

## Unit 4

**Students:** I'm filming now. This is the camera. Hello.

**Tom:** In my list of priorities sport's number one and school's probably number two.

**Trianna:** I love school. I mean, I don't love school ... I mean, I like, I don't ... I love school, yeah.

**Alex:** I've been building this trailer as my project.

**Charlie:** Getting my license would kind of push me a little bit closer to being a man.

**Kayla:** I've just rearranged my desk as you can see ...

**Trianna:** This is my first ever video diary.

**Shianna:** This is how I'm feeling, this is what I'm thinking.

**Chelsea:** We have two assignments due on the same day, how is that legal?

**Alfie:** Let's get out of here before I get in trouble.

**Narrator:** These teenagers all live in Australia. They have agreed to share their experiences for a whole school year.

**Shianna:** We've started year twelve.

**Narrator:** They are excited about some of their school work. But it can become very stressful.

**Angela:** Why do we have to study every single day, every single hour, you know, no time to relax.

**Narrator:** So the key is finding the right balance ... and carefully choosing what to do with your time.

**Ezra:** Having a best friend is a completely different to ... Dude, stop. I saw that. I don't know it's sort of like, a relationship you don't get ... what are you doing?!

**Narrator:** To Alex and his friend Ezra, friendship and fun is a huge part of Year 12 life.

**Narrator:** Angela lives in Sydney with her mum, her dad and her two brothers. Angela's experience of Year 12 is totally different. Her family help to her cope with the pressures of school life.

**Angela:** When I am loved I feel invincible, I feel powerful.

**Narrator:** And this year, Angela has decided to make sport her priority.

**Angela:** I am a taekwondo black belt.

**Narrator:** Taekwondo is a big part of Angela's life. It helped her a lot when she first moved to Australia from China.

**Angela:** Taekwondo helped me be who I am now. I lacked confidence because I couldn't speak English and everyone made fun of me about it and everything.

**Narrator:** Angela is very good and competes internationally. But choosing taekwondo means missing out on other things.

**Angela:** So, I have to take time off from school, I am leaving on the 18th of June.

**Narrator:** When she travels ...

**Angela:** We're in Auckland, New Zealand!

**Narrator:** ... she has to leave her family and friends behind and face lots of homework when she returns. But she believes it's the right choice.

**Angela:** I got silver and bronze. I came home with an international medal, so yes, it was worth it.

**Narrator:** So finding the right balance will allow these teens to make the most of their Year 12 experience.

## Unit 5

**Narrator:** Maurice started dancing when he was young.

**Maurice:** My friends went and told my teacher that I was a dancer. I showed her and she told me that I should try out for Baltimore School for the Arts. My name is Maurice Mouzon. I'm a twelfth grader at Baltimore School for the Arts.

**Narrator:** Baltimore School for the Arts is a very special kind of high school. Students are chosen by audition. They don't have to show their subject grades at all to gain a place. At the school, students take all the standard subjects including maths, English and science. But school also offers special arts training: dance, music, visual arts, film and theatre.

**Chris Ford:** My name is Chris Ford and I'm the director of the Baltimore School for the Arts. Students when they're passionate about something, they become passionate about theatre, or visual arts or something like that, it's easy to spread that passion out into other activities like geometry or English literature.

**Narrator:** Passion pushes students to work harder and perform well in all subjects. But most still prefer the arts. Mateen's main passion is his music.

**Mateen:** My family isn't in the arts. I'm the only person who really does like classical music. I'm the only person who, like, takes lessons ... and goes to a school like this. My name's Mateen Milan, I'm in the twelfth grade and I go to Baltimore School for the Arts.

**Narrator:** Most of the students at the school are interested in a professional career in the arts. They know there is a lot of competition, and they sometimes have their doubts.

**Mateen:** I find myself maybe once or twice a week questioning myself. Do I really want to do this? Am I actually good at what I do?

**Narrator:** The chance to excel at their craft by working hard at what they love is what makes the special training at the school so important.

**Katherine Fisher:** (I feel that) the majority of students here at the school know that they for sure are going to dedicate their lives to their craft in one way or another. My name is Katherine Helen Fisher, I am a director, choreographer and producer.

**Maurice:** Kate Fisher, she's, an alumni from the school, and she's here teaching us how to use our bodies more and to just, like, feel the music.

**Narrator:** Katherine was a student at the school herself. She is now a teacher and a professional artist. Her experience helps her to understand the students.

**Maurice:** I'm still trying to figure out what I want to do with my life but right now my main focus is dance.

**Narrator:** The school year is over and Maurice and Mateen have earned places at prestigious arts universities for next year.

**Mateen:** At this point I've understood that music is something that I love. It's my passion, it's what I do, and no one can take that from me and I can't wait to see where that takes me in life.

**Narrator:** For Mateen, his time at school has taught him a great lesson for life: spend time doing things that make you happy.