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Media Release:

Local students at the coalface

Eighteen students from John Calvin Christian College recently experienced a first-hand look at working in mining at Yancoal Australia's Premier Coal Mine.

The Year 11 geography students and teachers travelled from Perth to stay at the stunning lakeside campsite, Lake Kepwari. Followed by a visit to the Premier Coal mine to explore a 'day in the life' of a miner, opening their minds to possibly pursuing a career in the resources sector.

The day involved the students putting their high-vis and safety gear on and attending a classroom session, where the students learned the coal mining process and the importance of rehabilitation.

This was followed by a tour of the operation with members of the Premier Coal team sharing how coal is formed, maintenance of mining equipment and environmental management.

Premier Coal Operations Manager Braedon Gaske was delighted to show off the mine and demonstrate the range of trades and opportunities available.

"By being onsite we could bring learning to life for the students. The highlight was transporting them into the open cut mine pit where they could view the true scale of the operation.

"We were also able to take the students on a tour of the coal handling plant, workshop and demonstrate how the team conduct exploration drilling.

"We are always happy to have students visit our site so we can offer a practical experience and engage them in a potential future career pathway," said Braedon.

Lake Kepwari is also special to the miner as in late 2020, Premier Coal formally handed Lake Kepwari over to the Western Australian State Government and the people of Collie, following the completion of rehabilitation works. After almost 30 years as a mine, it was transformed into a popular attraction for locals and tourists where people can enjoy swimming, waterskiing, wakeboarding, boating and camping.

Nathan Houweling, Geography and Science Teacher at John Calvin Christian College was thrilled with the opportunity to bring his students onsite.

"The students really enjoyed visiting Premier Coal. The feedback I received was that the experience was insightful, informative, and very interesting.

"They appreciated the team answering all their questions and showing them the different parts of the mine operation.

"The students particularly enjoyed visiting the maintenance workshop as it made them truly understand the coal mining process.

“We are thankful to Premier Coal for helping inspire the next generation of leaders to enter the workforce,” said Nathan.

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