

Blackwood looks to SAGE for inspiration

Blackwood High School continues to look for ways to inspire its students into a career in electrotechnology.

Recently, Blackwood's VET electrotechnology students visited SAGE Automation, Australia's leading electrical controls system integration company. The visit gave the students a taste for what a career in the electrical control & automation industry will be like and also helped them identify various career paths in the industry.

SAGE Automation specialises in industrial automation and control systems. Its General Manager of Operations Paul Johnson says SAGE can offer a lot to the South Australian community and also the Blackwood High students.

"Our customers are in the defence, infrastructure, manufacturing, mining and utilities industries," Paul said.

"We want to show the students of Blackwood High that our national company, with its great project delivery capability, manufacturing centre and training facilities, can provide for great career opportunities in electrotechnology."

"The school is obviously doing a great job with these students as they all showed genuine interest in the industry and were confident to ask capable and intelligent questions."

The trip to SAGE is one of many industry visits offered to Blackwood's VET electrotechnology students for career inspiration.

For more information on SAGE Automation, visit www.gotosage.com/.



Jarad working on the build of two Air Warfare Destroyers

Where are they now?

An interview with Jarad Hearnden

Meet Jarad Hearnden, a past student of St Patrick's Technical College. Jarad graduated in 2013 and is now in his first year of an electrical engineering apprenticeship at ASC. He is currently working on the build of two Air Warfare Destroyers, one of which will be put in the water later this year. Whilst at St Patrick's he was appointed Trade Leader by his peers, which involved raising issues brought to him by class mates and representing his trade group at assemblies and giving reports.

Why did you choose to study at St Patrick's Technical College?

I was at Golden Grove High School and was keen to learn more about engineering. I transferred to St Patrick's because they offered a course in Applied Engineering, which, at the time, wasn't yet available at Golden Grove.

What was your favourite thing about studying at St Patrick's?

I really liked the practical work we got to do at St Pat's. For two days a week, we were out of the classroom and doing more hands-on work. I also like that we got to do extra work experience there.

Why did you choose the Applied Engineering course?

I wanted to keep my options open for after high school. At the time, I wasn't sure if I

wanted to study engineering at university or do an apprenticeship in electrical engineering. My time at St Patrick's helped me figure out that I prefer hands-on work so I decided on the apprenticeship.

What drew you to ASC?

When I was in Year 11, staff from ASC came to our school to talk about the industry and what they do. I thought it was really interesting but I wanted to finish Year 12 first. I put in an application on the first day they opened.

What differences have you noticed between studying at high school and working at ASC?

Working on an Air Warfare Destroyer is exciting. Everything is bigger and better. When I was at school, I didn't recognise how important workplace safety is. But being here has really taught me how important it is.

At ASC, you get to work with different people on different areas of the ship. And you get a rostered day off too!

If you know of a previous student that you would like the Advanced Technology Project to reconnect with, contact Pam Gerrard at pam.gerrard@sa.gov.au.



Paul Johnson, SAGE, and Blackwood High students