

Title: Bertha Park Secondary School
Client: Perth and Kinross Council
Location: Perth



Project team:

- hub East Central Scotland
- Robertson Capital Projects
- Robertson Construction Tayside
- NORR
- TUV SUD
- Goodson
- FES/FES FM
- Johnston Houston
- Thomas and Adamson
- Perth and Kinross Council

Secondary School, including Special Needs facilities for 1100 pupils, externally full-size grass football pitch, 4G artificial pitch and a MUGA (Multi-use games area). An external energy centre serves the building and has been designed to support the proposed 2 stream primary school and early years facilities planned to create an all through campus in the future. This advanced planning by Perth and Kinross Council is to cope with the growing demand as the adjacent residential area develops.

"There was nobody to tell us 'you can't do things like that here,' because there was no 'here' before. We started with a blank canvas, so we could really challenge the norm."

"It has been a real once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

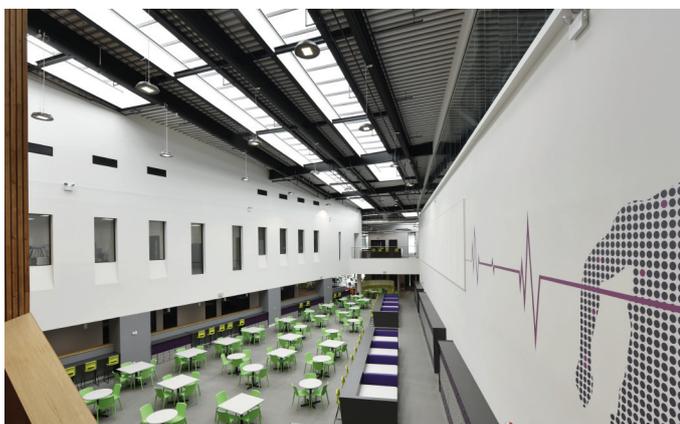
Stuart Clyde Head Teacher

Key statistics

- **VALUE:** £32.5m DBFM Contract
- **COMPLETION DATE:** August 2019
- **CONTRACT DATES:** 29.09.2017 – 15.07.2019
- **TOTAL USERS/RESIDENTS:** 1100 children
- **REPLACEMENT DETAILS:** First new school in Scotland under Scottish Governments "Schools for the Future" in over 30 years.
- **LOCAL EMPLOYEES:** 134 of 168

Community involvement

- Engagement with local schools and community all through design and construction periods.
- Work Placements – 24
- Apprentices – 17
- Subcontractors operatives upskilled – 24
- Subcontractor management training - 16
- 85% delivered by SME's
- 69% of which local SME's



Project information

The new £32.5m Bertha Park High School is located on the northern outskirts of Perth, sitting in the heart of a new community being developed. Bertha Park secondary school is quite unique in that it is the first entirely new school in Scotland for over 30 years, not replacing an existing one. Part of the Scottish Government's Schools for the Future programme, Bertha Park can accommodate up to 1,100 pupils, including 35 ASN pupils — with just over 200 S1 and S2 pupils due to attend the school in August 2019.

Construction work began in September 2017, with Robertson Construction Tayside building state-of-the-art facilities, including a sports hall, gym; full size grass and synthetic football pitches as well as a multi-use games area.

USP's

Technology lies at the heart of Bertha Park, which is one of only 17 schools across the globe — and the only one in the UK — selected as part of the Microsoft Flagship Schools programme. The US giant is providing their expertise to the school, advising on how to make the most of technology to improve the learning experience for pupils and give staff increased flexibility with delivering the curriculum.

Key Challenges

With this being a brand new school Perth and Kinross Council took the decision to push the traditional teaching boundaries,

opting for a digitally centric learning environment. Every learner has been provided with an iPad as their learning device, which limits the need to use paper resources. Each department has green painted walls, allowing the children to use their device to drop in any class subject matter and create unique learning opportunities. Significant time was spent considering how to deliver this digital learning experience with extremely robust wifi installed throughout the school capable of delivering excellent service to all building users.

Mid way through construction the adjacent residential developer advised they were experiencing difficulties with the Public Utility Infrastructure providers and that there would be a delay to all live service installations to our building, for which they were responsible. Through excellent collaboration between Perth and Kinross Council, our T1 Contractor Robertson Construction and their M&E Subcontractor Forth Electrical Services, we developed a mitigation strategy that protected the July 19 handover date, an excellent outcome considering we had a 6 month utility delay to contend with.

Being a brand new school significant thought had to go into the project to deal with the small number of pupils occupying the building from day one, together with the need for seamless annual growth over a 5 year period as new first years arrive until the school has it's full compliment.