

Showcase

Boonah State High School

Ready for the Future (Years 10 to 12)

A strong community focus and collaborative approach to senior pathways are at the heart of student success at Boonah State High School. In 2023, the school identified student engagement as a key priority. Students felt disconnected from learning and their school, and unsure about their future. The school decided to use community voice to reimagine its senior pathways. They introduced 'community schooling' to provide students with real-world experiences, skill development and career pathways tailored to the needs of local economy.

South East
Queensland



599
students



Years 10 to 12



Action

Some of the actions that led Boonah State High School to be showcased in this category:

- The principal promoted a vision for 'community schooling', inspiring staff to engage with the community.
- The school partnered with local businesses and organisations who provided equipment and funding. They also shared their expertise with teachers in classrooms. Students could see a clear link between learning and real-world challenges.
- Staff tailored engineering and agricultural pathways to include hands-on experiences for students. For example, students in the Cattle Club program, prepare cattle for competitions and gain industry exposure.
- Teachers and industry experts co-designed curriculum and engaging lessons.
- The school contextualised maths and English lessons to align with the skills needed for careers in electrical trades, robotics and mechatronics.
- Students participate in hands-on experiences outside of school. For example, they attend community agricultural competitions to connect their learning with future careers.
- A performance team meet weekly to monitor pathways. They also assist families with post-schooling options.
- The school shares positive stories on social media to highlight the value of partnerships and students' real-world learning.

Impact



Improved student engagement

A 30% increase in students' interest in schoolwork from 2023 to 2024



Improved student engagement

An 11% increase in students acknowledging opportunities to do interesting things at the school from 2023 to 2024



Improved staff wellbeing

A 129% increase in staff morale from 2022 to 2024



Improved school reputation

A 17% increase in students believing this is a good school from 2023 to 2024

Effectiveness

Research into highly effective schools supports Boonah State High School's actions.

Highly effective schools:

- build purposeful partnerships with businesses and the community
- collaborate with the community to develop the curriculum
- offer valued extra-curricular activities.

Teachers and leaders in highly effective schools:

- communicate a vision for improvement to achieve shared goals
- plan locally relevant curriculum in consultation with the community
- engage students in meaningful ways to facilitate learning and foster motivation
- help students transfer learning across multiple contexts over time
- foster a sense of belonging to school.



'Community schooling is about creating connections with the community. We involve everyone in our children's education, which is shifting the school culture. Students became engaged in their learning and that has been a game-changer.'

Mr Dan Marrone, Principal