Students from Year Twelve Legal Studies and VET Community Services classes visited Dhurringile Prison recently. VCE Legal Studies students are given the opportunity to visit Dhurringile Prison to compliment their learning about criminal offences, court procedures and trends in crime, sentencing and recidivism. Students participate in small group discussions with selected prisoners to hear their own personal stories; the factors that contributed to their incarceration, their feelings of personal accountability and prison conditions. In addition to the strong links to the VCE curriculum, the visit was a thought provoking experience for many students. Whilst students from the VET Community Services class are interested in how prisoners are prepared for re-entry into the community as their sentences are nearing completion. Teacher Rod Taylor said “Most prisoners come from disadvantaged backgrounds and students can relate this to the ideas of social justice, which underpins the course they study”.

Student, Liam Sinclair from Year 12 Legal Studies class said “Students got to talk to two prisoners about what imprisonment is like and the reasons they are there. One of the prisoners was serving a sentence of four years for fraud. He told us that one mistake can lead you to a lifetime of pain. The trip was a very eye opening experience and taught me how easily life can change. I recommend this excursion to anyone studying Legal Studies or Community Services”.

![Group Photo of Students at Dhurringile Prison](image-url)