

L•A•S•E•R[®]

Case study

Working together with BMAT to brighten Mark Hall Sports Centre

How we helped create a better space for sport and community.

Mark Hall Sports Centre is part of Mark Hall Academy in Harlow, under the BMAT Trust. It's a vital hub for both the school's PE provision and the local community, hosting lettings for clubs and activities including netball, football, and fitness classes.

**259
fittings
replaced**

**Estimated
£4,182
saved per
annum**

**Brighter, safer,
and more
welcoming
spaces.**



The challenge

The main school building underwent a rebuild in 2020, however, the sports centre, originally built in 2001, wasn't part of that redevelopment project and so this meant the sports centre's lighting was outdated and not LED. This was making spaces feel dull and inefficient. With long opening hours (6:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily) and heavy usage for school and community activities, upgrading the lighting was essential. The project also needed to meet specific lux level requirements for competitive sports, adding complexity to the design and installation.

How we worked with Mark Hall Sports Centre

BMAT came to us after a successful project at Little Parndon Primary. We worked closely with Clare Tyler, Director of Estates at BMAT, and our in-house experts managed the whole process, from survey to procurement and installation, making sure everything was compliant with under our DfE-approved framework and BMAT's financial regulations.

When the survey took place, it was revealed that external lighting would require additional work due to Sports England specifications, so we split the project into two phases. The internal upgrade was prioritised and completed in summer, with external areas scheduled for a later phase.

The solution

We appointed a trusted contractor through our LED Lighting Framework to install the new lighting across internal areas, this included the sports hall, corridors, and the multi-use gym with special attention was given to lux levels in the sports hall to meet competition standards. As a busy space it meant that the installation had to be carefully planned around the centre's extended operating hours to minimise disruption to its school base and community.

The results

The transformation was striking. Corridors and gym areas are now brighter and more welcoming, improving the experience for both students and community members. The sports hall initially felt "too bright" compared to the old lighting, which was a clear sign of the dramatic improvement. The feedback to the upgrade has been positive, and has even prompted plans for further improvements, like refreshing paintwork to match the new, vibrantly lit environment.

For BMAT, the biggest benefit was time saved: we took care of the complex procurement, compliance and installation making the process smooth and stress-free.

Key takeaways for Schools & Trusts

- Older facilities often hide inefficiencies – LED upgrades can dramatically improve usability and aesthetics.
- Sports facilities may require specific lux levels for competitions, factor this into planning.
- Using a DfE-approved framework simplifies procurement and reassures boards and finance teams.
- We can also advise on flexible options like leasing, helping schools manage budgets effectively.



"Managing capital projects can be time-consuming, but working with the LASER team made everything easier. The process was smooth, compliant, and delivered fantastic results."

CLARE TYLER

Director of Estates at BMAT

Find out how we can help your school upgrade its lighting.

Visit laserenergy.org.uk or contact our Education team today at: educationteam@laserenergy.org.uk

