



Chigwell School: view of the main facade

## chigwell school drama centre

"They've shown how these ideas can be embodied in a bold but unfussy work of architecture, and demonstrated how a city-centre function like drama need not be out of place in a suburban setting."

Jeremy Melvin, Architectural Design

Client: Chigwell School  
Value: £1.85 million  
Completion: November 2003  
Role: Project Associate for Arts Team RHWL



Watercolour of the initial design

Chigwell School's drama centre is a dedicated facility for the teaching, development and performance of drama. It contains a highly adaptable 150-seat performance studio, public foyer, drama classroom, performance support areas and core spaces for the drama department.

Over many years Chigwell School had grown in a somewhat piecemeal manner and lacked a sense of organisational clarity. The location of the new building, its identity and role have instilled a degree of order within the school's layout.

The design reinforces the visual impact of the site by responding to the character of the core buildings, dating from 1629. A combination of traditional building forms and a modern palette of materials has created a forward-looking building, with a strong sense of context and place.

It brings to life the school's ethos and aspirations for the future.



View of foyer interior



View of the stage through the wire grid



View of foyer from courtyard

suzie bridges architects