**SCHOOL 2**

Directive 1 personal experience

S- I picked this one. Because it shares like someone on a school call lesson, but the are actually playing video games. And I've put like, when you were on call, you weren’t really focusing, more looking forward to ending so you can go do other things. (Ref image 43)

F- Did you play games while you were in lessons?

S- Yeah.

F- How many other people were dual screening?

S- Yeah.

F- And what was on your other screen?

S- Just any over game games, when they were talking. I’d just be like playing games.

S- I was in a book one time.

F- A book? You were reading and in the lesson at the same time? And was the lesson about the book?

S- No, it was biology.

F- What about you [directing to other students] Did you dual screen in your lessons?

S- I just ignored the laptop and looked at the tellie.

S-I chose this one, because for most of the pandemic, I was just sat by myself on my phone. I didn't really go outside or do anything. (Ref image 06)

S- Is that jail? [recognising the image reference]

F-And also the colour palette there did you pick that because of the monochrome grey?

S-Yeah, it’s like real sad, I don’t know how to describe it.

F- you mean the body language of the subject as well.

S- Yeah, like really bored and giving up on life really.

F- [turns to another student]

S-This one because it represented how easily the pandemic is taking away chances of having a straightforward education. That’s represented by the ladder. (Ref image 31)

F- And what was that in your own experience with education?

S- Well, there was a lot of learning at home. You weren't in school with teachers, so that was difficult. And then when you came back to school, a lot changed because you have a lot of catching up to do stuff that you should have already done. And we should have done our GCSE’s. So it was very different to what should have been.

F- Do you feel like you're caught up now?

S- No, I feel like I could have done a lot better science, so called get onto one of the lessons, because of the technology.

F-Did anyone else have that experience where you feel like your education was stalled?

[nodding heads]

F-And how do you catch up with? What's the process?

S- You don’t. It just piles up and you don’t do it.

F- What happens if you don't do it?

S- Well, for me, I had a lot of teachers just sort of saying, you know, ‘do it, do it’ but then it got to a point where even they got too tired of it. It was a lot of stress on the teachers as well, so it just came to a point where they were just like, ‘you know, it's fine, just move on to the next thing’.

F- What made you feel like you couldn't do the work at home?

S- A lot of distractions and the fact that you didn't like have any motivation either. Because when you’re sat at the laptop, and you just feel like you sat at it all day and you don't see anybody else just looking at the same four walls? And it can be quite difficult, because you haven't got anybody else to help you.

F-When you came back, how was it with teachers? Like, does the school have support for you to get motivated again?

S- Some teachers were quite good, but others put a lot of pressure on you to get stuff done, catch up with all the work that you didn’t do at home, so you could re-learn everything. And then you had mock exams and stuff that you had to prepare for. So it was quite difficult coming back as well.

F- And was that any kind of mental or emotional support for dealing with that isolation?

S- Not really, no. Not that I felt anyway. I didn't get offered any, like, mental support, it was just like, get your work done.

F- [turns to another student.] Can you read the French? Do you know what it says?

S- I am contactless case. Or I am without contact. (Ref image 27)

F-What does that mean to in your own experience?

S- I never really saw my friends during lockdown. And it felt quiet lonely. When you talk to them, when you message people, all you had to talk about was the pandemic and it was less normal conversations. And then the pandemic was in every aspect of your life and it was quite overwhelming.

F- Did anyone else feel overwhelmed by the conversations?

S-Yeah.

F- And did you find any escape to talk about anything else?

S- You try to like distract yourself by talking about other things.

S- And without being able to see your friends. So we're most of you at home the whole time? And then what's the kind of living situation? Could you walk and see people for walks or were you just isolating?

S- Pretty much just isolated. Our grandparents lived next door. So we used to go outside and talk over the gate or through the windows, but they were the only people I saw.

S- No, no, I was allowed to go see my dad, but that was it. I didn't see any of my grandparents until we were out of lockdown.

F- And did any of you feel vulnerable or scared during that time to go out?

S- Yeah a little

F- Tell me about that.

