



## St John's College – Kitchens

St John's College had their kitchen refurbished in 1986 at a cost of £250,000 but it had never achieved successful performance. When the decision to reassess their facility was taken in 1992, RH Partnership who had completed Trinity College kitchen were invited to submit proposals for architectural services. RPA were involved at the time in the re-design of the College's 1.5MW Boiler House and were appointed as services consultant.

The kitchen is housed on the ground floor of the Grade I listed Tudor college court building. Restrictions on alterations to structural and visual aspects were therefore of prime consideration.

The refurbishment required complete re-design of the kitchen and its equipment layouts, with £200,000 of new equipment incorporated. This demanded a lengthy pre-design period including the College catering consultants and design team to achieve the optimum solution within a very confined area. During this period RPA carried out a first aid exercise on the existing plant to improve performance while the planning continued.

The final design incorporates capture principle induction canopies over main cooking islands, with mechanical cooling to supply air systems. It is still regarded as a benchmark for college kitchen design in Cambridge.

Co-ordination of each service element with other existing and new services, architecture and structure has been a critical aspect of the design. This with the need to satisfy listed building consent as well as technical performance criteria resulted in the production of thirty engineering services drawing.

