

Canberra students go to Silicon Valley

As the IT industry booms, more and more people are fighting for spots in what is one of the most lucrative and competitive sectors in the world.

Two year 10 Canberra Grammar School (CGS) students, Dylan Turner and William Loughton, were afforded a first-hand insight into how the tech sector works when they were invited to Apple's Worldwide Developer Conference (WWDC) in Silicon Valley, California, earlier this month.

The event brings developers from around the world together at the cutting-edge Apple Park to discuss and learn about new Apple developer technologies.

Dylan and William were awarded two of Apple's 350 scholarships offered to students from across the

globe, and attended the conference alongside many paying developers.

To apply for these scholarships, candidates must demonstrate their coding prowess and write an essay titled 'Beyond WWDC', detailing how they share their passion for coding with others.

Dylan and William both created a 2D platformer (think Super Mario Bros), which impressed the judges.

At WWDC, they experienced presentations from different Apple executives, including Apple CEO Tim Cook, in the Steve Jobs Theatre.

The rest of the week was spent learning about new technologies, attending sessions presented by Apple engineers, and learning from the best to help create their



Canberra Grammar School students William Loughton (left) and Dylan Turner at Apple's Worldwide Developer Conference in Silicon Valley, California, earlier this month. Photo supplied.

own projects in Apple's state-of-the-art labs.

Mr Matthew Purcell, Head of Digital Innovation at CGS, said the school has now been awarded multiple scholarships to WWDC.

"With five of our students being awarded scholarships to WWDC 2017 (out of 10 in Australia), two being awarded scholarships to WWDC 2016 (out of eight in Australia), and three being awarded scholarships to WWDC 2015 (out of six in Australia), CGS is one of the

most successful schools in the world when it comes to obtaining WWDC scholarships."

William and Dylan both said the conference was an unforgettable experience and adventure.

"Not only did we learn about new and exciting technologies to incorporate into our apps, of equal importance was the opportunity to meet with other students from around the world with the same passion as ourselves – making new lifelong friends," they said.

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