

Den Bosch, the Netherlands

Interview with Anke van Lieshout-Steenbakkers



“It is first and foremost practical simulations that make lessons interesting.”

Dental assistants are trained at the Koning Willem I College in Den Bosch, the Netherlands. The course offered here is very popular and the number of Students is on the rise. Under the supervision of the training coordinator, Anke van Lieshout-Steenbakkers, in 2008 a completely new treatment room was set up with six phantom workstations from Sirona in a new college building.

Why did you decide to completely re-equip a treatment room?

Anke van Lieshout-Steenbakkers: “The treatment room is an important part of training here. We want to simulate practice-like situations to enable our pupils to train in realistic conditions. This is a real plus for our course and makes our training center so popular. We now boast a modern practice room with six complete clinical treatment centers including patient simulators and phantom heads. We took our lead here from the treatment rooms at the medical university center (Universitair Medisch Centrum) in Groningen which was also equipped by Sirona.”

What has been your experience with the new equipment and workstations – have your expectations been met?

Anke van Lieshout-Steenbakkers: “The practice room features six workstations which have been fully equipped by Sirona. Pupils have access to all the instruments and materials which they will use in the practice and can train on the phantom head unit. When we submitted our plans we didn’t know whether management would approve given the investment volume yet luckily they, too, recognized the importance of a modern practice room. It has turned out exactly as we imagined.”

What was your experience with Sirona during Project planning?

Anke van Lieshout-Steenbakkers: “When we were drafting the designs for the facility, we were

in constant contact with Sirona and our trade partner Dental Union. We explained our wishes: what we wanted, the number of pupils to be able to work simultaneously, how we wanted to check the final results and the devices the pupils were to use. This is how we divided up the project. We communicated regularly on the devices, their positioning and even on the color scheme. All our wishes were satisfied in full. The staff at Dental Union and Sirona really do think for themselves. In short, I am extremely satisfied with this cooperation. We meet up regularly to discuss how things are going. This goes far beyond a normal customer/supplier relationship and that is something I really value.”

How have trainees reacted to the new equipment?

Anke van Lieshout-Steenbakkers: “The course to train as a dental assistant at Koning Willem I College is very popular. 93 trainees enrolled for this academic year, this is five times more than in previous years. Trainees are keen to attend the regional training center (ROC) in Den Bosch. The school enjoys a good reputation partly because it is a pioneer when it comes to digital teaching. Practical simulations in particular make lessons extremely interesting. Trainees from the Koning Willem I College are also highly regarded by dentists as interns as they are already one step ahead of others in terms of their skills and know-how.”