

Students plan for the future

BASS Coast College is heading into the business end of the school year, with preparations already in place for 2025.

Year 10 and 11 students recently underwent course counselling, determining their subject selections for VCE and VCE Vocational Major.

“We talk to every student in Year 10 and ask what they want to do when they leave school, then we see if they have the subjects they need and if there are any prerequisites,” Senior Campus Principal Ross Bramley said.

“If they don’t know, we try to keep their subjects as broad as possible, so we don’t limit their opportunities, beyond their secondary schooling. We also say they should choose a subject they like, particularly, if they are very good in the Arts area, we make sure they have an Arts subject.”

The students are asked to have conversations with their families about course selections, then head online to choose their subjects.

Students going into Year 11 choose six subjects and three reserve choices.

“One thing that we are particularly proud of at Bass Coast College is the large variety of VCE and Vocational Education (VET) subjects we are able to offer our students. The variety we offer gives our students the opportunity to study their areas of interest and passion, pre-requisites for university courses, and the opportunity to gain additional certificated qualifications.”

All VCE students must study English, but the rest of their course plan is tailored to suit their individual needs and ambitions.

The main process is focused on setting Year 10 students up for VCE, but Year 11 students can access course counselling if required.

The entire course counselling process took three days to complete, with up to eight teachers involved in conducting interviews.

The school is expecting four Year 11 VM classes and two Year 12 VM classes in 2025.

VM students will study three days a week at school, one day a week doing an external VET course – either at TAFE or AGA – and one day a week of work placement, which they need to organise with a local employer.

“We’ve made sure that we’ve maintained and enhanced our VET program” Mr Bramley said.

“This is partially due to the skills and the qualifications of the staff we have at the school, as well as the willingness of our staff to provide more options for VM students.”

Students step inside the southern hemisphere’s largest biomedical precinct

Budding scientists embraced Biomedical Sciences Day during National Science Week.

Year 10 and 11 students from Bass Coast College were amongst 280 students, from across Melbourne and regional Victoria to attend Biomedical Sciences Day at the University of Melbourne.

Local students and their science teachers had the exciting opportunity to experience life as a biomedical scientist at the event presented by the University of Melbourne’s School of Biomedical Sciences and the Gene Technology Access Centre (GTAC).

Students worked alongside researchers in the Gene Technology Access Centre Laboratories learning about a range of disease states, working with the specimens to photograph them using light, fluorescence and scanning electron microscopes, and had the opportunity to enter the images into their own ‘Under the Microscope Coverslip’ Competition.

They also took a behind the scenes look at the University’s Harry Brookes Allen Museum of Anatomy and Pathology, a rare opportunity to uncover real tissue specimens and historical anatomical models in a space that isn’t open to the general public. Time spent in the AdaptLab allowed students to experience how innovative digital technology is used to study the human body utilising 3D VR heart models giving the opportunity to ‘hold’ the heart in the hand and examine the various structures making a human heart.

“Living in a rural area we don’t get to use all this advanced technology, it’s really cool to have the opportunity to use it,” reflected Samuel.

“We are currently learning



Bass Coast College students explored future possibilities through behind-the-scenes tours, innovative digital tech trials, and insights from university students, leaving with valuable tools for their current studies and future aspirations.

about the immune system, and it’s almost full circle seeing it in real life... I can’t believe what we learn at school is true” said Mila, who is starting to think about university study.

Her teacher said, “the students all had a wonderful learning experience that sometimes took them out of their comfort zone.”

A panel of current Bachelor of Biomedicine University students, spoke about their courses, sharing the diverse subject and research topics they are pursuing, life after VCE including life on campus with new-found freedoms and friends, and for some the move to living in Melbourne.

The Bass Coast College students also learned about Scholarships and Access Melbourne, a program that helps students

from rural or regional areas gain entry to undergraduate courses at the university. Each year, 20 per cent of domestic undergraduate places are reserved for Access Melbourne applicants.

The University’s Head of School of Biomedical Sciences, Professor Jennifer Wilkinson-Berka, encouraged the students to think about the science behind what creates, sustains and threatens people’s lives in Australia and beyond and spoke of the revolutionary work underway at the school, and the Gene Technology Access Centre— including biological processes to better understand human health, computational biology, 3D printing to replace bones, genomics: new tools for cancer treatments, and new vaccines to combat disease.

Professor Wilkinson-Berka encouraged students to consider the Bachelor of Biomedicine after completing their VCE studies.

“When you come to Melbourne, you don’t just come to the School of Biomedical Sciences,” she said, “You have access to the whole of the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct, a collaboration of hospitals and research institutes that are right on our doorstep, not to mention the diverse range of career opportunities upon completion of your studies.”

For all, the day provided insights into what biomedicine is today and the diverse range of opportunities and impact biomedicine offers, and importantly what a life studying at University could look like for these students.

Launching better money managers with Centsible

FOURTEEN Bass Coast College Year 11 students are this term learning how to build good money management habits through participation in financial literacy program Centsible.

Delivered by local experts Rebecca Casey and Jackie Newman, this term’s program is the first cohort funded by the generosity of Bass Coast Community Foundation donors.

Foundation Chair Phil Friedlos said the organisation’s new partnership with Centsible aims to address a key concern about local financial disadvantage, starting with a focus on Bass Coast teenagers.

“We know that there are many people in our region struggling to budget, save, invest and manage debt. Even more so in these difficult financial times, having a good understanding of financial management can be key to achieving financial stability and security.”

The Centsible program teaches participants about budgeting and financial management through topics such as budgeting, how to buy a house, affluenza and the Diderot effect, money management, credit



Year 11 students Riley, Rhys and Harry from Bass Coast College with Rebecca and Jackie from Centsible and James Lees (teacher).

scores, banking, credit cards, resumes, cybercrime, superannuation and insurance.

A survey of the program’s participating students found that 87 per cent said it helped them understand more about key financial concepts; 93.5 per cent said that they now have more financial strategies that they will implement and follow; and all said they would apply the information they learned within the next month, and most said they’d do this immediately.

Feedback from the students: “Great people, great class, there should be more of this.”

“I learned that budgeting is easy, and I will start with a micro budget and that if you can’t afford something twice you can’t afford it.”

“I learned what affects my credit score and how I can make sure I have a good one.”

“Making positive patterns with saving and spending.”

“I will open more bank accounts for my savings.”

By helping participants make more informed decisions, avoid financial pitfalls, and make the most of their money, ultimately the program aims to support people to avoid debt and invest in their future, achieve financial security and independence, and lead a more fulfilling life.

More info about the Centsible program can be found at centsible.au/programs. For more information about the Foundation go to bccf.org.au.