



DOWNSEND SCHOOL

Case study



Downsend School

Downsend is a co-educational day school for pupils between 6 and 16 years of age situated near Leatherhead in Surrey. Founded in 1891, the school became a member of the Cognita Group in 2006.

Downsend describes itself as a forward-thinking, innovative independent school which has been shortlisted in the Independent Schools of the Year 2019 Awards.

“We prepare our children for the future with a creative and problem-solving approach to learning that not only inspires young minds but fosters bravery, sparks imagination, celebrates innovation and creates opportunity every day”.



What challenges were they facing?

Downsend were managing all of their curriculum resources and administrative processes through a complex system of shared folders, making it difficult and time consuming for teachers to use the technology effectively. Engaging parents in school activities was frustrating and a significant burden for the school, and teaching staff were finding that their existing solutions were hampering the school's efforts to be innovative in their teaching strategies.



Why did they choose Firefly?

The school leadership team wanted a central platform that was simple and intuitive to use. They wanted to make it easier for students to achieve their personal best, whilst liberating their teachers to be more innovative and embrace different pedagogies. Crucially, the school was keen to use Firefly as a platform for maximising parental engagement through better communication between the school and home.



What has been the outcome?

Firefly is now an integral part of life at Downsend. Teachers are using the platform to support their teaching through the management of curriculum resources and homework, with over 1000 individual pieces of work managed through Firefly in a term. However, the use of Firefly extends well beyond the classroom with the school using it to showcase the creative arts, along with sports and extracurricular activities.

Administrative processes have been simplified with Firefly being used to manage and curate staff newsletters, minutes from meetings, induction and performance management processes, and to store inspection materials.

Students have access to learning resources, their homework, pastoral message boards, and the school house system all through a single central hub, whilst parents have a deeper understanding of their child's progress along with news of the wider aspects of life at Downsend. From information about upcoming school trips and parents evenings, to news about clubs and activities, and a central repository for school letters, the parents at Downsend have all of the information they need at their fingertips.



Statistics



Over **500,000**
separate logins to Firefly
per month



Over **50** tasks
set and managed in a
term, with over **10,000**
individual pieces of work



70%

Students using Firefly



100%

Of families using
Firefly regularly



Powering the Modern
Learning Experience