ABOUT THE GROUP

‘Let’s Talk online’ is a wonderful chance to meet students from other places and make a difference in the lives of those who use English as an additional language (EAL). The group is held several times each week via Zoom. Local students who grew up in New Zealand are matched with two to three students who use English as an additional language. Topic sheets to guide the conversation are provided for all participants in advance of the session.

HOW STUDENTS BENEFIT

Participation in LT online helps EAL students:

- ✓ develop their confidence and proficiency in speaking English
- ✓ connect with local New Zealanders who use English as their first language
- ✓ better understand the Kiwi accent and New Zealand culture
- ✓ learn about life in New Zealand

HOW VOLUNTEERS BENEFIT

Participation in LT online provides volunteers the chance to:

- ✓ meet students from all walks of life and many different places
- ✓ share their insights about NZ culture and learn about other cultures
- ✓ receive University of Auckland Co-curricular recognition

GUIDELINES FOR CONVERSATIONS

- To ensure students understand, be prepared to slow down your pace of speaking and use the chat feature to write key words down (if students cannot catch what you are saying).
- To make ‘Let’s Talk online’ a friendly and welcoming place, choose to talk about ‘safe’ topics that everyone will feel comfortable with. (Avoid topics such as politics, religion, and personal difficulties, for example.)
- If a student discloses that they are experiencing difficulties (e.g., personal, financial, study-related), suggest that they email the facilitator of the session (who can direct them to appropriate support).

CONVERSATION TOPICS

Here’s a few examples of topics from ‘Let’s Talk online’:

- Preparing for the workplace
- Food in NZ and overseas
- The media
- Sport and keeping fit
- Celebrating birthdays

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

If you would like to be involved or have any questions, please contact:

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