

## Enabling Educators of all Skill Levels to Create Engaging Content



ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE

**Cidi Labs Customer Since:**  
2017

**Website:**  
[www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au)

**Industry:**  
K12

**Institution Demographics:**  
Independent Secondary School  
1,000 students  
100 staff

### Background

St Dominic's College is located in western Sydney at the foot of the Blue Mountains catering to boys from Years 7 to 12 in the Penrith District.

St Dominic's College, as a school in the Edmund Rice tradition, is meeting the educational needs of students by providing state of the art facilities and constantly improving teaching and learning through research and practice based initiatives. The College has established and maintained a strong reputation in the wider Penrith community, and will continue to uphold and nurture this into the future.

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### Selecting the right tool

St Dominic's were seeking a Learning Management System (LMS) to deliver a powerful blended learning experience for all their students. The decision to adopt Canvas and then implement DesignPLUS came from a team of staff who undertook a significant research project involving thorough evaluation of several available tools.

The College discovered that as soon as DesignPLUS was introduced it changed the game for them. Before DesignPLUS, educators were creating bland, boring, unengaging pages and resources because they lacked both the inspiration and technical skills.

DesignPLUS ensured teachers never had to "code" their Canvas pages to create advanced and engaging designs, instead it could be achieved with a few clicks in the interface. Teachers found they now had the confidence and toolset to create engaging content that looked really fantastic.

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### Meeting student engagement goals

St Dominic's leadership recognised early on that to engage students they needed their content and assessments to have strong, bold and cohesive design elements. DesignPLUS provided an integrated, easy process for teachers to build and manage great learning content that delivered on this goal and resulted in quality learning experiences for their students.

Implementing and embedding the interactives that our possible with DesignPLUS has helped the college realise their goals of making Canvas engaging and user-friendly.

DesignPLUS has made this possible for teachers with all levels of skill.



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"We recognised that without DesignPLUS, we were essentially making really bland, boring, uninteresting pages and resources because we just didn't have the skill."

Jennifer Walsh,  
Innovation & Digital Learning  
Coordinator



"I have a secret weapon: that little blue rocket. We call it the blue rocket attacks. Yes, that's right. You have to get yourself a blue rocket because otherwise this is going to be the longest, hardest thing you've ever done."

Jennifer Walsh  
Innovation & Digital Learning Coordinator

## Results

Several key metrics were utilised when measuring the success of DesignPLUS at St Dominic's College. These were led predominantly by:

- teacher engagement and,
- teacher usage

The college found the amount of content created and maintained by teachers significantly increased over a three-to-six-month period.

Leadership at the College believe this successful outcome occurred "Because suddenly they were able to say 'Oh, I can do that. I don't need to just copy someone's page from somewhere else.' "

## Keys to success

St Dominic's adopted three key principles that they believe led to the successful roll-out of online learning content at their college. These were:



A focus on building *engaging* content



Meet the *varying* skill-set and needs of all teachers



Remove fear with easy and quick navigation