School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SBATs) help young people to go places ... whether that's a full-time job, a trade career, university, TAFE or other training. The workplace skills and confidence they gain during their school-based apprenticeship or traineeship provide a solid foundation for any career.

What is an SBAT?
A school based apprenticeship or traineeship is not that different from a regular apprenticeship or traineeship. The difference is that the student still attends school while continuing his or her apprenticeship or traineeship.

SBATs offer students, over the age of 15 and from Year 9 up, the option of combining part-time employment, school and training. For students enrolled in the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL), an SBAT becomes an integral component of their senior secondary school program.

How do SBATs work?
SBATs involve a training contract with an employer and a training plan signed by the school. The student attends the workplace one full school day per week and can work extra hours after school or at weekends to make up the work hours per week required to complete their Certificate. The student completes a relevant training course with a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), which involves the completion of set written/research units, and which may include attending an RTO at regular intervals. An Australian Apprentice Centre provides assistance to employers, trainees, apprentices and RTOs throughout the duration of the SBAT. The apprentice or trainee is paid an hourly rate according to an industrial agreement that endorses part-time apprenticeships, such as a Federal Industrial Award, Australian Workplace Agreement (AWA) or Collective Agreement. All SBATs are formally registered with Skills Victoria.

Do SBATs contribute to a school qualification?
The vocational training components of SBATs contribute credit towards a senior secondary certificate such as the VCAL or VCE.

What are some of the advantages of a school based apprenticeship or traineeship?
More flexibility and variety
There are a large variety of industries which offer school based apprenticeships and traineeships and this can have enormous benefits for young people who prefer hands-on learning to traditional academic schooling.

Head start in a career
Young people employed as school-based apprentices and trainees develop workplace skills, knowledge and confidence and have a competitive edge when applying for jobs. A school based apprenticeship or traineeship can lead directly to a full-time contract with an employer, once a student has left school. The student also gains a variety of skills which are transferrable across different industries and workplaces.

See the DEECD website for further information or speak to your careers teacher.