

Feature Story

Team Boeing zooms into Queensland classrooms to teach future aerospace leaders

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Year 12 students with big dreams of becoming a pilot or aircraft engineer are flying high thanks to the Boeing-led virtual teaching of the new aerospace systems syllabus in Queensland.

In an innovative learning model to connect schools and industry, up to 100 aerospace systems students in seven Aerospace Gateway schools were recently instructed on the effects of flight on the human mind and body by Boeing Defence Australia (BDA) experts.

BDA's intrepid teachers included Ben Wenban, a current helicopter pilot; Mike Prior, a former Classic Hornet pilot and fighter combat instructor; David Jackson, a former commercial pilot; and Duane Davis, a former air traffic controller.

Over five weeks, the Boeing experts united with aerospace teachers via Zoom and Microsoft Teams to educate the students on the new Human Limitations and Performance aerospace subject.

Participating schools included Mueller College in Rothwell; St Patrick's College in Mackay; Iona College in Lindum; Coolum State High School; Miami State High School; Townsville State High School and Aviation State High School, Clayfield.

Ben Wenban, Aircrew Training Capability manager, Helicopter Aircrew Training System program, was thrilled to be able to directly connect with students and teachers to impart invaluable, real-world learning.

"This has been a fantastic experience. I feel fortunate and honoured to have been able to share my knowledge and experience with students who are interested in the world of aviation," Wenban said.

The students were in high praise for the Boeing team, relishing the real-world learning.

Boaden Giuca-Segal, 17, from Townsville State High School, who dreams of becoming an engineer, said: "It was very inspiring and has opened my eyes to more of the opportunities in the aviation industry."

And Mueller College's Erika Akl, 17, and Ramia Jazdan, 18, concurred.

Erika, who wants to become a Royal Australian Air Force fighter pilot or engineer, said: "Listening to the pilots talk to our class was a really great experience – we learnt all about human

factors and the challenges that face the pilots, as well as engineers and other personnel who design the cockpits.”

Ramia, whose ultimate ambition is to either become a pilot or a mechanical engineer, added: “It was an awesome experience to get the two pilots to teach us all about the human factors affecting the performance of the aircraft. One other cool thing we learnt is the effect of g-force on the performance of the pilots during flights. I really appreciate their efforts in teaching us all about it.”

Boeing was a founding member of the Aerospace Gateway to Industry Schools program established in 2004, which runs across 18 Queensland secondary schools, helping to create sustainable career pathways into the aerospace industry. Visit <https://aerospacegatewayschools.com.au/>