

Academy unveils new centre for engineering classes

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The next generation of engineers could come from a Worle secondary school, which has just opened a new suite dedicated to the subject.

Priory Community School, in Queensway, has opened its new Haley Suite, which gives students access to engineering and computing equipment.

The suite has with 3D printers, a laser cutter and designing software, which can be used in design and engineering lessons.

The centre was named after William Haley, the owner of Haley Engineering, which was the company which rebuilt the Grand Pier after it burned down.

It is the second major project to open at Priory this year, as the £2.5million Spencer Science Centre was completed in the autumn.

Priory principal Jane McBride said: "We are so delighted to have brilliant students and staff, and also such outstanding facilities.

"The Haley Suite is the latest addition which will be very well used."

All year groups will be able to use the dedicated design software



Bill Haley and Shaun Durkin (centre) from William Haley Engineering Ltd with pupils Reece, Lara, Joe, Olivia, Alex and Kayleigh, Christian Blackmore-Wynn of Design and Technology and Principal Jane McBride.

to enhance their work.

Several after-school activities will also take place in the suite, including a girls engineering club.

The UK's engineering industry is facing a skills shortage, and it is estimated 1.8 million new engineers and technicians will be needed by 2025.

There is a also national shortage in the number of students learning STEM subjects,

which are science, technology, engineering and maths.

However, Priory's science centre gives students the chance to use a hi-tech plant centre, which is the first of its kind in UK school.

The hydroponic system, removes soil from the growing process so the plants grow big and reach maturity more quickly. The same technique is used on voyages in space.