



MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Students move in to new East Surrey College building**

Wates Construction has handed over the main building of the new East Surrey College Gatton Point North campus allowing students to start using the new state of the art facilities.

Chris Long, Director of Communications and Capital Build for East Surrey College commented, "This is an exciting step in the development of the College. Students have been in temporary facilities with work taking place around them since 2008 and will now be able to start to access the new building. We are confident the new facilities combined with the open plan design will provide an environment for students to really flourish."

The main feature of the building is its impressive main atrium, with its open space, planted trees and light entering in from all angles. Acoustic features have also been installed in the ceiling to ensure there is no echoing.

The new college facilities will include outstanding resources in a wide range of vocational areas including motor vehicle and engineering, construction, hair and beauty therapy, business administration and ICT, travel and tourism, health and social care, child care and public services. As well as incorporating the first class facilities of the Reigate School of Art, Design and Media, it will also house a sports hall and a two storey learning resource centre.

Nick Dwyer, Project Manager, Wates added, "This is the first step in being able to hand over the entire site to the college. We are proud to be able to handover the main building on time and on budget, allowing students to access the facilities as soon as possible. We will now be concentrating on the remainder of the works including the landscaping and refurbishment of old buildings and look forward to the college's completion."

In addition to East Surrey College, Wates Construction are involved in a number of school building and refurbishment projects across the UK and have also recently won a project in Abu Dhabi to build a flagship 1500 place secondary school for Aldar Academies. East Surrey College further demonstrates their expertise in the education sector to deliver school builds on time and on budget.

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## Notes to Editors

Wates is one of the UK's largest family-owned construction services and development companies. Established in 1897, it remains privately owned by the Wates Family. Wates employs over 2000 people and had a turnover of £945 million in 2009.

The company works across a range of sectors, including education, prisons, affordable housing, retail fit out and refurbishment, office interiors, land development and commercial buildings.

Wates has three areas of Corporate Responsibility focus: to reduce the impact of CO2 emissions from our activities; Target Zero of eliminating all non-hazardous waste to landfill by 2010; and boosting skills and employability in areas of most need. Wates was awarded Gold status in the Business in the Community Responsible Business index in 2009.

Safety is a top priority within the Wates Group, and the excellent safety record has resulted in RoSPA Gold Awards for Occupational Safety and the British Safety Council Awards for the past seven years.

Wates was recognised externally in a variety of ways during the year including:

Major Contractor of the Year by Building Magazine  
RoSPA gold medal for safety and health for the seventh year in succession  
Housing Excellence and Sustainable Contractor of the Year awards  
Two CIOB gold awards for Construction Manager of the Year

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