



Your Entertainment Lighting Specialist



CASE STUDY  
The Leys School Great Hall

# Flexible New Spaces for The Leys School



The Great Hall

## KEY INFORMATION

- **THE CLIENT**  
The Leys School, Cambridge
- **PROJECT TIMELINE**  
Planning: 12 Months  
Installation: 6 Weeks on-site
- **BRIEF**  
Deliver flexible lighting, power, and control systems for brand new construction of the Leys School Great Hall, including a theatre, drama studio, art gallery, classrooms, and public spaces.
- **ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS**  
State of the Art, Energy Efficient, Multi-Use
- **VENUE SPACES**  
337-seat Theatre  
120 m<sup>2</sup> Drama Studio  
100 m<sup>2</sup> Dance Studio  
Technical Facilities  
Drama Department with 3 Classrooms  
Art Gallery Space  
Coffee Bar & Social Areas

With outdated 1960's architecture and facilities in need of major repairs, The Leys School in Cambridge, one of England's premier independent schools, embarked on its latest development project to replace its existing theatre structure with a newly constructed Great Hall. The purpose-built venue includes new performance spaces, social areas, and educational classrooms designed with the high standard of excellence that appears throughout the Leys School campus.

On the project, White Light was tasked with supplying the new venue with systems for lighting and sound, including power distribution, data distribution, control consoles, and facility panels. The team from White Light, headed up by Project Manager Tony Coates, worked with architects Bland, Brown, and Cole, and theatre consultants Charcoalblue to complete the venue for the start of the 2013 school year. From The Leys, outgoing Headmaster Mark Slater detailed the project's vision while Austin Jessop served as Project Manager.

Teachers and staff from the Leys were involved at every level of the project, helping determine key features, essential for the venue's everyday functions. For the school's new theatre spaces, Theatre Manager Paul Durose was able to detail hanging products and system layouts based on how the space would eventually be used.



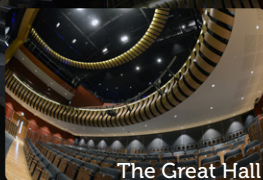
# Delivering Form and Function



Dance Studio



Cafe Area



The Great Hall



The Great Hall

## STATE OF THE ART

The three new performance spaces were specified to the highest professional standard. This provides students with a quality learning experience and ensures that facilities are up to the grade for visiting professionals. White Light installed 49 custom-built facility panels from Doughty Engineering, a Unison system with touch screen house light control from Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC), and theatrical control consoles, also from ETC, all on par with professional theatres across the UK and around the world.

## ENERGY EFFICIENT

For optimum energy efficiency, White Light installed more than 200 high-quality, low impact overhead and backstage LED units from UK manufacturer GDS. LED light sources are more energy efficient, produce less heat, and have a significantly greater lamp life than traditional tungsten sources. Dimmable white sources provide bright, even lighting for the auditorium and public spaces while dimmable blue LEDs in backstage areas offer safe, visible lighting without interfering with performances.

## MULTI-PURPOSE

The Great Hall brings together social areas, performance venues, and new kinds of teaching spaces. To achieve this, White Light installed custom lighting, electrical, and control systems throughout that allow for increased versatility. Multi-purpose LED house lighting allows for the main theatre space to function as an all-school auditorium, performance venue, and examination hall while ladder-free access to technical areas accommodates both staff and students, turning these spaces into hands-on learning areas.

## REACTION

“The Leys Great Hall is an inspiring space for pupils, students, and visitors. White Light was instrumental in delivering on the promises of this project and the results have far surpassed our expectations.”

Austin Jessop, Project Manager  
The Leys School



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Photography by Philip Reeson

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