

CASE STUDY

# Mater Christi College Belgrave





## About Mater Christi College

Mater Christi College was established in Belgrave, Victoria in 1963. Inspired by the ethos of the Good Samaritan Sisters and Benedictine values of community, stewardship and justice, the College now educates over 700 girls from Years 7 – 12. Mater Christi is committed to utilising technology to create extensive learning opportunities for their students, as well as using technology to improve services, such as payments from parents to the college.

## The Challenge

Like many other colleges, Mater Christi was already familiar with online payment portals and had established student printing and café payment options with other service providers. Given many activities within the College weren't covered by the existing

systems, payments were being made by parents either via the online portal, direct debit or with cash. This resulted in more manual handling for the College administrative team as they had to reconcile accounts and use a variety of processes for

each separate payment option. The College looked to find a solution that would support their goal to consolidate all auxiliary payments into a single system, and chose to do so with CDFpay.

## CDFpay; one system for many payments

CDFpay is an online payment portal that provides parents, staff and students a cash-free alternative for auxiliary payments across multiple activities within the college environment

Mater Christi discovered CDFpay was able to address the problem of multiple payment methods. CDFpay offered a one-stop payment facility for a larger number of student and parent activities within the college including: excursions, school camps, bus travel and college fundraising activities such as dances and trivia nights. The College also discovered that CDFpay successfully combined elements of Mater Christi's previous cashless system into the

CDFpay network which saved time and expense during the transition phase.

Mater Christi implemented CDFpay in mid-2017 with a goal to create a cash-free environment across multiple college activities from one central online location. Today, the College uses CDFpay for all payments in the café, photocopying, excursions, camps, bus travel and college-run events. Feedback across the College community was extremely positive with many parents commenting that the operating system was easy to use and provided a lot of flexibility. It was also welcomed by the Finance team within the college:



Anthea Mafri (Finance Officer) and Tatum Mitchell (Finance Manager)

*'Using CDFpay for our auxiliary payments and going cashless has enabled the college to be more efficient. We don't have to chase parents for excursion or trip payments as it is all done through CDFpay.'* says Tatum Mitchell, Finance Manager.



## Building upon existing systems

The CDFpay team transitioned the College to the new system with minimal interruption to students and parents. Existing elements such as Student ID cards and the cash kiosk were integrated with CDFpay to facilitate an easier transition while continuing to provide payment options.

The College's cash kiosk was already being used by college staff and students for printing and photocopying purposes. The kiosk allows users to check the balance on their Student ID Card as well as add cash to their balance. *'Even though the college promotes a cash-free environment, we also promote independence within*

*the girls which is why the kiosk is maintained.'* Finance Officer Anthea Mafrici explained. *'This develops financial literacy as students are able to add cash to their own cards and then make purchases accordingly.'*

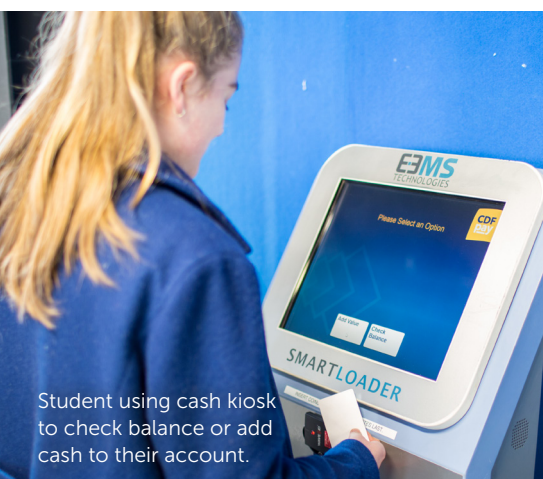
## Improved process for external suppliers

CDFpay was able to implement the touch and scan technology at the College's canteen, Café Bene, by utilising the student's existing ID cards to store value. This resulted in straight through processing and direct reporting for the café staff. Café Bene, run by an external supplier, is now saving time on many everyday processes, has seen a significant reduction in cash handling and

has created more efficient and faster customer service.

In addition to this, parents are able to place canteen orders via the CDFpay online portal, which means the café receives an electronic order list to help pre-prepare items every morning.

*'It was a great idea for the college to go cashless and implement CDFpay,'* café owner Jo Stiff says *'it's a lot faster and we don't have to worry about counting so much loose change or reconciling the books at the end of the day which is a real time-saver. We've also established a good process with the college where we receive our reports and profits weekly which has created consistency and makes our lives easier.'*



Student using cash kiosk to check balance or add cash to their account.



CDFpay Terminal in use at Café Bene



Café Bene Staff (left to right): Jo Stiff (owner), Sonja Loulier and Meredith Dale

## How does CDFpay work at Mater Christi?

### Parents

- Login to CDFpay through portal;
- Load funds to their daughter's account via credit and debit cards;
- Student's account are linked to their Mater Christi student ID card to allow student to use funds immediately.

### Students

- Check and/or increase card balance via CDFpay portal or kiosk;
- Use College ID card to make purchases at Point of Sale terminal at canteen or other locations where payments can be accepted.

### External Suppliers

- Online orders are automatically generated and emailed to canteen operator;
- In-store orders entered at register and students tap & go to pay using their student ID cards;
- Finance team transfers earnings weekly.

### Administration and finance team

- View transaction reports at various intervals;
- Generate financial reports as needed for audits and events bookings etc.
- Generate reports for stock control and reconciliation.

## What are the benefits?

### Parents are happy

Parents can access their CDFpay accounts online via an easily accessible, straightforward and user friendly portal which hosts all the auxiliary College activities. It is also convenient for parents who don't have cash on hand or wish to pre-purchase items for their children.

### Mobile Platforms

Both parents and students can access their accounts via the College web portal. It is quick, easy and readable through all mobile devices.

### Students can use their ID card

Students can now use their student ID cards for multiple college payments. This creates a quicker process and reduces the time spent waiting in queue to purchase items at the café or around the campus.

### Safer environment

Students and parents no longer need to worry about misplacing cash as it can be loaded directly onto the account. Student accounts can also be monitored by administrators to account for unusual activity or lost cards. CDFpay also reduces the overall

amount of cash held on campus, including the frequency of bank visits for cash deposits.

### No cost to Parents

The CDFpay system ensures no administrative costs are handed down to parents using the program; given the costs are absorbed by the college.

### Streamlined process with External Suppliers

External suppliers are able to integrate with the product and offer a streamlined cash-free service in line with other college payments via the one portal. Suppliers also experience process efficiencies and automation, while working closer with the staff administration team.

### Easy transition for the school community

Once transitioned to the new portal, parents soon found CDFpay to be straightforward and more user-friendly than the previous system.



For more information about CDFpay visit  
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