

Lightning Reef Primary School, Specimen Hill Primary School and Eaglehawk Primary School



They say it takes a village to raise a child, and that's exactly what Lightning Reef, Eaglehawk and Specimen Hill Primary Schools decided to do in partnership with local businesses and employers in Bendigo to raise work aspirations among students.

The Passions and Pathways partnership aims to connect the dots between school and the world of work to help students understand that education and training allow people to achieve life-long goals and unlock a brighter future. This unique and innovative partnership has created workplace experiences through tours, expos and projects to put students on the path to employment. Hands-on experience makes employment and work seem like a realistic goal for students.

Facilitated by the Goldfield's Local Learning and Employment Network, and supported by La Trobe University and the City of Greater Bendigo, Passions and Pathways demonstrates the power of developing strong public and private partnerships. Students learn that both school and work require the same attributes and skills, such as the ability to problem solve and work as a team, and the ability to demonstrate reliability and determination.

Employers have seen the benefit in engaging a potential future workforce, and the partnership has gone from strength to strength with over 40 businesses and industry workplaces on board.