

For one week each May, our Year 10 students exchange their classroom learning for the workplace and learn on the job, through our Year 10 Work Experience Program. For many of our students, this is their first experience of the workplace.

Work experience is a short-term placement of our students with employers so that they can gain insights into the industry and the workplace in which they are located. It provides them with the valuable opportunity to:

- develop employability skills, including team work, communication skills and initiative
- explore possible career options
- understand employer expectations
- increase their self-understanding, maturity, independence and self-confidence, and
- provide the motivation and context for further study.

This program has enormous benefits for students as it gives them a chance to understand first-hand the rapidly changing world of work. With the increased impact of globalisation, automation and flexibility in the workplace and the rise of portfolio careers, it is important for students to develop the skills that enable them to make informed choices about their future.

In 2016, 180 Year 10 students completed their work experience in a diverse range of occupations and environments. Some of these occupations included: aviation, law, architecture, sport and recreation, business, AFL clubs, computer games development and a range of trades.

However, the final comments belong to our students and the value they saw in the work experience program.

*“Work experience was one of the best experiences of my life, and was definitely a highlight for Semester One.”* – James

*“My tunnel vision for my future has now been widened to an enhanced peripheral vision of my future. It (work experience) is magnificent and truly insightful. I did not want it to end.”* – Lachlan

*“Work experience was very interesting – there were always new things to learn and do.”* – Chelsea

*“It opened my mind and made me think about the possibility of a life in the medical field, as in the future I want to either enter the fields of science or medicine.”* – Billy

*“It confirmed what I want to do in the future. Teaching little children is so important.”* – Lauren

From a student, employer and staff perspective, this opportunity for our students has been, and continues to be, a highly successful experience.

