

Project:

Wellington Academy

Location:

Tidworth, Wiltshire

Flooring Contractor:

Gollop Flooring Ltd, Bristol

Flooring Material:

Nuway Tuftiguard, Marmoleum real and fresco, Tessera barcode

Design Reference:

Nuway Tuftiguard HD Classic, Marmoleum real 3139 lava and 3219 spa, Marmoleum fresco 3871 silver birch, Tessera Barcode 314 timeline



Forbo's entrance matting is top of the class for school design

An exemplar for sustainability and design, the innovative Wellington Academy, in Tidworth, Wiltshire, has raised the bar in terms of school building. With hundreds of pupils, teachers and community members passing through its corridors every day, footbourne dirt and moisture was a real concern – therefore a durable and highly absorbent entrance matting system was required.

In addition, the academy and the architects, BDP, were keen that both the building and the products specified within it were as environmentally friendly as possible. With its extremely tough construction and BREEAM certification, Forbo Flooring System's Nuway Tuftiguard entrance matting provided the perfect solution to these requirements.

Conceived as a learning hub for the entire community, the new £32m campus boasts a range of facilities including a 300-seat theatre, fitness suite, sports hall and one boarding house with space for 100 students. With such a high footfall, the academy required an entrance matting solution that would not only protect the rest of the flooring from damage by dirt and grit walked in on students' shoes, but would also remove moisture in order to prevent slip hazards – a key consideration in all publicly accessed buildings.

Forbo's Nuway Tuftiguard is constructed with a heavy pile double wiper strip and unique scraper bar design, which enables it to remove and retain the majority of footbourne soil and moisture. Made from 100% recycled aluminium, the scraper bars are also completely recyclable at the end of their lifetime. Furthermore, as Tuftiguard can withstand static loads of up to 900kg/cm² and has a level surface for ease of movement, it can easily cope with wheeled vehicles such as delivery trolleys or sports equipment, making it ideal for the busy academy.

Tasked with sourcing the entrance system, Bernard Hawker, Contract Manager at flooring contractors Gollop Flooring Ltd, from Bristol recommended Forbo's Nuway Tuftiguard without hesitation, as he knew he could rely on the product's performance, as well as on the level of service he could expect from Forbo. Taking charge of the planning process, Forbo completed all of the measuring and design of the matting installation, freeing Bernard up to concentrate on the rest of the contract.

"We use Forbo all the time, because we know they will deliver high quality products and an excellent service," Bernard comments. "The fact that they will measure and design the entrance system for you is also a bonus, as it gives complete peace of mind that the system will fit first time and without fuss. Accuracy is so important and, as Forbo know their own products better than anybody, it makes the whole installation much easier knowing it has been properly planned out by the product experts."

As well as the entrance system, Gollop Flooring installed 2,100m² of Forbo's Marmoleum from the Real and Fresco collections and 654m² of Tessera Barcode carpet tiles, both of which were specified by architects BDP. One of the most truly sustainable building products available, Marmoleum, Forbo's branded linoleum product, is made from 97% natural raw materials, 70% of which are rapidly renewable, and has a recycled content of 40% - making it a perfect match for the environmental aims of the academy.

Kevin O'Connell, Premises Manager at the Wellington Academy, comments: "We are really happy with the flooring throughout the new building and particularly with the entrance matting systems. Not only will they help keep the rest of the flooring looking fresh, they will reduce the amount of cleaning needed and will minimise the risk of slips and falls."

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