YEAR 9 MOCK JOB INTERVIEWS

As part of an intensive careers program at Benalla P-12 College, all Year 9 students have now undertaken individual mock job interviews. This was the culmination of several months’ work including an employability skills audit, resume building, career research, goal setting, interview skills and job application letters. In addition to this, all students completed a personal presentation program in the College’s VET Hairdressing salon where they learnt about hair and skin care, personal hygiene, face shapes, body shapes and the choice of clothing appropriate for a job interview.

Every Year 9 student has developed an ‘Achievement Portfolio’ which includes materials from the careers program, feedback from their mock interview and evidence of achievements they are proud of. All students presented their portfolio to a family member and a Year 9 teacher, which formed the basis of their Year 10 course selection for 2015. The portfolio will also be revisited in Year 10, 11 and 12 to support their successful completion of Year 12 studies.

This program has been funded for 2014 and 2015 by a grant from the Victorian Government – ‘Local Solutions to Year 12 Retention’. The program coordinator, Sue Oakley, explained ‘Working closely over many years with organisations, such as the NE Tracks LLEN and the Tomorrow:Today Foundation, we have identified that improving school engagement, together with raising student and family aspirations at year 9 level, is essential. The LLEN’s Paid Part-Time Work program and the Tomorrow:Today Foundation’s Connect9 program are two examples of how we work in partnership to achieve this goal for our students.’

Benalla P-12 students and staff would like to thank the large number of community members who volunteered their time to be panel members. Year 9 student, Emma Boyd, commented ‘Having community people on the panels really helped us understand what an interview is like. They were very friendly and gave us lots of good ideas’.