

Year 9 Future Directions Seminar Days: Health Services

During the Year 9 Seminar Days in late November 2018, students at St Columba's College attended universities, TAFE institutes and companies where they had the opportunity to see what courses they could study in the future and what the work environment looked like.

We were given the opportunity to choose between multiple career paths to further our understanding in the field of our choice. These included Animal Welfare, Health Services, Fashion Designing, Media Madness, Fitness Fanatics and The World of Business. Some of the institutes and universities that we attended were LaTrobe, Melbourne Polytechnic, Kangan Institute, ACU, Swinburne and Swinburne University. Organisations included Medibank Private, Deloitte and Accenture.

One specific area that we explored was Health Services. In this field, we visited the Australian Catholic University and learned about different techniques in the medical industry. We learned how Occupational therapists treat injured, ill, or disabled patients through the therapeutic use of everyday activities and how they help these patients develop, recover, improve, as well as maintain the skills needed for daily living and working.

After going to ACU we then went to Kangan Institute in Moonee Ponds where we had a lecture about the courses that can be studied and how TAFE and university are different. We participated in a number of activities that were related to this area of study. The first activity was a simulation of how you would treat a hospital patient in real life. The 'patients' in the simulation behave and react in the same way that a real-life person would. Another activity was a simulation of the type of things you have to do as a Phlebotomist. Phlebotomists are people trained to draw blood from a patient (mostly from veins) for clinical or medical testing, transfusions, donations, or research. In this simulation, there was a prosthetic arm that had veins and 'blood' flowing through it. The students had the chance to 'take blood' from the arm and learn about Phlebotomists in depth.

These seminar days were excellent opportunities for the students as it gave them a taste of what you could do after high school and explained the difference between TAFE and university. It also gave us an idea of pathway opportunities that can be taken at university or TAFE.

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