S-[silence, uncomfortable]

25.16

F- Well, you're saying it was overwhelming. So again, a lot of information coming at you. And then what do you do with that information?

S- Just sit there and stay inside.

F- [turns to another student]

S- I chose this one. I wanted to chose it because I thought there was a lot of disadvantage to more like poorer and underpaid families because I feel the were people that were a lot more safer, even though they were breaking the rules as we found with like bars and stuff. I feel they took advantage of it. Whereas the people that were actually trying to like help people didn't get as much. (Ref image -grapes eating)

F- And did any of you have that with your families, any key worker employees in the families or inequalities around work to go to work every day?

S- My dad had to because he works in a factory making medicines. And he had COVID really badly and he's still suffering. Because he got long covid. And he's still suffering with it now.

F- Has he received support?

S- Not really, his work have been like, ‘Why aren't you coming in’? And then when he did go in they were just really bad with the COVID rules and stuff.

F- And how are the rules at the moment in this area? I didn't see anyone on the train wearing a mask or anything like that.

S- It's more like flexible. like ‘we advise you to wear a mask on the bus’.

T- It like what Boris said and we're not going to be told anything else Especially around here we're quite small little place, aren’t we. I think people just sort of going along with their own rules, pretty much.

S- Snd after Boris had his party, people break the rules, we can break the walls. So they’re just doing what they want.

Politics and Power

S-that’s like my biggest fear. I know doesn’t really exist anymore. But it’s like what if something just came and bit me in half right now. (Ref image

F- [starts picking students]

S- I've chose this cartoon with all the leaders and the trolleys. I think it shows that it’s them that are in control because they're the ones that are all going into the Black Friday deals and they’re runing all over. So they're kind of the ones in control and everyone else just has to follow them.

F- what are they after?

S- It says vaccines so I'm guessing that they want the vaccine for their country. (Ref image )

S- It says ‘are we in confinement for Deconfinement? Reconfinement?’. It’s showing that the police have power. Because this man's asking the police woman a bunch of questions and stuff. But it also shows that the people in power might not have all the answers because she's not answering him.

F- Did anyone have any encounters with law enforcement?

S- A policeman went to my neighbour's house. Because he had a party.

F- Were people breaking the rules is a lot here?

S- My neighbours were. I think during lockdown, they had about over ten parties. They did around the year anywhere, but they just didn't care at all. Which was fun [sarcastic inflection], because they did it until like four in the morning.

S- Yeah, my neighbours were also into parties.

F- Did the police come to your neighbours?

S- No, not really. We did call the police a few times. But we just found it made them aggressive. So we just sort of leave them be. And we just shout over the fence and hope that they quiet down but most of the time they just go aggressive.

F- What about the day to day rules of being on the streets? Were there police around stopping you if you're walking or sitting on a park bench S- There was police that walked around the park. You'd go take your dog and then if you’re there too long you'd get like booted off.

S- My dad got stopped by police when he was on his way to work because he had to go past them and they always asked him, ‘Where was going, and if you needed to be there’.

F- And did you have any fear about the police during that time?

S- shake head and respond ‘No’

F- Were any of you breaking any of the rules?

S- No

S- Well… yeah, but just seeing me Dad, I was going to see my dad, but I wasn’t having any parities or anything like that. I hadn’t seen my dad for like, three months, so.

F- what about mask wearing?

S-I always wore a mask.

S- I still wear mine, wherever I can.

S- I don't wear anymore.

S- I bought some new masks yesterday. They were just there and only 50p.

F-Do you think you'll keep wearing them?

S- I don’t wear mine anymore.

S- I try to on buses because I found that buses nowadays around this area, especially, a really filled with elder people. So I'd rather if I have it, I don't want to spread it to them, or vice versa.

S- I was on the bus and an old lady had a go at me for wearing a mask. She was like, ‘ it’s all fake, the government's just trying to control you’.

T- Is that what the rule still is?

S- You know on the front of the bus it says ‘please wear a mask’.

S- Says it on shopfronts as well but people don’t wear it in shops anymore.

S- You never get stopped though. If you don’t wear one it’s not like they tell you to.

