**SCHOOL 8**

**Your own experience**

Muffling comments.

S -student starts singing to the ‘it’s coming home’ (ref image )

S -do you speak French? Do you read it?

S -Achilles heal, awwwww.

S - COVID Kai

S -America! Oh, it's July 4.

Selection

S- Yeah, so this shows person having his birthday via zoom. And I could relate to that because I couldn't see anyone on my birthday. It was bad. It does feel bad. (Ref image 045)

F- How many other people had birthdays during lockdown? One, two. And how was that for you?

S- It wasn’t great. Pretty sure I got sunburnt as well. Sitting in my garden I got sunburnt.

S- Some guy wearing a mask and you can't really tell what emotion he has. It says when we're all wearing masks in the pandemic. You can really read what people were thinking because you can't see their facial expressions. (Ref image 04)

F- And does anybody know who's in that image? Can you just hold it up?

S- He’s an MP

F- (explains the whistle-blower) So the cartoonist is also making a statement about masking and freedom of expression through that image and using that character.

S- Yeah, I have. The England euros one. I was working in the pub at the time. So I was there for most games, and Euros brought everyone together after lockdown, but cases went back up after that. That's why it says ‘it's coming home is coming home, COVID is common home.’ (Ref image

S- This is a painting is by Van Gogh, it just kind of spoke to me cuz I looked at it and I was just a bit like confuzzled really. But then It was just like the sky, and it was. I don't know, kind of like being suppressed under the sky. Right. And then I was also like, being referenced to the sky is like, also like quite humbling. Just the fact that something so small, could have such a huge effect on us. And it's kind of the same way you look at the sky and humbled by it. This painting is obviously very iconic. And so it's like, very familiar, but then it's been spoiled by these little COVID things. And so that's quite a nice reference to how life was. (Ref 23)

F- it’s also interesting to pick that artist, because that was an artist who struggle with mental health issues.

S- I didn't even make that connection.

S- seriously?

S- I identified this is one where this person is sitting on a chair, and it just ticked off the months because he felt like time was going by but then there's no tick off in August and in August I went on holiday. So there’s a the light at the end of the tunnel. (Ref 06) I also picked this one because he was inside, and I was inside too because I got covid and couldn’t go out. And then I saw lots of birds not bears, just birds in the back garden. (Ref 53)

F- how many other people in here got COVID? You got that as well. How was your experience?

S- Fine? Yeah. I was in bed for a few days.

F- Um, which one did you pick?

S- I was picking this one. (Ref 20)

(Recognises source image as Edward Munch) T

F- So you picked it even though you couldn't read the French?

S- Yea just cuz of the image.

S- I chose this because it basically symbolises that you can’t go anywhere, and I couldn’t travel. We were going to go but then we couldn’t travel. (Ref 07)

F- So you remember when people were talking about how the environment was reacting to what was happening?

S- I chose this one because it’s like the battle between the virus trying against the vaccine. See the virus has a vaccine here and it’s trying to get into the virus to see if it works? (Ref 29)

F- And what does that say about your own experience?

S- Well, it's not like my own but it's more everyone's journey to get rid of covid.

(One student Not sharing)

**Directive Politics and Power**

S- I picked this one because I thought that it was quite… it kind of shown how we had no access to the outside environment and what was happening there. So our only access to it was what we were seeing online or what we were seeing in the media. So we could be quite susceptible to deceit because it was whatever they were saying, we had no option to form our own opinion on it. Which made us all kind of, I don’t know… because, yeah. (Ref 115)

F- and where did you get your news from?

S- Social media mostly to be honest. And the news. That was it.

F- which news do watch or follow.

S- BBC.

F- And do you believe what they say.

S- during the pandemic, it was kind of hard to because so many different people say so many different things, so many different countries. And that's why Yeah, also with the people the TV is kind of showing controversy and disagreement between different people in different countries, which again, made it harder for us to form our opinions on it, which also resulted in a lot of not necessarily rational fear but, extreme fear for some people.

F- And then how do you form your opinions when you've got so much mixed messaging?

S- You can’t. You can’t properly I don’t think. Some people definitely, I think. So say you’re part of an older generation might leave other sorts of people to say, say our grandparents, they will be more likely to believe what they hear. Whereas with younger generations, they are more aware of that we can be seen in the media. And so, we have more informed opinions and are open to different interpretations.

S- He was the ex-President of the United States and we all know that he didn't impose restrictions or lockdowns until he got COVID himself.

