

Science Laboratory Layout Options

Pros and Cons

Ideal for schools who want a more traditional design



Balcarras Academy



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Traditional Rows:

“Chalk and Talk”

Pros:

All students face the board/teacher

More disciplined approach

Easy access to services

Neat and tidy

Efficient use of space

Cons:

No flexibility

Restricts collaborative teaching

Poor circulation

deal for
schools
with
larger
classes



Cheltenham College



Trent College

Cranked Island Benching:

Pros:

All students face the front

Easy access to services

Neat and tidy

Modern variation on traditional straight row benching

Better circulation when a central gangway is specified

Cons:

No flexibility

Does not facilitate group work

Requires a larger floor area than 'traditional' rows

deal for
schools
with
limited
space

Service Bollards With Loose Tables:



Featherstone Academy

Pros:

Flexibility to reconfigure room to allow for group or theory work

Allows easy access to services

Encourages group work if tables arranged around bollards

Cons:

Movement of tables can be noisy/disruptive and can damage the floor

Time consuming to move tables around

Some students can have backs to the board



Callywith College

deal for schools with limited space and budget



The Redhill Academy



The Redhill Academy

Fixed Peninsular Islands:

Pros:

Good option for delivering practical & theory lessons when space is limited

One walkway through the centre of the room so good use of space

All services are within the footprint of the furniture so no need to bring services through the floor into the centre of the room

All students face the board/teacher

Cons:

Poor circulation

Does not facilitate group practical work

Some students have limited access to services

ldeal for
schools
with a
limited
budget

Serviced Perimeter Benching With Loose Tables:

Pros:

Tables can be re-configured to have all students facing forwards or clustered together for group work

Services are out of reach during theory lessons

Cost effective/multi use room

Cons:

No central services for group work

Students have back to teacher when using services

Movement of tables can be noisy/disruptive and can damage the floor

Lots of perimeter benching required to service full class sizes





Learning Curves:

Pros:

Good circulation space

Easy access to services

Flexibility of teaching styles enables child centred learning

Good line of sight to whiteboard

Modern and aesthetically pleasing

Promotes collaborative teaching

Most students face the front

Cons:

Some students sit sideways on to the teacher when addressing the whole class

Requires a large floor area

Doesn't suit all teaching styles

Ideal for
group
practical
work

Separate Practical and Theory Area:

Charterhouse



Pros:

Ideal layout to encourage group learning

Students are focused during theory lessons – as not 'distracted' by services

Dedicated practical area - experiments can be set out in advance

Cons:

Requires a large floor area



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Our knowledgeable consultants would be happy to
offer advice on the optimum layout for your school.

T: 0161 998 9726

E: sales@klicktechnology.co.uk

W: www.klicktechnology.co.uk



CHAS


Constructionline

Klick Technology Ltd, Claverton Road, Wythenshawe,
Manchester M23 9FT