



Meet our Independent School Team

Our team has worked with many Independent schools delivering inspiring educational building projects. Their depth of knowledge provides significant added value to our clients and spans across a wide range of school building uses. We are passionate about offering our Independent school clients a partner led service that focuses on fostering strong proactive relationships.



Our Independent School Team

Our team's approach is rooted in our philosophy to continually set the very highest standards, with quality at the heart of everything we do. Our goal is to always deliver the very best outcomes for our school client's projects and excellence in service.

Robert Buckley

Partner - Cost Consultant and Independent School Lead

Robert has over 30 years in the construction industry and leads Synergy's Independent Education Team. Robert has significant expertise in the sector and has provided quantity surveying services for a number of prestigious schools including Cranleigh School, Tonbridge School, Bradfield College and Worth School amongst many others. He has experience of a wide range of buildings including science buildings, new junior schools, libraries, multi-purpose halls, PAC's, sports and media centres, boarding houses, academic centres, design and technology schools as well as providing comprehensive cost advice on Masterplans. His recent projects include Worth School's new sixth form centre and Cokethorpe School's new changing pavilion and science centre.

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Duncan Ball

Managing Partner - Cost Consultant

Duncan is Managing Partner and has 30 years' experience in the construction industry. In addition to his experience in the education sector he has gained vast experience in the conservation, restoration and refurbishment of historic buildings, ranging from cathedrals, country houses and town houses to humble cottages. Duncan's impressive client list includes Bath Abbey, Salisbury Cathedral School, Blundell's School, Bloxham School, Marlborough College and St Paul's Cathedral to name but a few. Duncan also lectures on costs and contracts for the Master of Science degree course in the Conservation of Historic Buildings at Bath University and also to the delegates on the RICS Conservation Summer School.

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Paul Grinham

Partner - Project Manager

Paul is responsible for overseeing the Project Management department at Synergy. He has over 30 years' experience in the construction industry. Paul is a Partner of the practice and specialises in projects within school campuses, heritage projects and on mixed or multi use developments both within the public and private sector. He understands the challenges posed by carrying out work on live school campuses. His Independent School client list includes Tonbridge School, Sevenoaks School, Claire's Court School, Arts Educational School and Kings College School amongst many others. He is also a specialist in the heritage sector including listed buildings, scheduled monuments and historic royal palaces. He most recently oversaw the Footprint Project at Bath Abbey.

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Jon Cook

Partner - Cost Consultant

Jon became a Partner in 2003. He has worked with Independent Schools for the last 20 years. He has an outstanding reputation in this sector and has forged trusted relationships with some of Synergy's most loyal clients. His recent projects include Ryde Schools new boarding accommodation, Walthamstow Hall School's sixth form and science extension, Claremont Fan Court School's Science and Technology Building, Felsted School's new teaching and learning innovation centre, Cranleigh Schools Academic Centre and Luckley House School's Whitty Theatre.

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Declan Gleeson

Partner - Building Surveyor

Declan is a Chartered Building Surveyor and has been with Synergy Construction and Property Consultants LLP since 2002. Declan works closely with a variety of schools, such as overseeing extension and refurbishment projects from conception to completion to performing Planned Preventative Maintenance Surveys. He assists schools with all stages of projects from feasibility/scheme proposals to detailed designing and statutory approvals including building regulations and planning. His Independent School client list includes St Columba's College, Kings College Wimbledon, Luckley House School and Bradfield College to name a few.

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