I’m Caitlyn, and I’m in Year 12 and I’m studying VET Hair and Beauty.

Once I finish my Cert II in Salon Assistant I want to go off to do my Cert III in Hairdressing. And then I can always go further in my beauty studies. So, I’m doing VCE and I’m studying Biology, Health, Maths Methods and English. So, in Hair and Beauty the subject is taught way different to my VCE units. We’re more hands on, more practical stuff, compared to my VCE subjects. Yeah, I’ve learnt lots of communication skills, how to work as a team, how to do basin work, blow waves, clean our equipment. My personal favourite is colouring. I love colouring, that’s what I want to do, I want to be a colourist.

One of my skills that I’m proud that I’ve learnt is probably the multi-strand braid. It took me a while to figure out how to do it, following a book, look up YouTube videos, tutorials, you get frustrated at it but always come back to it and try and master it. Um, in class we are a very collaborative team, we do lots of teamwork activities like posters. Um, if someone’s washing a hair someone will come over and help. If we’re got stuck on a question we’ll go up and ask someone if they can help us on it before we ask our VET teacher.

After school I work at the hair salon up the main street, part time, most days after school. From when I first started at my part-time job I was just doing little things like cleaning up after, putting towels away, in the wash. And now that I’m almost finished my Cert II I’m doing more washing people’s hair, talking to the clients, more booking, more communication throughout the salon. I do mixing of colours and I’ve done my boss’s hair [LAUGHS]. After washing a client’s hair, bring them back to the seat and then blow wave. If they have long hair you do a use a large round brush and just blow wave their hair.

One of the great things we do about VET is that we go on excursions. We went to the bank to learn about more the finance stuff, how to keep track of our money, how to make a float. And we’re going to the supermarket next week to learn about stocking products. We went on an incursion to the office to learn about payment processing. People pay through EFTPOS, cash, if anyone wanted receipts to do it on receipt booklet.

I’m really excited at the end of this year to do the make-up unit because we get to learn how to do make-up properly. So like photoshoot make-up, like a natural look, but also wedding make-up and deb make-up would be really cool to do.

I would recommend VET Hair and Beauty to one of my friends. If they enjoy doing Hair and Beauty it’s a great way to do your Cert II in Salon Assistant at school and get that finished with. It only takes two years so, yeah.

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