My name’s Xander, I’m 17, I’m in Year 11 and I’m doing VET Integrated Technologies.

Ever since I was a kid I was really fascinated in technology. Ah, it started out with a passion for video games and turned into a deep interest in the technology that run the programs.

Um, so I’m studying VCE at the moment and, ah, last year I just completed 1 and 2 in Integrated Technologies and I’m moving on to 3 and 4 this year.

Once I graduate VCE in Year 12 I plan to go into IT, Integrated Technology, as a career. I hope to make, sort of, robotics or AI things like Tesla cars are using for their automation and, um, I think this course is really helping me to get there.

So Integrated Technology, or IT for short, is about, um, we do networking, coding, 3D printing and generally things you will do and find in the technology industry. So at the moment we’re coding an Arduino board, which is a programmable board that allows you to do whatever you really want as long as you have the parts for it.

Our teacher at the moment is taking us through the physical parts of what goes into a circuit board, or a project, and so you really get to learn what everything does and how it does it. Then we would go to a workshop and be able to then use that information to create something.

So last year we created three different projects using the Arduino board. We’ve made a security system, a motion-detecting security system, where if someone moves past it when it’s activated it will sound an alarm and flash a light. We’ve also made a, um, distance meter where it will read a distance up to four meters in, um, yeah with an Arduino board and then display it on a screen. We have also done some more basic sort of systems where we can get a button to flash a light a certain amount of times or turn on and off a light. Pretty much everything we’ve made is like really cool and it sometimes hurts a little bit inside to have to pull it apart so that you can build something even greater with it. But ah, everything we do, everything we make is just, it expands your mind to the possibilities of what the technology we have today can do.

As a VCE student I’m constantly thinking of about, like, an ATAR and the score at the end of Year 12. Luckily for me, Integrated Technologies is a scored assessment, so that means I can get an ATAR at the end of it and we get a Certificate II in Integrated Technologies.

The course also offers structured workplace learning. We can go in and learn the material, first hand. Ah but in my case I’ve opted for a different sort of pathway where they have lecturers and industry professionals come in and tell us about the opportunities they have on offer.

I think I’ve a much better understanding on how to get into a career that I want to. Not just from my teacher but from the people who come in and explain to us all the different things they do, from things in cars to in housing, all the way through to automation and mechanics.

I would highly recommend this program, it’s incredible. This teaches you how to do anything you really want in the industry and you really don’t have trouble learning it, through their different teaching styles, it’s incredible. I would highly recommend it if you’re interested in IT to take up this course.