

# Authentic context for vehicle safety

Two new secondary English resources will be available later this year aimed at helping students change their road safety behaviour for the better.

The units, one aimed at year 9-10 and the other at NCEA Level 2, have been developed by e-learning consultant and former Head of English Karen Melhuish.

She says the resources aim to help students change their road safety behaviour, particularly vehicle safety, in a way that appeals to their sense of community and belonging, as opposed to using shock tactics or scaremongering.

'The approach is constructive, positive and focused on the fact that when we take an action or make a decision it will have repercussions, possibly unforeseen, on our friends, family and people that we don't know.'

The year 9-10 resource is called 'We Travel Together' and has a learning focus on how language is used to persuade people.

'Essentially the unit asks students to consider the vehicle journeys they make themselves and compare those to other teenagers' stories. They then produce a text - perhaps a letter, blog post or video - to persuade peers or family to make some kind of change in their behaviour,' says Karen.

Head of English at Tawa College in Wellington Nigel Mitchell trialled the unit with his year 10 class last year and says it gave an authentic context to writing, thinking and presentation. One of his students, Ashley, says she learned that everyone is responsible for keeping each other safe on the road and that crashes can happen to anyone.

'The Party in the Car' unit is focused on Achievement Standard 2.10 of NCEA Level 2, which asks students to unpack how a visual or oral text works.

Students select a road safety advertisement, analyse the message within it and bring in what they know about road safety through their own behaviour and that of friends and family.

Head of English at Hutt International Boys' School Jane Dewar trialled the unit with a year 12 class last year. She says it went down well with her students, providing them with an authentic context.

NZTA RESOURCES TO HELP SCHOOLS CREATE CURRICULUM CONTENT WITH ROAD SAFETY MESSAGES CAN BE FOUND AT

[education.nzta.govt.nz/  
curriculum](http://education.nzta.govt.nz/curriculum)

“ We thoroughly enjoyed doing it and that's got to make it a winner. ”

Jane Dewar  
Head of English  
Hutt International Boys School



If you're gonna sleep,  
Don't do it in the driver's seat.

Students at Tawa College created a PowerPoint presentation about the dangers of driving while tired.