



Woodville High School

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7 August 2023

Dear Parent / Caregiver,

At the beginning of 2023, Woodville High School commenced work with the Department for Education on the Education Management System (EMS) which implemented new technology solutions. The EMS project is being implemented by the Department for Education to uplift technology in all schools across our state. The primary focus of EMS at Woodville High School was to replace an application called EDSAS which is the 25 year old student administration and school finance application. At the same time, other applications were implemented to support other aspects of the school such as EdSmart (where you receive email communications and online forms) as well as the Frog Learner Management System and new a new application for teachers to manage student information such as attendance and notes that support student wellbeing. In adopting the full suite of EMS applications, we assumed that the products would meet the operational needs of Woodville High School and deliver on the clear value proposition to improve efficiency and streamline operations. Most importantly, we expected the EMS would deliver an improved experience for our staff, students and you as our parent and caregiver community.

Over the past six months, we have continuously assessed the performance of the EMS applications in our school and have found that the many features and function required to deliver on the value proposition for Woodville High School are not available in the current version. We worked in partnership between the Department for Education's EMS project team and our leadership team at Woodville High School to request enhancements to EMS so that these gaps would be addressed and also to support improving the EMS offering for large complex schools across our system. While these improvements were committed into the ongoing EMS project, it was determined the required changes could not be delivered within an optimal timeframe for Woodville High School. Thanks to clear and articulate feedback from staff, leaders, students and parents at Woodville High School, the Department for Education commenced work with school leadership to determine a number of alternative solutions that could deliver the required value within a short timeframe. This included expanding the technology options available within the EMS model to better suit the operational needs at Woodville High School and deliver the desired experience. This EMS/LMS model will then be presented to other schools.

The EMS/LMS Consultative Committee was then formed from a range of staff and leaders to explore these different solutions. The Committee acknowledged and valued the leadership, wisdom and expertise of staff as users of the EMS solution as well as other technology solutions which had been used in prior years. The whole of staff and student feedback was unpacked as we reviewed the missing functionalities within the EMS suite as well as identified the performance and functionalities that we would expect to see in a holistic solution moving forward. After exploring the options and working with the EMS project team on how the technologies could best complement each other, the committee made a recommendation to the whole of staff at the Staff Meeting on Wednesday 26 July 2023.

Woodville High School

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Government
of South Australia

Department for Education





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At the Staff Meeting the Committee shared the insights the committee had gained in assessing the multiple options and the decision making process with the purpose of shaping a shared vision to provide clarity and alignment between the system, school and its community. The preferred provider to be incorporated into the EMS as a new Learner Management System was SEQTA which is an incredibly powerful application is used in many other schools across the country. The Committee also reviewed which features and functions would be adopted from SEQTA and started to update the EMS design for Woodville High School.

The introduction of SEQTA will result in some changes to our school including the replacement of Frog as a Learner Management System. This was a change carefully considered by the Committee and also took into account feedback from our students on what they felt would work best for them. Over the next 6 months, the Department's EMS project team will work with SEQTA and our EMS/LMS committee to phase the new technology in with a goal of having all required elements in place by the commencement of the 2024 school year. The phased approach will ensure there is no impact to staff and students to maintain the focus on completing their current year, however, will uplift critical operational functions in the background as a priority. Staff, Students and Parents will be supported through this transition and will be welcomed to provide ongoing feedback and a voice in the new design. Workshops for families will be offered later in the year before 2024 SEQTA Implementation.

We are very excited about this change and the opportunity this presents for Woodville High School. We look forward to delivering the new EMS/ SEQTA model to you to enable a world leading education environment.

Yours Sincerely

Handwritten signature of Anna Mirasgentis.

Anna Mirasgentis
Principal
Woodville High School

Handwritten signature of Sean Cummins.

Sean Cummins
Director, ICT Projects
Department for Education