

2026 NGV MASTERCLASS





Across April 8–9, the Skyline team were proud to host the Year 11 and Year 12 Masterclasses at the National Gallery of Victoria, delivering two dedicated days of programming tailored to each cohort's stage of learning and future pathways.

We extend our sincere thanks to the NGV for hosting and for opening their doors to our students. For many, this was not only their first visit to the NGV, but their first experience inside any major cultural institution. Access like this matters. Experiences like these do more than introduce students to new environments. They challenge assumptions, broaden horizons, and help young people build the confidence to navigate and belong in spaces they may not otherwise encounter.

Across both days, Skyline students began with comprehensive guided tours of NGV exhibitions led by NGV staff, grounding the experience in real-world creative practice and exposing students to new ways of thinking about identity, storytelling and expression.

The NGV setting elevated every aspect of the experience. Students didn't just learn about art, they saw themselves reflected in it, often for the first time.



YEAR 11

The Year 11 Masterclass focused on identity, self-awareness and building the foundations for future direction, with 69 students in attendance.

Following their guided NGV experience, students transitioned into Skyline's workshops, where the focus shifted from observing identity in art to understanding and articulating their own.

"It's important to recognise strengths in yourself as the first step to appreciating strengths in others." Year 11 Student

You Are a Work of Art Workshop

This workshop used the gallery setting as a launchpad for self-reflection. Students worked in pairs to:

- pitch an artwork from the exhibition
- pitch their partner, identifying strengths and qualities
- pitch themselves, articulating their own strengths, values and individuality

By gradually moving from external observation to personal reflection, students built confidence in recognising and communicating what makes them unique. The structured, peer-based format created a safe environment to practise self-expression while also learning to value others.

"Art is very reflective of identity and authenticity; it serves as an effective outlet for feelings and thoughts" – Year 11 Student

"Hearing words of appreciation and positivity from a partner... influences us to advocate for ourselves" – Year 11 Student



Grid to Podium: SMART Goals Session

Building on this self-awareness, students then focused on turning ideas into action. This session unpacked why goals often fail and introduced a clear, evidence-based framework to make them achievable.

Students:

- visualised their future and identified an “ultimate goal”
- broke this into a specific VCE-related SMART goal
- identified barriers such as distraction, self-doubt or lack of structure
- developed practical strategies and accountability systems

The session emphasised that progress comes from structure, not just motivation, giving students tools they can apply immediately in their studies and beyond.

KEY OUTCOMES

92% agreed the NGV provided unique insights into artwork

78% felt more connected to like-minded peers

76% gained knowledge, strategies or skills they can apply

78% reported a more positive outlook on their future

Year 11 students left with a stronger sense of identity and a practical framework for turning their goals into action. For many, it was also their first experience in a space like the NGV, expanding both their confidence and their sense of what is possible.

“The biggest takeaway was the experience of hearing from an artist who had a piece in the gallery and went through the VCE experience recently” - Year 12 student



YEAR 12

The Year 12 Masterclass supported students at a critical transition point, with 49 students participating in a day focused on confidence, clarity and readiness for life beyond school.

While the structure of the day remained consistent, the workshops were adapted to reflect the immediate needs of Year 12 students.

You Are a Work of Art Workshop

"I've narrowed down my VCE problems and can now focus clearly" – Year 12 student

For Year 12 students, this workshop shifted from self-reflection to self-presentation.

Students began by pitching an artwork before progressing to activities focused on articulating their own strengths. This culminated in interview preparation using the STAR method, helping students structure responses, communicate clearly and translate their experiences into real-world examples.

The session equipped students with practical skills for interviews, scholarships and future opportunities, while reinforcing confidence in their ability to present themselves effectively.

"Really taps into the inner strengths in everyone and shows what confidence can mean" – Year 12 student



Grid to Podium: Your Official VCE Strategy Session

This session focused on execution, helping students navigate the pressure of Year 12 with clarity and control.

Students worked through:

- defining their academic and post-school goals
- breaking these into realistic, short-term actions
- identifying challenges and refining strategies
- building structured plans to maintain consistency

"My biggest take away is that setting realistic, short-term goals makes long term goals more achievable"

The emphasis was on creating achievable systems, helping students feel less overwhelmed and more in control of their final year.

KEY OUTCOMES

86% agreed the NGV provided unique insights into artwork

90% felt more connected to like-minded peers

86% gained knowledge, strategies or skills they can apply

86% reported a more positive outlook on their future

Year 12 students left with practical tools, increased confidence and a clearer sense of direction. The program supported a shift from uncertainty to action, equipping students to approach their final year and future pathways with purpose and clarity.

