

## Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

### What Is VCAL?

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning is an alternative senior program that allows you to complete practical work-related experience, as well as literacy and numeracy skills and the opportunity to build personal skills that are important for life and work.

If you choose to do the VCAL, you will gain practical experience and 'employability' skills as well as the skills you will need to go onto further training in the workplace or at a TAFE institute.

At Koo Wee Rup Secondary College, the VCAL Certificate can be studied as a one, two or three year program and provided students complete all of the required units, they will be awarded a certificate and statement of results for each level completed. As part of your enrolment, you are required to complete work placement and enrol in a VET course. The students who have been enrolled in VCAL benefit greatly from being able to network with potential employers and/or try out an industry to see whether they are interested in going on to an apprenticeship or traineeship.

If you have already started a VET certificate, you will be able to count this towards your VCAL Certificate.

Senior VCAL is the equivalent qualification to the VCE and as such, expectations of performance are very high. All students who satisfactorily complete the requirements of the Senior VCAL will receive a Victorian Year 12 Certificate.

### Important Things to Note about VCAL:

- You may commence your VCAL Program in Year 10, 11 or 12.
- You may change your mind and switch back to completing the VCE, however this may require that you repeat Year 11 if you haven't completed the required Senior Units.
- Provided you have an employer who is willing to take you on, you may be able to complete a part-time school based apprenticeship or traineeship (SBAT) as part of your VCAL.

### How Does VCAL Run at Koo Wee Rup?

To successfully complete a VCAL certificate, students must complete 10 units in a given VCAL Year. Units are drawn from the areas of Literacy, Numeracy, Personal Development, Work Related Skills and Industry Specific Skills. Students will attend school three days per week, their chosen VET course one day per week and a structured work placement on the other day. The course at Koo Wee Rup SC will involve students also completing two four period PE, Technology or Art based electives in year 10 and for year 11 in 2020 only; the completion of a VET Certificate in Small Business (Operations/Innovations). Students will complete first year Business in Year 10 (Foundation VCAL) and second year in Year 11 (Intermediate VCAL). This subject will account for four periods per week. The remainder of the student's program will include those areas mentioned above.

A possible VCAL Timetable might look like this:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>P1</b>	VCAL Personal Development	VCAL Literacy	<b>VET ALL DAY</b>	VCAL Numeracy	<b>STRUCTURED WORKPLACE LEARNING (SWL) ALL DAY</b>
<b>P2</b>	VCAL Literacy	VCAL Personal Development		Elective (Year 10) VET Business (Year 11 – 2020 only)	
<b>P3</b>	Elective (Year 10) VET Business (Year 11 – 2020 only)	VCAL Numeracy		Elective (Year 10) VET Business (Year 11 – 2020 only)	
<b>P4</b>	VCAL Numeracy	Elective (Year 10) VET Business (Year 11 – 2020 only)		VCAL Personal Development	
<b>P5</b>	VCAL Literacy	VCAL Numeracy		VCAL Literacy	

## Costs

Students considering VCAL need to be aware that VET courses or units of competency are a compulsory part of the program at all levels. All VET courses incur a cost to students.

Information on costs for next year is not yet available but previous experience tells us that students should expect to contribute in the vicinity of \$50 - \$1,000 per year depending on the course. Failure to pay the VET fee by the due date will unfortunately result in withdrawal from the program and may jeopardise the opportunity for successful completion of VCAL. The VET Business certificate that is issued through the school work has a cost of approximately \$100 per student, per year.

***The VCAL component of the program has a flat cost of \$280 per student. This cost covers the Literacy, Numeracy, Personal Development and Work Related Skills units, and covers most of the cost of excursions undertaken throughout the year.***

## Factors to Think About When Considering the VCAL Option

Please read the following information carefully. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms McCallum or Mr Gwynne. The careers team at KWRSC may also be able to support you with information regarding VET and SWL. Please make sure you share all of this information with your parents and speak to teachers who already know you and what you're capable of. It is important that you seek out as much information as possible in order to make the best decisions.

## Is VCAL for you?

If you are seriously considering VCAL as an option for you, it is vital you read through the following points and check that you are making the right decision. You need to be able to confidently tick

each point. If you have any problems with any one of them, make sure you speak to Ms McCallum or Mr Gwynne.

- VCAL is not a course for students needing an ATAR score.
- It is a course suited for young people who wish to gain an apprenticeship or traineeship.
- If intending to go onto TAFE at the end of Year 12, students should carefully check that they are able to qualify for their TAFE course by completing VCAL. In most cases this won't be a problem.
- Students must complete a minimum of 100 hours of a VET/TAFE course as part of their VCAL certificate.
- Although the VET/TAFE component of the VCAL program is heavily subsidised by Government funding, students will have to pay costs of up to \$1,000 per year depending on their chosen VET/TAFE course.
- VET/TAFE attendance will require students to be able to make their own way to the course location. This will be at the student's own expense
- Students must be prepared to complete ongoing work placement one day per week.
- Students must seek out their own work placements.
- Work placement will need to be linked to the VET/TAFE course you are enrolled in.
- Attendance at school, TAFE/RTO and work placement is compulsory in order to obtain your VCAL certificate.
- If you were to change your mind and complete VCE, it is possible that this will involve having to repeat Year 11.
- Although students will be completing more practical subjects, there is still a writing/theory component to all classes including VET/TAFE.
- Students may be involved in a variety of community and school-based projects. You may be able to negotiate that other tasks you are completing, such as volunteer work outside of school, be counted towards a VCAL unit.
- Students need to be prepared to work independently of teacher assistance.

If you have ticked all these points and wish to enrol in VCAL for 2020, you must:

1. select VCAL subjects when completing your online selection.
2. Complete a VCAL application form
3. Complete a VET application form
4. Attend an interview with relevant staff

*Pending successful completion of the above, you will be offered a place in VCAL.*