



HOW OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS ARE ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Case study



Introduction

When you look at their day-to-day activity, it is clear that the needs of any one school are unique – they will vary according to age range, size, location, and the demographic makeup of students. However, if we zoom out for a moment, the challenges and requirements they face are shared with schools across the globe.

We have worked with 100's of schools, helping us to understand the most shared challenges that schools face, and providing an insight into clues for success.

Read on to hear first-hand from other schools as they talk about their experiences on the journey to delivering a seamless digital learning experience.



More is not merrier

With so many different tools and approaches to digital learning, we know that schools can spend a lot of time trying to find what works best for them.

One common occurrence is schools 'stacking' multiple tools to try and meet their needs.

Billanook College in Melbourne, Australia for example were using several different tools but none had all the features that they needed. To try and plug the gaps the school purchased further standalone products. This led to a confusing online ecosystem which was unintuitive for teachers, students, and parents.

Similarly, **Bangkok Patana School** in Thailand had been giving teachers the freedom to innovate and continuously adapt their teaching to meet the needs of their students. However, as a result, their learning community was using a myriad of virtual learning platforms; staff, students and parents were struggling to navigate the maze of different platforms and portals, along with their associated passwords.

The use of disparate systems can lead to a clunky user experience and reduced engagement across all key stakeholders. This was exactly what happened at **Fettes College** in Edinburgh, Scotland with a learning platform that was unpopular with students and staff due to it being complex and inflexible to their needs.



The need for a digital hub

So here is the conundrum: Experience has taught us that a single off the shelf product is unlikely to solve all your software requirements, but bundling separate systems can also have a negative impact.

For example, **Highams Park School** in London, England found that teachers and students were wasting a lot of time trying to retrieve documents from multiple systems. They needed to find a way to bring all those resources under one roof.

This is where a digital hub or Learner Management System (LMS) such as Firefly can elevate your efforts by consolidating tools and resources into a single, central hub enabling one true view into the school. Eliminating existing data silos, and multiplying the value of all the other systems.

Crucially, not only does your LMS need to have the technical capability to integrate and elevate your existing systems, but it must also be simple and intuitive to use. Otherwise, no matter how 'clever' it is, uptake and adoption will be low – you are going to spend a lot of time and money on something that nobody uses.

“Firefly was flexible enough to accommodate the unique structure, operations, and pedagogical requirements of the school. Crucially, Firefly also worked seamlessly with the systems and devices they were already using which was hugely important in Fettes’ BYOD environment.” – Fettes College



Ease of use

In our experience, technology within the school environment works best when it feels natural and a seamless extension of traditional learning practices. Any systems that you implement should elevate the experience for all users.

This was a key benefit of Firefly for **St Ursula's College** in Australia. A teacher with little IT expertise could very quickly log on and get started, creating useful resources for their students while at the same time parents could easily find the information that they wanted.

Similarly, Firefly's simplicity of use ensured that teachers at **Highams Park School** could deliver differentiated learning without adding complexity to their workload, ultimately helping every child achieve their personal best.

“ In the short time I have been using Firefly I have become very passionate about it! Firefly has proven so easy to use that I managed to get all of my classes online within two weeks. Our other champion teachers have also managed to get more than one class online; it is just that easy.”
- Teacher, St Ursula's College

“ Firefly has fostered greater collaboration for resource sharing, developing best practice and continuously improving the quality of learning.”
- Jon Barker, Science Teacher, Highams Park School



Reap the rewards

The introduction of the Firefly LMS at **Highams Park School** liberated teachers to guide and continuously adapt the learning journey with its ability to easily curate content from multiple publishers and sources.

However, the benefits of implementing and establishing the right technology systems go far beyond improvements in efficiency and staff productivity. Many schools that we work with have cited increased student engagement as the key benefit of implementing Firefly technology.

St Ursula's College is a case in point. Students have shown increased independence and self-direction when it comes to embracing Firefly - feedback from the student body was that Firefly made it easier to access rich resources and revision tests, enabling students to learn in ways that works for them.

Billanook College felt that introducing Firefly had delivered significant improvements in areas such as organisation, progressive assessment and feedback. A key benefit of the system is that it allows students learn in ways that work best for them, while at the same time simplifying the engagement of parents in the learning experience.

“ Firefly is really helpful for organisation as it allows me to structure my work with deadlines in place and I can see my timetable. The best thing about it is having it on my phone.”
- Fettes College Student



Enjoy your own clarity

Firefly brings all your tools into one secure space, giving everyone the information and clarity they need. Saving teachers time managing their classes, tracking progress and sharing students' activities online, Firefly makes it easier for teachers to connect with their students and achieve the best outcomes.

Contact our team today to find out more about how Firefly can make a real difference to teaching and learning at your school.

“ Working seamlessly with the systems and devices already in use at the school, Firefly allows the school to integrate existing tools, unifying them with single sign-on to provide a consistent experience for the students, parents and teachers.”
- Bangkok Patana School





The Trusted Solution for
Whole School Engagement and Motivation