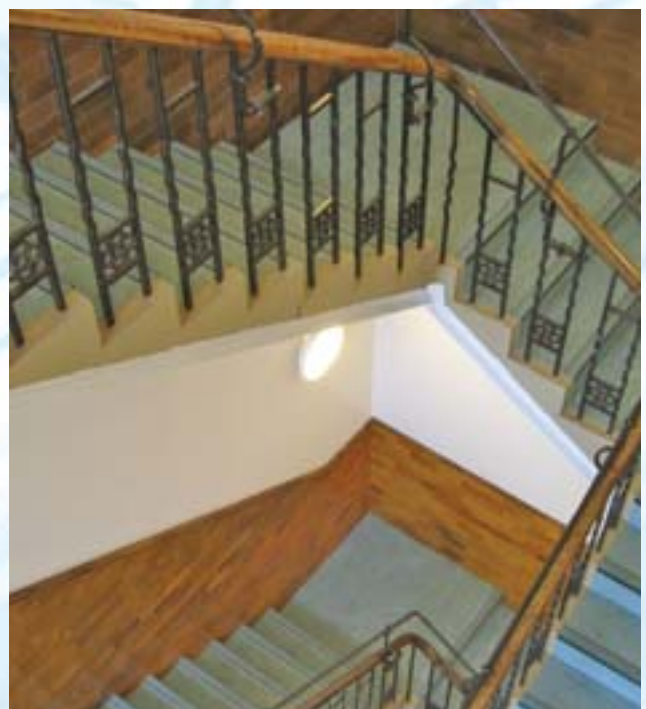




One of the most obvious signs of redevelopment can be seen through the refurbishment of the upper storey of the north wing of the main building. Re-roofing and the reconfiguration of part of the roof were required, including the full renovation of the external facades. This included the replacement of gable features, finials, gutters and lead-works and the removal of an existing feature tower followed by the construction and installation of a new roof spire version, plus the installation of a lightning conductor system. All this work enabled the new developments to compliment and blend seamlessly to the existing school buildings.



Other works included the redevelopment of the library staircase through the strengthening of timber flight and modification to handrail and balustrade. Construction of new sound barrier partitions, insulated ceilings and suspended ceilings were also carried out. New toilet facilities were added and the extensive installation of new doors, frames and glazed screens, together with the removal of defective plasterwork and re-plastering and new electrical and mechanical installations throughout creating a complete new floor of classrooms.





Aside from the better functionality delivered by the refurbishment work, pupils now have a better environment in which to work. Examples of this can be demonstrated through comfort cooling being installed to compensate

for the heat generated by the significant number of computers in the IT department and floors throughout the buildings being acoustically treated to reduce peripheral noise. All this has been topped off with a new pentagon courtyard, which forms an attractive leisure link to the existing school.

Given the significant changes to the building required within the plans much of the structural work goes unnoticed, although it is fair to say that the building now not only looks better, but the school is also able to take better advantage of the space offered.



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