S- It’s like you don’t have to, but they’re asking if you could.

S- It’s like free will but most of the people are either lazy or just don't want to.

F- And where do you get your information about the rules is from?

S- the government.

S- When they’re all in chambers and they're all talk about it, I watch that.

S- The Prime Minister's questions. I watch all that when they’re discussing. Conferences!

F-Do you feel like the rules have been clear?

S- No, no, no, not at all. Even now, Boris…

S- He doesn’t even know what he’s doing.

S- I feel because of the recent scandals or even I think he's like, ‘I’m lowering all the rules now so you guys can like me again, and so you don't take me out with power, ha ha ha’.

S- I remember, my auntie would come to the end of the driveway, we stand at the house and she stand at the end of the driveway. And we'd have a conversation. And mom and my auntie were talking. The both thought the rules were entirely different despite watching the exact same news.

F- What about the information from say, the World Health Organisation or the Centre for Disease Control?

S- It’s a lot more clear than the way of Boris puts it.

S- Yeah. [in agreement]

F- And when you get information from different places about the pandemic and what's going on, where are you getting that information from?

S- Morning News, I guess, but most people don't watch that nowadays.

S- BBC.

S- Not the radio. But like just proper news. Like, if you get a notification on Facebook saying something you ignore it because it doesn’t say it properly. Like when you go on Facebook and it says all this stuff about the pandemic, it's usually fake, so you go find the proper news.

F- And how do you know it's fake?

S- Facebook is a joke.

S- It's just ridiculous.

S- It’s just middle aged white women. They're just bored at home with the kids nothing to do.

S- [quoting in joking fashion] ‘COVID is fake, it's all a scam, they’re trying to chip us.’

S- What was that thing that happened, was it like last week or the week before with that girl having a cardiac arrest here?

S- Someone rang me and was like ‘has the been a terrorist attack at your school’ and we was all new trying to figure out what it was and it said a sex offender escaped and we thought they were running around the school.

S- Yeah. My mom saw something on Facebook and it said that a student had been stabbed.

S- And my mom works for like social workers. They were rumours where they thought someone was stabbed at my school. And I was like, ‘mum noone’s been stabbed’.

S- there was a rumour someone had jumped off the stand.

S- Just Chinese whispers, and that’s how it spreads.

F- And what about other social media like Twitter or YouTube or Whatsapp?

S- I feel Twitter is extremely extremists. They'll take an opinion run with it completely. Especially with COVID. You find a lot of anti-maskers on Twitter.

F- And with the mainstream news, when I say mainstream, I mean, like, BBC. Do you trust what they say?

S- Not fully.

S- No

S- If you hear something then you just do bit of research or go to NHS or gov.co.uk.

F- So you go, when you see that, then you go into other sites to check it.

S- Yeah.

S- you gotta verify it.

S- if it says the same thing like Oh, yes. Like the NHS agrees. You know, they're dealing with it.

F- So is the NHS more trustworthy, then news?

S- Yeah. And so in terms of the pandemic, it is the best source to go to.

S- Yeah, yeah, it's got a lot of doctors opinions and stuff, which is quite good.

S- Even through like, the worst of it, I think, that Boris was trying to… or even just government in general was trying to put it on the low and try to calm people, whereas the officials and doctors were being like, ‘it's actually really bad’, you know, ‘ don’t do what he's saying’. But I think he was just trying to make a profit out of it, as they always do.

F- Can you tell us why you chose this one?

S- I think it's funny, and it says, IQ is 59. And then, he's got a tan-line that I thought was funny. He needs to blend properly.He didn’t end on COVID very well and he’s got his mask on backwards because bit of a dingaling.

S- Do you remember when he told everyone to inject detol?

S- Yeah.

S- oh God.

S- Inject detol, clear covid right up that will kill you probably.

S- You can’t get covid when you’re dead.

S- Exactly. So he wasn’t technically wrong?

F- So when you see news and media from people like that, what what's your response?

S- I feel just afraid. I just feel afraid for the people who trust him and believe him.

S- Good help the Americans.

