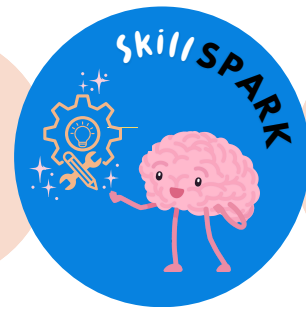


WHAT IS SKILLSPARK?

For teachers and students



What is SkillSpark?

SkillSpark is an amazing new pathway enabling students from low socio-economic backgrounds to apply for university by sharing some of the unique skills and attributes they've developed in and outside of the classroom, alongside traditional criteria.

Why is SkillSpark important?

SkillSpark looks at a broader range of skills and attributes that are often missed in existing application processes, but that universities have identified are key for young people to succeed in higher education. These skills and attributes are grouped into two areas:

(1) Engaged Citizen

(2) Tenacious Learner



Students can pair their real life experiences, passions, extra activities and responsibilities in and outside of just the classroom, to show universities the value they will bring with them to their study.

At the moment applying to university with an ATAR alone may not demonstrate the full picture of the applicant. SkillSpark offers universities a way to see more of the young person who is applying in a transparent way with evidence they can rely on. And with 90% of new jobs requiring post-secondary education, it is even more important that young people are provided with support to pursue further education if they want to.

SkillSpark is in its pilot phase, but eventually we are hoping it will provide a really consistent and transparent way for applicants to showcase their attributes alongside their academic outcomes. We do understand that people may be concerned about extra work that participating in another pilot creates. It is designed for students and the responsible person to complete the relevant documents and not create too much extra workload. We hope it will benefit students by helping them feel valued and more confident.

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