School Partnerships Program, Sports Journalism – video transcript 28/5/13

Narrator:

As part of La Trobe University’s School Partnerships Program, year 10 and 11 students from John Fawkner College and Charles La Trobe College have taken part in a collaborative sports journalism activity.

David Lowden:

What we created was a sport journalism activity that could be used in secondary schools, where they looked at the ‘pyramid of importance’, and the activity was really based on deciding what was important in a match and putting it in order of importance rather than in the order that the incident occurred.

Narrator:

The students then brought their stories to a workshop day on La Trobe’s Melbourne campus, where second and third year sports journalism students worked with them to sub-edit and develop their writing.

Sara Omar:

I learnt how to write a shot list, they helped me organise my ideas, we also learnt different techniques in writing a sports report.

Narrator:

Through this process the university students also have an excellent opportunity to practice their sub-editing skills.

Sean Munaweera:

Its not just their spelling and grammar, it’s a whole range of different things. So things like writing the important information about matches and putting pen to paper is quite a difficult process so its really assisting us greatly because we can identify all of that and assist the students to hopefully get a career in this one-day.

David Lowden:

The students were really engaged, they were absolutely fabulous and what we saw was some really great writing.

Narrator:

In the School Partnerships Program, academics and students from La Trobe University work with secondary schools in the northern suburbs of Melbourne and in the vicinity of each of the university’s four regional campuses.

Sean Munaweera:

What I’ve got out of it is a little bit more specific in terms of my writing ability, trying to identify in the students the important aspects of writing match reports but also just a great learning experience to deal with school students because its great to have them come in to give a little bit of our own expertise.

Narrator:

The program provides extra curriculum support to students, as well as giving them an insight into La Trobe’s courses so that they feel both welcome and prepared for university study.

Helen Toon:

It offers them a view of and an opportunity to come on to campus and see and have a view of what tertiary institutions look like, and what tertiary study might involve. So it broadens their horizon and it gives them a different sense of what the VTAC guide is taking them through.

Narrator:

University can be a daunting prospect, so one of the most important benefits of this activity is giving students the chance and spend time meeting current university students and academics.

David Lowden:

The School Partnerships Program I think has been fantastic, it’s the first time I’ve been involved but it’s been really great for La Trobe students that I teach, but also I saw a great reaction from the visiting school students, and they were really engaged. I was really delighted with how successful the day went in terms of what they got out of it and it seems like they really got a great learning experience and they got to get a little taste of what it would be like to be a sport journalist.

END