With VCAL students out during this term on work placement and Year 10 students about to go out on placement next term it is timely to revisit the Oberon Work Placement program, as parents and students continue to source possible placements with employers.

An important part of the Oberon High School program for VCAL & Year 10 students is our Work Placement Program.

Although not compulsory, all students in Year 10 are highly encouraged to participate in the work experience program. For VCAL student in Year 11 and 12 Work Placement is integral to their success at Intermediate and Senior level.

Throughout the year we have many instances where students complete work placements as part of pre-apprenticeship trials.

Students can complete a work placement at any time during the school year (including term holidays) provided:

- it fits in with the student’s school arrangements,
- teacher permission to miss classes has been given and,
- the student has successfully completed the mandated OH&S Safe@Work General & Industry Specific Modules and in the case of any Building & Construction placement the Construction Industry Induction Card (White Card)

As a school we are able to source a number of work placements. However more often students are encouraged to find their own placement and complete all the required documentation at least 3 weeks prior to their placement commencing.

Students undertaking a VET Certificate with work placement may be required to complete a Structured Work Placement (SWL) as part of their course of study. Like work experience students they may be required to source their own employer and complete all the necessary requirements in the SWL Arrangement Form.

OBJECTIVES OF WORK PLACEMENT
Work Placement is one of many career options offered at Oberon that help prepare students for their life after school -

- by learning to cope with new situations, new people and thus build self-confidence and independence;
- by learning about the changes taking place in society, in jobs and in the work place.

Work Placement
- assists students to learn in a practical way.
- provides new aspirations for the less motivated.
- gives students greater knowledge of themselves and the ability to make a more realistic assessment of their abilities.
- offers a guide to the kind of jobs in the community, it is not intended to provide jobs for school leavers.

HOW IT WORKS
If students wish to participate in the work placement program at Year 10 with Work Experience, or with the VET, VCAL Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) Program they will need to source a position with a suitable employer. Once a position has been sourced the details of the prospective employer should be recorded on the ‘Work Placement Expression of Interest Form’. All prospective employers will then be contacted by the school for final approval. The official Work Experience Arrangement Form or Structured Work Place Learning Form will then be prepared. This form is a legal document and must be signed by the student, the parent/guardian, the employer and the school principal before the student can be involved in the work placement program.

SPECIAL WORK PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS
Some industries where students desire to work may be deemed high risk or the Education Department has deemed them unsuitable and as such the placement will be discouraged. Some placements have additional special requirements, for example students wanting to work in the equine industry, in pet stores or with veterinarians need to complete an additional check – Working with Animals.

No student can or will be placed in any of the areas associated with the Building & Construction industry if they have not done their ‘Construction Industry Induction Training’ (the White Card). This one day program is offered
to Oberon students by the trainers from the CFMEU at school in Term 1. For those student who missed this opportunity it is also available via the Gordon, other Training Providers throughout the year as well as online. Employment in Building and Construction covers work in – carpentry, concreting, bricklaying, tiling, joinery, plumbing, electrical, painting, plastering, roofing, landscaping and general labouring. Students undertaking a VET program in Building and Construction or a related field also complete this training as part of their course of study. In all cases evidence of White Card completion must be provided before undertaking the placement.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO ORGANISE A WORK PLACEMENT

1. Seek out an employer in an employment area that is of interest to you.
2. Complete the Work Placement Expression of Interest available from the Careers Room.
3. Provide all information to myself at least 3 weeks prior to the placement commencing.
4. Complete the official Work Experience or SWL Arrangement Form by obtaining the necessary signatures.
5. Successfully complete the Occupational Health and Safety (Safe@Work) Training program passing both the General and Industry Specific modules before attending the work place and hold a White Card if necessary.
6. Undertake the Work Experience or SWL placement on the dates specified.
7. On completion of the work placement discuss the placement with a member of the Careers Team or if a VCAL student with their Work Related Skills teacher.

PAYMENT

Students must receive a minimum of $5.00 per day from the employer (sometimes employers pay above this rate), except in the case of not for profit charitable institutions, community welfare organisations or schools where payment is optional. Payment should not be seen as a purpose of Work Placement it is meant to help offset some expenses - transport etc. Payment to the student is also required to ensure coverage under OH&S legislation.

Wayne Lynch
VET/SBAT & Workplace Coordinator
Careers Department
Oberon High School