

# CASE STUDY RADLEY COLLEGE

RADLEY COLLEGE – JULY 2013

Public school **Radley College**, just outside Oxford, England, is a substantial and diverse enterprise, generating a constant and varied flow of construction, fit-out and maintenance tasks.

The right tools are essential, and in the case of MDF and plywood sheet cutting, the right tool is a Zapput ZM12 moving-column vertical panel saw from British specialist Sagetech Ltd.

Design and Technology Workshop Technician Laurence Gardiner explained, *"We're principally a student resource, but we do work for anyone and everyone across the College. We cut a steady stream of MDF and plywood as part of our materials preparation for everything from student projects to grounds and buildings maintenance."*

For many years the workshop cut such materials on a table saw. "Safety was my main concern," Laurence noted. *"The danger of kick-back, the exposed blade, the need to manually feed the sheet through the machine – it was too risky, especially in a school environment."*

There were other challenges, too. Handling sheet materials horizontally is almost always more difficult than handling them vertically, and the heavier the sheet, the greater the difficulty. *"We always needed two people to cut an 8' x 4' sheet"* Laurence said. It was also all too easy for sheets to go off true during cuts, and cutting required a significant area of clear floor space.

The best solution to such challenges, as Laurence knew, is a vertical panel saw. Armed with a budget and a list of requirements, he began to trawl the web to find out what was available.

*"In the end it was down to budget"* he observed. Having found the Zapput ZM range (which starts at £2,495) and noted that the next best alternative was a second hand machine at almost £10,000, it was

really a 'no-brainer' – the ZM12 was clearly the machine to go for.

*"The ZM12 is much safer than the table saw for sizing large sheets," Laurence said. "It's also faster and cutting is a very straightforward one-person job."*

With many of the jobs coming in to the department being last-minute 'panic' requests, this faster, one-person cutting is paying dividends. *"Such jobs get done if we have the time when they come in. The ZM12 has made a big difference there."*

Laurence found Sagetech as useful before and after purchasing Radley's Zapput ZM12 as he's found the saw itself. He describes dealing with the company as being, *"Like stepping back in time – old-fashioned, one-to-one service"* and *"Talking to genuine enthusiasts who really understand their products and what their customers need."*



**WEB:** [www.VerticalPanelSaw.co.uk](http://www.VerticalPanelSaw.co.uk)