F- [turns to another student]

S-Is tha Putin

S- I thought it was a boy with amoebas but its not its like a covid thing is COVID tests.

S- is it cotton swabs?

S- Yeah. Yeah. The things you put in your mouth.

S- So I chose that one because like it shows him as a plane bombing people, which is thought to be bad. So it's like they’re overwhelming you were doing loads of tests. (Ref image )

F- Do you all remember when the testing came in?

S- Yes.

S- Yeah.

F- How was that?

S- I have a really bad gag reflex.

S- The nerves gets it and it makes me cry.

S- They shoved it in too far and it ended up making my nosebleed, it wasn't very nice.

S- the firs time we had it in school, they jumped it on us. And they were like, ‘by the way, we're gonna do COVID test today’. And the first time we've ever done it, and we're one on one with a nurse or like health, I don't even know. And then they were like, ‘Just do it. Go on. And we'll tell you if you've got COVID or not, go to your classrooms and then we'll tell you’.

S- [Sarcastically says] ‘so spread it some more before we know if you’re positive or not’.

S- We still have to do it twice a week?

S- Oh, yeah on Wednesday and Sunday.

F- And is it better to get tested by yourself or with the nurse?

S- I prefer doing it myself. You could control it and if you're gagging, you can take it out and do it. When the nurse was doing it I was gagging and she was like, ‘just a second’.

S- I tested positive so I feel like it was worth it.

F- How many people have had COVID? [only one replied yes]

S- I was like two stone and thought I was going to die. So it wasn’t great. I wouldn’t recommend it. It was Easter last year.

T- Did you not have any vaccines?

S- No, because it was before my birthday in July.

T- [shares household experiences]

S- my dad had that variant, he just had a sniffle. But I thought I was dying, I thought I was going to die.

S- My dad had it bad.

S- My doctors were atrocious with it. My mom rang up because I have asthma. She was like, ‘Is [student name] gonna get her vaccine early because she has asthma and needs a respiratory one?’ They were like’ no she doesn’t need it because she doesn't use the asthma pump every day.’

S- [ finding out she has asthma]

F-So Would be considered vulnerable on the vulnerable list. But then they didn't give you the vaccine because of that.

S- I wasn’t because I didn't use mass pump every single day. They just said I wasn't getting it early, just like everyone else. Had to wait till I was 16.

F - Has everyone been vaccinated in here? Yeah. And how has that been? Was that all right?

S- My arm hurt for a few days.

S- I was quite ill, but I think I've just got a weak immune system. I kept going dizzy. It was alright though, I got sympathy, like dominoes.

S- I also picked this one because it shows the COVID under the water about to attack them. And their outdoor not wearing a mask, so they’re not following any rules and it’s like attacking them.

F- Yeah, and you also liked this one. What was your reaction?

S- I just like to because it's like COVID Like always there, even if we can't see it. I feel like some people have just forgotten about and said that's it. COVIDs over, we don't do anything. But it's still there.

S- I got one, where this guy is labelled as the government and like he's wearing a mask and pushing COVID up a mountain but there's like boulders of real world issues that are going on during the pandemic. So I just thought that there's there's more than one world crisis going on at the moment. And I think COVID has amplified it. But I think the government just solely concentrate on that one.

F- …during the pandemic, were there other issues that you felt like, we're really important that weren't getting coverage?

S- I think it's kind of predictable, but mental health, I guess, for every kind of age range. I know, a lot of people that struggled with it throughout. And I think there was like, a brief moment of media coverage of it, but I think mostly, it was just people being told to ‘suck it up. You know, it's, it's just, it's only a period of time, but we'll get over.’ But there's a lot of long term sort of things that go on afterwards.

F- Did you have any of that yourself dealing with it?

S- Yeah. Me and my friends, I think we all collectively just sort of went into like, because we isolated ourselves away from anyone, because of the pandemic. But then from that it comes to, because I did all of my work and all of my lessons in my room. So my room was my workspace and my living space, and I never really left it. So I just sort of I got really, really depressed, it wasn't a good time.

