

CASE STUDY: Pembroke College, Cambridge University



"...energy saving and reduction of carbon footprint, while ensuring people are comfortable in their rooms"

Robert Griggs, Building Manager.

21st century technology in 14th century college

- Traditional hot water filled radiator system
- Bespoke Brass fittings to complement existing hardware
- Independent control over individual rooms

When Building Manager Robert Griggs took up the post at Pembroke College, Cambridge, it soon became

obvious to him that the college accommodation was under-heated and inefficient and that the old pipework and plant room wasn't coping with the demands of 21st century student accommodation.

Control of temperature is one way to cut energy costs but Robert is convinced that heating rooms only when they are occupied, is a far more effective way to ensure comfort AND cut costs. "There are two elements to this for me," he said, "one is energy saving and reducing our carbon footprint, but the other thing is to ensure that people are comfortable in their rooms. We have students from all over the world coming here, so the fact that the students now feel they are in control of the temperature in their room is very important, and yet, we are saving more energy than we would if we were using thermostatic radiator valve. Now heating is only actually on when students are in their room. The fact that they can turn it up when they come in means they feel in control, but the significant thing for me, is that it's not been on when they are out – or only at a very low level."

Prefectirus monitors a room's temperature and occupancy and if it is vacant for a period of time the heating is reduced

automatically."The system sets back to a predetermined temperature - previously that was probably the maximum temperature we ever achieved in those rooms!" he says. When the occupier returns they can adjust the temperature to their desired level or the system will automatically raise temperatures. This monitoring of occupancy helps managers to measure energy usage over a period of time and ultimately this will help to negotiate better deals with energy providers.

Prefectirus is not only unique in the way the software monitors individual rooms, the specification for the hardware can also be individualised - In the public areas at Pembroke College where Prefectirus has been fitted, bespoke brass fronted movement detectors and thermostats have been manufactured to be in keeping with the historic style of the building.

The mains borne signaling operation for Prefectirus also makes it ideal for these situations. Robert was particularly impressed with how the Prefect team performed, "The Installation went very well, I spent quite a lot of time with the guys who were working on site because these are not just standard rooms and the rooms on the staircase are a combination of oak paneling and plaster finish. The mains borne signaling is a neat idea and arguably requires less wiring. We looked very carefully to identify the wiring routes and how we could hide as much as possible. They followed the plan and came up with their own ideas that we discussed as well, so the installation went very well".



Cleverly simple
control of energy.