

Case Study

St Ursula's College



St Ursula's College is a Catholic secondary girls' school in Toowoomba, a regional city in the Darling Downs area of south-east Queensland, Australia.

With 60 full-time teaching staff and 680 students ranging from grade 7 to grade 12. 70 students at the school are boarders. The school introduced a 1:1 laptop program in 2011 and moved to Apple MacBook Airs in 2015.



firefly



Students drive Firefly

Students have shown real independence and self direction when it comes to embracing Firefly. It's easy to access rich resources and revision tests, enabling students to learn in ways that works for them.

Amanda Brown, Teacher
St Ursula's College, Australia



Rapid adoption – 2 weeks

Transferring entire classes onto Firefly has taken a matter of weeks. Every teacher was on Firefly within 1 term, due to the user-friendly nature of the system.

Amanda Brown, Teacher
St Ursula's College, Australia

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.

Amanda Brown, Teacher
St Ursula's College, Australia



What challenges were they facing?

Before Firefly, St Ursula's had tested and trialled various approaches to drive their digital learning programme. As a result, the learning experience for students could be inconsistent, and students missed out on important information.

Ultimately, St Ursula's needed an all encompassing solution that was easy to manage for everyone, whether they were IT specialists, teachers or students.

Why did they choose Firefly?

Ease of use in comparison to alternative options made Firefly an obvious choice. A teacher with little IT expertise could easily log on and start creating useful resources for their students. Once these resources are live, they are being used over and over, thus saving teachers time and enabling the sharing of resources between teachers.

The level of support offered by Firefly also played a role in influencing the decision. High quality advice and expertise was evident from day one, and it was clear this would continue to be of great value once the platform was implemented.

What has been the outcome?

It is early days for St Ursula's and Firefly, but in many ways the platform has already exceeded expectations. The initial rollout plan was to choose ten Firefly champion teachers who would pioneer the launch, and each champion would get one of their classes setup with Firefly by the end of the first term. Firefly has proven so easy to use that all our champion teachers have got more than one class online and one teacher got all their classes online within two weeks.

It was also planned for other teachers to get at least some aspect of their teaching on Firefly and, again, this has exceeded expectations. The result is that for the next academic year far less time will have to be invested in getting resources ready.

Students have become a real driving force for Firefly and are constantly asking teachers to make resources available on

it. Teachers are able to provide students with a variety of resources in different formats, and by using tests or forms students are able to study at home, at their own pace.

Firefly's assignment or homework tracking means students know their teachers have a record of their results, feedback and live assignments. Plus, teachers can remind students if they have skipped certain activities!

What's next?

St Ursula's are excited to roll out Firefly's teacher and student planner apps, to maximise Firefly's ability to bring teachers, students and parents closer together.

They also say that the parent portal will be a game changer, particularly for those students who like to "fly under the radar" and tell their parents they have no homework!



Learn more together

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