

Inspiring young women to learn, lead, succeed – linking curriculum learning with careers

Moorefield Girls High School

Moorefield Girls High School is a comprehensive school catering to students from Year 7 to 12. The school is located in Kogarah, NSW and is a good example of linking curriculum learning with career education with a focus on work exploration and employer engagement opportunities.

As a medium sized school, Moorefield Girls High School offers a personalised approach to learning while offering a broad curriculum catering to a full range of academic and vocational pathways. The school is located in a multicultural community with a large population with a language background other than English.

Moorefield Girls High School has a focus on providing both traditional and non-traditional opportunities and experiences for their students, both within school and in the community. Being a multicultural high school, it is important to extend and enrich the experiences of the students and encourage them to dream and undertake opportunities beyond their expectations.

What has been important at the school is the extension of work exploration across the school community, whatever a student's pathway or experiences. Students have demonstrated increasing engagement and confidence with their learning as a result.

A key feature of this has been the development of partnerships across the school and wider community to encourage and support student learning. The objective of this program is to extend classroom learning by giving something back to the local community, gaining valuable training and experiences and making use of students' special interests, skills and talents.

Students are engaged in career planning and exploring the world of work from Year 7 to Year 12. There is a focus on ensuring all students are engaged in their learning through strategies which emphasise the importance of lifelong learning and opportunities for students to link experiences in the classroom to life, work and careers. Strategies are implemented across the whole school and most particularly with students at risk of disengagement and needing additional support, providing them with learning experiences aimed at reengaging them with learning.

Work exploration and employer engagement opportunities

At Moorefield Girls High School, students are provided with a range of opportunities to understand the world of work from Year 7 to Year 12. The school works in partnership with employers to enhance the career education and development of the students. The opportunities created bring student classroom learning to life with real world career opportunities.



Specialised career planning support

The Careers Plan provides numerous learning experiences and programs which support students to build their capacity to make informed decisions about their transition pathways, whether this is to further education or training, employment or a combination of these options. All cohorts across the school are introduced to career learning from Year 7 and have access to and support in using career resources, for example the Moorefield Girls Careers website, and are encouraged to utilise these to explore career options.

Programs are in place to guide Year 10, 11 and 12 students at the crucial points when vital decisions need to be made about senior subject choices and direction. The Careers Plan demonstrates the need to operate cooperatively with the local community to produce the best outcomes for students. Parents, local businesses and services provide many opportunities for students to experience the world of work and develop life and work skills. The plan also emphasises the value of 'giving back' to the community.

Junior student volunteering

As identified in the school strategic direction, 'Developing Community', student volunteering is a new program undertaken in partnership with local business and primary school partners. In this model, learning is enhanced by connections between the school, parents and the local community. These partnerships value and promote inclusivity and support students to develop their work ready skills, consolidating positive relationships within their community. They provide authentic learning opportunities that support student learning and leadership, enhancing a culture of achievement.

In Year 7 and 8, students undertake volunteering activities in local primary schools that range from supporting peer interactions and reading programs to sporting activities and play. In Year 9 and 10, students undertake community volunteering activities such as teaching internet skills to seniors through the local library and supporting students in childcare centres. The volunteering opportunities are linked to student interests and subjects studied at school.

School café

Moorefield Girls High School supports students with a disability and those at risk of disengagement in Year 10 through barista training and work in the school café. This has a positive impact on student confidence and engagement with their learning within the classroom, improving student attendance and participation.



Classroom learning

Students are provided with a range of opportunities within classes to undertake work ready programs and engage with their local community. These include:

- *Personal Development, Health and Physical Education* – Career decision making (Year 8) and life transitions and gender stereotyping (Year 10) units of work, and careers in sport guest speakers for the talented athletes program (Year 7 to 12).
- *English* – The places we'll go career journey activity (Year 7) and cover letter for job applications (Year 10).
- *Human Society and its Environment* – Commerce, Business Services, Business Studies and Retail services courses have practical components where students engage with businesses, such as King Living Furniture, on a local and national level regarding the range of available careers.
- *Mathematics* – Commonwealth Bank Start Smart earning and saving workshop for financial literacy development (Year 9) and Start Smart financial literacy workshop (Year 7).
- *Creative and Performing Arts* – Student involvement in the KoCreate program (Year 11) where they work with local artists each week to develop their practice and understanding of being a working artist.
- *Hospitality* – Students develop their hospitality skills by catering for school and local community events (e.g. Arncliffe Community Centre, 3Bridges, annual Moorefield Girls Arts Festival). William Blue School of Hospitality and William Angliss sessions are also held with Year 11 hospitality students about translating skills developed in the classroom to the workplace.
- *Science* – Partnerships with universities, such as the University of Technology Collabor8 Program, provide students with working scientists, mathematicians and engineers as mentors (Year 8 and 9).
- *Technology* – partnerships with Macquarie University and Rockdale Council Library provide work experience opportunities for students to develop their skills and share their practice (Year 9 to 12). An example of this is the Intergenerational Technology Exchange program where students in Year 9 and 10 work with local older Australians to assist with their use of technology.

