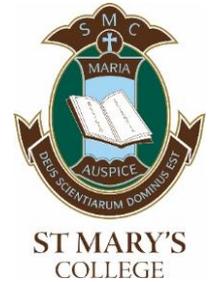


Education Feature

Words: 521

Monday 25 March



College takes a healthy approach to learning.

St Mary's College secondary students are preparing themselves for life beyond the classroom by undertaking a range of innovative and collaborative Vocation and Education Training (VET) courses that cater for each student's needs and abilities.

For Year 12 student Nancy Bidiongo, who is completing her Certificate III in Individual Support, The District Nurses' practice has become her classroom as she embraces the program's placement opportunities in her final year of schooling.

"I've always been interested in a career in nursing, so I was thrilled to learn I could start training while still at school," Ms Bidiongo said.

Ms Bidiongo's enthusiasm saw her invited to undertake intensive work experience during her school holidays and has since secured a school-based traineeship seeing her work with The District Nurses two days per week and the remainder of her time spent dedicated to completing the Tasmanian Certificate of Education at St Mary's College.

"It's been a great experience to work with qualified nurses to learn technical skills and see exactly how things are done in a hospital."

"I'm learning so much about how to look after patients in the community, as well getting a greater understanding of the healthcare industry.

"You can really benefit from this program if you want to be a nurse because it gives you the opportunity to get first-hand industry experience," Ms Bidiongo said.

Spokesperson for The District Nurses Emily Balmer said that these placements provide a safe and nurturing way for students to make informed choices about their future career path and demistifies the community care industry.

"The District Nurses have a strong history of 'growing our own', working with Hobart's schools and colleges, and are proud to support and partner with St Mary's College to offer school-based traineeships and placements," Ms Balmer said.

St Mary's College is a member of the Southern Tasmania Catholic Colleges Trade Training Centre and currently offers Certificate I in Business, Certificate II in Tourism, Certificate III in Individual Support, Certificate I in Hospitality and Working with Children (Level 2) and works with students to ensure all learning pathways are met.

VET Learning Coordinator and Student Pathways Planner Angela Mitchelmore said St Mary's College courses are recognised nationally and cater to industry specific requirements that allow students to develop practical understanding that can lead to paid placements.

"At St Mary's we understand that no two students' educational needs are the same.

“Our Pathway Planning sessions start in Year 10, giving the College an excellent understanding of how we can work with students to find educational options that will see them excel in their endeavours,” Mrs Mitchelmore said.

In addition to the current courses on offer, the College has always connected students to their passions by working with the community to ensure students can study their preferred VET subjects.

With more than 150 years’ experience in girls’ education, St Mary’s College provides a supportive environment tailored to ensure students go one pace beyond in all aspects of learning.

Photo caption: Nancy Bidiongo (Year 12) has been assisting patients with personal care while working two days per week as she earns her TCE at St Mary’s College.

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