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2025 Term 4 Newsletter

Cole Connect Conferences

Masterclass: The Guiding Principles of Leaders and Teams for Current and Aspiring Business Managers

A new kind of leadership development, designed for the school context.

Cole School Experts and Driven From Within have teamed up to deliver a leadership experience unlike any other:

- Purpose-built for Business Managers and school operations leaders
- Designed to strengthen culture, build trust and develop capability
- Delivered over six connected days with practical, real-world focus

This isn't just about personal growth, it's about team transformation.

Whether you're leading a team of two or an entire finance function, this program gives you the tools to lead with clarity, navigate complexity and inspire change where it matters most.

https://webforms.pipedrive.com/f/c6zfLg0Xkxf05xy5Dj9BeDniFyhfwD3QH5E7sZMvacSrmLSaWDywkAdQNRrEnOvguD

Free Guide: School Ecosystem Playbook

Schools are complex. So are the systems that keep them running. But with the right
approach, your digital ecosystem can be a source of clarity, not chaos.

In this guide, we'll walk you through:
• How to optimise your current systems and processes
• How to spot and avoid the most common pitfalls in digital transformation
• How to check the health of your existing platforms

https://coleschoolexperts.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/ColeSchool_SoftwareManagementGuide_V2.pdf

Software

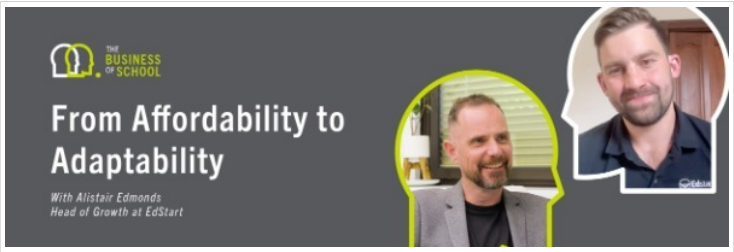
How to stop managing school payments through your inbox

If your school is still processing fee payments through email and paper forms, you're
not alone. But there's a better way to handle payments that saves your finance team time and keeps sensitive data properly protected.

https://coleschoolexperts.schoolzineplus.com/newsletter/article/289
https://feoda.com.au/arm-campaign

Strategic Partners

Podcast: From Affordability to Adaptability; The New Landscape of School Finance - Alistair Edmonds



Alistair Edmonds leads the schools team at Edstart, working closely with schools across Australia to support the financial sustainability of schools and their families. With a background in both Statistics and Business and leadership roles within Australian EdTech businesses, Alistair brings a data-driven approach to understanding the financial challenges and opportunities within the education sector. He has a unique insight into the intersection of education, finance, and technology - regularly engaging with school leaders on emerging trends and challenges shaping the future of independent schooling in Australia.

https://youtu.be/obQVm2R3RTo

Cole Connect

Podcast: The Increasing Challenges of School Finances - Wicus Wessels

Wicus Wessels has over 15 years of financial experience across many industries and sectors. As Audit Partner at Crowe Australasia, he maintains specialist skills in the areas of external audit in the Education sector. Addressing the increasing strain of school finances is a critical issue that many educational institutions face. Wicus interacts frequently with many school leaders about their financial risks and performance, and we talk with him on topics ranging from debtor recovery to increase in payroll costs, to capital projects.

https://youtu.be/_E_XxEfsCTk

Cole Connect

State of Admissions Survey

Six years of insights. One powerful story.

Join hundreds of Australian school professionals sharing what's changing in admissions, data and technology.

The 2025 State of Admissions Survey is now open, and we're inviting schools across Australia to share what's really happening inside their enrolment journeys. Now in its sixth year, this sector-wide program from Digistorm brings together insights that highlight emerging trends, shared challenges, and opportunities for positive change across K–12 education.

If you're ready to add your perspective, you can take part using the link here — and you'll also go into the draw to win a pair of AirPods Pro 3, just in time for Christmas.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YZXZRBY

Want to see the kind of insights your contribution helps create?

https://insights.digistorm.com/en-au/state-of-admissions-2024-25?utm_source=partner-site[…]=7015a000001dd8AAAQ&utm_campaign_member_status=downloaded

Strategic Partners

Blog: The most expensive phase when it comes to school projects

At Cole School Experts, we've managed dozens of projects for schools throughout Australia and New Zealand. And time after time, there's one phrase that costs schools more than any other.

It drains budgets. It eats up staff time. It saps morale.

That phrase?

"We've always done it this way."

https://coleschoolexperts.com.au/the-most-expensive-phase-when-it-comes-to-school-projects/

Accounting & Finance | Cash & Fees Management

Helping school business managers meet key challenges

Many schools are looking for safer and more efficient ways to manage billing, permissions, and reporting as workloads and risks grow. This article explores how a purpose built platform like FACTS Tuition Management gives business managers real time visibility, clearer cash flow insights, and a smoother experience for families.

https://factsmgt.com/blog/helping-school-business-managers-meet-key-challenges/

Strategic Partners

Building financial sustainability for schools

Why financial sustainability matters

At Cole School Experts, we understand that financial sustainability is not just a goal—it's a necessity for schools striving to deliver consistent, high-quality education. In an environment where funding pressures and operational demands are constantly evolving, schools must be equipped with the tools, insights, and strategies to manage their resources effectively.

https://coleschoolexperts.com.au/blog-building-financial-sustainability/

Accounting & Finance

Exploring AI in the Australian Education System with Convene

Explore the transformative effects of AI in education, the role of governments and school boards in integrating AI into schools, and how to navigate challenges that come with it with Convene.
https://www.azeusconvene.com/en-au/articles/ai-in-education-australia

Strategic Partners

The Digital Transformation Roadmap

https://coleschoolexperts.com.au/digital-transformation-roadmap/

Software

From paper chaos to digital efficiency: How Macarthur Anglican School transformed their accounts payable

Macarthur Anglican School faced a daunting challenge - drowning in a sea of paper invoices and struggling to keep up with auditor demands. But with Ellby's accounts payable automation and Secure AI solutions, the school underwent a remarkable transformation. This case study explores how Macarthur Anglican overcame their paper-based woes, achieved impressive operational improvements, and empowered their team to thrive in a digital environment. Prepare to be inspired by their journey from paper chaos to streamlined efficiency results.

https://ellby.com/company/education/case-studies/macarthur-anglican-school/

Strategic Partners

Cole Community

We were honoured to attend the 2025 Orange Butterfly Foundation Gala
Fundraiser Dinner at the Adelaide Oval, proudly represented by our Managing Director
and management team.

It was an evening full of community spirit, generosity and powerful connection — with
unforgettable stories shared by guest speakers including Paralympian gold-medallist
Alexa Leary and Olympic champion Kyle Chalmers.

The gala gave our team a meaningful opportunity to stand alongside a cause that's
creating real impact. At Cole School Experts, we believe in empowering people,
leading with integrity, and building strong community connections — and this night
reflected all of that.

A huge congratulations to the Orange Butterfly Foundation for hosting such a moving
and important event. We're proud to support their mission to improve access to
rehabilitation services and break down barriers for individuals living with brain injury
in our community.

Cole Connect Cole Team

Blog: The Goldilocks Guide to choosing your school software

Choosing the right school software can mean the difference between smooth operations and endless frustration. In this post, Cole School Experts share the Goldilocks Guide to finding a solution that's 'just right': not too big, not too small and definitely not too complicated.

https://coleschoolexperts.com.au/blog-choosing-school-software/

Software