



ABN 58 538 323 413

PASCOE VALE GIRLS COLLEGE

Lake Avenue, Pascoe Vale,  
Victoria 3044

P: (03) 9306 2544

F: (03) 9306 8108

E: prin@pvgc.vic.edu.au

www.pvgc.vic.edu.au

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RE: Exploring Work Futures through VET program

The information sent by the CEAV advertising the 2017 'Exploring Work Futures through VET' was received with great enthusiasm by myself and our College Careers Practitioner. The vast array of workshops targeting Year 9 & 10 students provided a golden opportunity for students to explore STEM career areas and VET pathways. Our students participated in a half day Future of Work & STEM event as part of the World of World on Wheels tour, a Medical Technology day at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, a Hospitality Immersion day at the Hotel Sofitel and a Food Science day at William Angliss Institute. In total, 130 students participated in at least one of the events.

The fact that there was no cost for students to participate in any of these events enabled all students access to the program.

As the workshops were 'hands on' they were engaging for our students. Whether students were coding a Nao Robot, using 3D Virtual Reality Google's or making a mocktail, there was real learning occurring. The feedback after each of the events was very positive. All students commented on the increase in their awareness of the particular career area, and the hands on nature of the workshops was a highlight for the students. Participation in the program has also fostered discussion with parents about future career options. Some parents have passed on the positive feedback their daughter had given about the event she attended.

The Medical Technology and Hospitality Immersion days provided the opportunity for students to visit real workplaces and talk with staff about their roles, and the pathways into these career areas. This was an invaluable experience for both the students, and staff, that attended to see 'behind the scenes' in these areas. The overwhelming response from the participants was that it had opened their eyes to options that they did not realise existed. Since attending the immersion days, some students have taken the initiative to research and apply for 2018 work experience placements.

Participation in the 'Exploring Work Futures through VET' has supported our College's A.I.P. for Improving Student Outcomes by broadening students' knowledge about the VET pathways, and encouraging students to make the best choices for their future during subject selection. The increased awareness, and popularity of VET subjects amongst our student cohort is noticeable, and participation in 'Exploring Work Futures through VET' has contributed.

I strongly support the continued funding of this program, and I will be definitely supporting the participation of our students in 2018.

Yours Sincerely,

Kay Peddle  
Principal