

How to ace an interview 101

WORKPLACE interviews are a daunting experience for even a seasoned professional let alone a school leaver.

Chatham High School students however, will be better prepared thanks to the school's authentic assessment program held in recent weeks.

The authentic assessment program allows Year 10 students to "pitch" and explain their major works to a panel made up of a Year 9 student, community representative and a staff member.

"The authentic assessment program is about giving students a chance to showcase their major works but most importantly give them the opportunity to build workplace skills and confidence," Year 10 teacher Kim Porter explained.

"We think it's a very practical way of equipping our students for the workplace. It's a valuable experience and one that is unique to our school."

Praise for the program was echoed by Narelle Hennessy, science and services manager for MidCoast Water who was a community representative on one of the panels.

"I think it's a wonderful programme for these kids who will face interview situations many times in the future," she said.

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Chatham High community liaison officer Jen Curtis said the perspective of professionals like Narelle was invaluable to the program.

"They bring a different perspective to the panel and it's good for the kids to see new faces as opposed to the ones they see all the time."

The final verdict from the students was also a positive one.

"It was good, it gave good insights into the professional world where you've got to learn to sell yourself," student Brad Chapman said.

His sentiments were echoed by his twin sister Emily.

"I thought it was a really good experience, the whole interview, I got a lot out of it."

An added plus was that the students got their mark on the spot after a brief consultation between the panel and are not forced to endure a long wait.



Donna Mills (foreground) faces the panel from left: Natasha Sowter, Merv Presland and Mark Kircher.