

CASE STUDY

Social Distancing Canopies and Shade Sails

Cardinal Newman College in Preston contacted Zenith for canopies to cover a new social space area for their students to use for outdoor eating and as a focal meeting place near the reception entrance. After Craig Gilbert of Zenith carried out a site survey the College selected Zenith's unique Vela 150 Sail Shade system.

The College already boasts stunning grounds but with added pressure on circulation space due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the extra outdoor covered space allows students to maintain social distancing throughout the year.

College Principal, Nick Burnham and his senior leadership team, ably assisted with design by Land Studio, an architectural design and planning company from Chester, selected Zenith's Vela 150 shade sails because of their unique design and the robust quality of the structures.

The College selected 4 x 5m x 5m Vela 150 sails joined together with canopies in RAL 7035 light grey and steel frames powder coated in RAL 7037 mid grey, providing a covered area of 10 metres x 10 metres. Composite decking was installed beneath with benches and pods produced from recycled materials.

Nick said "the covered outdoor seating area has proved very popular so far with the students, as it provides great shelter in unpredictable weather. We look forward to warmer months, where I am sure we will get more use out of the covered seating. The canopies and seating fits well into the surroundings and compliments our grounds".

The Vela 150 sails can be used all year as they have been manufactured to UK Building Regulations for wind and snow loadings so they don't have to be removed during the winter months. The Sail canopies are fitted within the steel beam framework. The beams act as integral gutters whereby rainwater runs off the canopies into the beams and down through the shorter leg columns.

The Vela 150 system is ideal for clients looking for the style and shape of a shade sail whilst benefitting from the added strength of the framework that, unlike most sails, it's attached to the canopy all the way around its perimeter, preventing canopy sagging or wind damage.

The structure is manufactured from a powder coated steel framework that works as an integral gutter system whilst the canopy is made from PVDF coated PVC that is fully waterproof and UV resistant.

The Vela 150 is available in sizes from 4m x 4m to 6m x 6m and being modular, has endless add on capacity.

