

Winchester College Treasury 2016



Winchester College has recently converted a grade 1 listed medieval stable building to provide a permanent home for its art and archaeology collections. The aim of the project was to provide improved access to the collections for the school community and to make them available to a much wider audience by opening them regularly to the public for the first time.

The Treasury opened in October 2016 after a fourteen-month conversion. The historic nature of the listed building fabric provided a number of challenges. Ian Clark Restoration played a vital role in the integration of the collections into the building. The School owns a number of large plaster cast panels from the Parthenon frieze that were required to be hung along the entire length of the building above some of the showcases. This was a complex process requiring an engineering solution in addition to an awareness of the appropriate mounting for individual objects. Several contractors were asked to submit a plan but none were able to provide a suitable solution.

Ian was able to manage these complexities. He expertly and confidently designed a hanging system that was adjustable in both the vertical and horizontal plane to ensure the casts were hung evenly and at a regular depth off the wall despite the wall of the building leaning outwards by varying degrees at either end.

Ian worked closely with us as a client team always ensuring good communication. His dedication to detail and quality of finish was astounding and as both an engineer and conservator he is a perfectionist. The time frame to complete the initial hang was extremely tight and Ian and his team worked extended hours to ensure the job was completed on time. The casts provide a classical backdrop to the entire museum and thanks to Ian's inspired solution they integrate beautifully with the historic building fabric. We are delighted with the outcome.

Rachel Wragg
Curator Winchester College Treasury