Mueller College

Mueller College is on 60 acres at Rothwell, Queensland and is a ministry of Mueller Community Church. The College was established in 1990 as a Christian, co-educational day school and caters for students from Christian and non-Christian backgrounds. It has around 1800 students from Prep to Year 12. It is part of the larger Mueller Community, which includes a Childcare Centre, Aged Care Facility and Retirement Village.

The school's flying club, MUROC (MUeller Radio Operated airCraft) commenced in October 2004 with four students who would meet during their lunch breaks to build and repair foam aircraft, which they would then fly during sport. Mueller College entered a team into the inaugural UAV Challenge competition in 2007 and won it! The prize money helped the club to grow and purchase more equipment and the school have entered a team every year since, winning more trophies over the years. A CASA area approval enables staff to teach students how to fly both RC fixed wing and drones on the school's oval.

In 2009 Mueller became an Aerospace Gateway to Industry (AGISP) school and commenced teaching Aerospace studies to year 11 and 12 students and several years later offered STEM / Aerospace to students in years 9 & 10. As an AGISP school, Mueller has direct access to aviation career pathways and resources. AGISP schools enjoy close liaison with Boeing Defence, QANTAS, Airbus, GE Aviation, TAE Aerospace, Brisbane Airport Corporation and Queensland Government to name a few. Mueller College Aviation's direct industry partners are Redcliffe Aero Club and Aeropower Helicopters located at the nearby Redcliffe Airport which they share a boundary with. The Aerospace and STEM students are offered rare opportunities and experiences such as guided airport tours, visits to Qantas Hanger 3 and Airbus to see aircraft maintenance up close and personal and visits to Air Traffic Control, including the tower.

In 2019 the Aerospace / STEM workshop was renovated and extended and now incorporates a large classroom complete with simulators, Qantas airline seats and a 3D printer. The workshop area was designed with the thought of one day building an aeroplane in the room and incorporates 6 large workbenches, 2 of which will be dedicated exclusively to the wing build. The rest of the room contains a bank of soldering irons, a hot wire cutter for cutting out foam wings, a bandsaw, belt sander, a drone test cage and a robotics playing arena.

There has been great interest from the student body in the project and 15 students have been shortlisted for being involved. Some of their reasons for wanting to be included are:

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"I want to be a commercial pilot after school and I would love to be part of building a full-size plane" – Anton

"I've always been interested in how planes work and how they're built and learning to fly would be a nice benefit too. One of the jobs I'm thinking about doing when I'm older is Aircraft Maintenance Engineer and this would be a good way to see what it's like." - Joel

"We have been talking about this project since last year in class and I was so excited to participate in it. Moveover, I dream of having a job in the aviation industry, so this project will help me in understanding and knowing more about what I want to do in the future." - Ramia

"I am interested in an Aerospace / STEM career. I would like to work for NASA in the future and I believe that working on this project would improve my teamwork skills, as well as any other building / engineering skills. I enjoy learning new skills and I think this experience would positively contribute to my aspirations of becoming an astronaut." -Jessalee

"I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to be involved in a project of this kind as it is my future desire to be a pilot. This project would provide me with the knowledge and experience to support my chosen career path." - Mitchell

"I have a great interest in anything to do with aviation. I am currently doing subjects which will allow me to follow a career in the air force and I feel that this project will give me an insight into how planes are built and operate." – Hayden

"Aviation and STEM is integral to my interests and hobbies. I am always striving to learn as much as I can in these fields and getting involved practically in both technical aspects and flying will be keystone in my learning and vocational journey. My prior knowledge of these topics is procured from an education on aerodynamics, aircraft engineering and experience flights with the Australian Air Force Cadets, as well as model aircraft construction and flying with my father who is an aircraft engineer. My enthusiasm to learn, get involved and share my knowledge with my peers and team mates makes me an ample candidate for the program." – Oscar

"I would like to participate in the Build A Plane project because I think it wouldl be a good way to learn about engineering and I think that it would be cool to say that I helped build part of a plane." - Fiona

The students are keen to commence building and staff will be updating their progress regularly with online build logs and photos.

The details of the build logs will be posted on the Mueller Aviation facebook page when it is up and running.

facebook.com/muellerAviation/