F- And were you able to have community through online forums?

S- Yeah, but I think it's a brief moment of happiness. And then you sort of get away from it and you realise, I have a lot of work to do, I need to do it. So it's the pressure of school and interacting with people, you don't really have time to do it.

F- You were also shaking your hand that you think there's other issues that were being ignored?

S- Unemployment I think was a massive issue because a lot of people just said, ‘it's just because of COVID’ and then moved on, and people didn't really get much help.Like, with the furlough scheme and stuff.

F- was this area affected by unemployment?

S- Yeah.

F- Were there compensations or supports given?

S- kind of, but only for certain groups of people that I guess, I think people that were on, the lower chain of like being paid were helped enough, but the people that were a little bit higher than them doing a bit better off weren’t. I think it just comes through the priority of who can help and who can’t.

F- Do you feel like it affected your prospects of employment?

S- Yeah, especially nowadays, I feel most jobs aren’t student friendly, at all, or especially with COVID, because a lot of people are unemployed, and they need the jobs more than us to pay for families and whatnot. But a lot of us couldn't have work experience that we would be given through school. So we can't put that on our CVs and it makes it hard to get a job.

Dictionary

F- Words that have come into your vocabulary that you've never used before?

S- I didn't know what a pandemic was. Now I know.

S-What about lateral flow test?

-discussion about LFT and PCR and pregnancy tests…

S- What about the little slogans that Boris has made up.

S- They’re so stupid.

S- I love them [giggles]

S- What slogan?

S- It's just like, stay home. Stay safe.

S- Hands, face, space.

S- coming home with rituals My grandma has coming home rituals are so like, like she when she comes she puts her clothes in the wash has a shower.

S- That’s a bit much.

S- My grandad is like really really ill.

S- understandable.

S- One of my friends mom's made us put plastic bags on our shoes and then take them off. Then she'd vacuum seal them and then when you get out and put them on.

S- My grandma did that. She’s not taking any chances and actually sanitises everything when she comes in from shopping even the bags get sanitised.

S- think it's just methods of saying safe

S- precautions

S- How would you define quarantine?

S- I need a timestamp.

S- Now, now.

S- how is it different from isolation?

S- Whenever I think of quarantine I think of like the big hazmat suits that the doctors wear when it was really really bad in hospitals.

S-So would you say quarantine like when the government tells you to do it in isolation when you like yourself

S- Quarantine you can be with people.

S- Did anyone else have like zoom quiz nights with the family.

S- Yeah.

S- I did.

S- Yeah, I didn’t take part though.

S- It was like the same thing happened every week. We'd all be on: me, my auntie, my uncle, my sister, a mom and dad. And then my mom would get calls from my granddaughter like, Helen. I don't know how to get on.

Sketch and Reflect

S-doing art at home was atrocious. We couldn’t do any practicals like textiles.

S- this school is so diverse, Chavs and all.

S-She’s just drawn a man in the graveyard with a big TV.

S- Maybe he’s streaming.

S-Maybe he bought the TV.

S- Streaming, that’s so disrespectful.

S- I'm chilling with food and documentaries, it’s lush.

F- Does that mean the pandemic is quite nice

S- there's a difference between choosing to inside and not talking to anyone and then being forced to.

S- My Utopia, me killing COVID.

S- Imagine, you’re just vibing with the best friend reading some books and in aesthetic library, the TV and watching something.

S- You know when it says pre-pandemic, what do you call it when it’s in progress?

S-Pandemic

S- During the pandemic it’s like jails because of covid everywhere. The Utopia is outside and the planes are killing covid. And this one is I'm shooting covid. And this one is a reference of a TV show for cutting off COVID.

F- In your utopia is that it's still around so you don't think it's gonna go away?

S- No.

S- Its just going to be like another common cold.

S- It’s gonna mutate and you're just gonna deal with it as it comes.

S- I could just use it as a thought bubble

S- I like to be alone.

S- What do I do to pandemic what's my Utopia to pandemic

S- Why is there a loveheart?

S- Because that’s what I wanted during the pandemic.

S- ohhhh.