S- [interjects] I don’t know there. Maybe you got your timeline wrong there.

S- Maybe I need to check my facts.

S- He wasn’t that great with with the COVID controlling COVID situation. So… (ref 57)

F- How was it here? Did you feel like Boris was giving facts?

S-That is a sticky situation. I’m going to give you a no comment on that.

S- Are you a big Boris fan?

S- Ahhhh…

S-This was, from what I gathered it was like an anti-mask or, or it could have just been people coming out of lockdown, actually. I thought it was because there's a bunch of rallies where people were taking their masks off and stuff. I thought it was a lockdown protest because he seems quite aggressive. So, I was locked down, liberated, but if he's just happy then that’s okay. They’re also all throwing their masks on the ground, which is bad environment. I feel like anti maskers probably don't care about the environment. I just feel like. (77)

S- [interjects] you care about that?

S- [responds] of course I care about the environment.

F- Did you protest at all?

S- I did not, NO.

F- Do we have any anti maskers or anti vaxxers in the room?

S- No.

S- Not me.

S- No

F- And how was it with the rules and following the rules.

S- Was pretty easy, I just stayed at home and played x-box.

S- Easy.

F- You enjoyed it. Anyone else enjoy it?

S- Yeah, pretty good.

S- At first, I didn’t enjoy it because I was inside I couldn't see anyone. I like my social life. But I didn’t dislike it that much.

S- GCSE. Missing them, that was great

S- Yes.

S- Yeah, it was a relief.

S- It looked political. [reading caption] “sent to the confinement.” So that's Putin in a SWAT suit confining people based on their illness. And it seems like he's using COVID as an excuse to take power over the population. Like in the presidency thing. I don't know. I don't watch a lot of politics. I just know some stuff about Putin. (Ref 113)

F- Did anyone have that sense of confinement? When the lockdowns happened? You said that you pick the other cartoon because of how it felt during lockdown or confinement. Did you feel like you had any say in whether or not you could go out?

S- No

S- Um. The first one, the first lockdown, yeah. Like whenever you go out just on a walk, you wouldn't even see anyone if you did, you’d like cross the road almost to get away from them. The second lockdown the second lockdown it just it didn't work. It didn’t seem like a lockdown. Everyone was still going out.

S- I just went for walks in the forest.

S- We were still at school.

S- I think it was confining, obviously. But because everyone was doing it. That was that. That was that level of camaraderie.

F- Did you have any fear about getting fined or arrested?

S- No.

F- Or getting in trouble with your parents?

S- My parents were worse. I was telling my mom off half the time.

F- Does anyone else want to share?

S -But it's basically a spirit level a spirit level. Yeah, it's basically if you don't know, it's for, like measuring science level. I was just thinking about like the political landscape at the time how COVID-19 became so political, and it was really, especially with the vaccination rollout, became a tool ot became propaganda, really many aspects, and became a tool for the Conservative Party to regain popularity after losing it due to scandals and, and their approach to COVID prior to that. (Ref 54)

S- I kind of thought he was like how the EU relates to the getting the vaccines. And the rest of the world was already there. . And then see like there's less vaccine as time goes on. So the EU might lose out on that (Ref 114)

S- I thought it's a race to the vaccine.

S- So here what I've done is that governments, we're trying to be the first to make the vaccine. So they're forcing the doctors to work long, hard hours to try and roll out this vaccine. Because there was almost like a race. And then who's going to be the first racer? Yeah. For the first country to get the vaccine, because there's a lot of money in that so. (Ref 38)

S-Also, all of the test kits are made in China. A lot of people were wondering if it's ethical.

**Sketch and Reflect**

S- so it's a pub. Yeah. And that's there's a football game and the bouncer no COVID Sign Out. Genius. Not the table. There are some jokes.

S- so it’s a bedroom, dark, inside and then after the pandemic days are over friends in colour because you know it's not a depressant.

S- Ive got a fish bucket, chips but how I know it’s a pub.

S- This is me. This is like lockdown. You know, you’re bent over, and you’re trapped. As soon as he stands up, stands out of that, and comes into the wild, the beauty.

S- it is that someone is crouched down in a cave in a prison oh they're just stands up. “If he only stood up” that’s deep.

S- I was just thinking of utopia and I was thinking I wanted to go off to a little cabin somewhere. We did it last time but then we were going to do it again with my family we can go out to a little more cabin we know that you can get cheap but as lockdown came, we were unable to so it's pre locked down that's where I wanted to be, in a cabin in the woods.