**SCHOOL 10**

Personal Experiences

S- Corona is a problem that stopped our progression onto things. The ladder represents the future.

F- So why they're for example, opportunities in school that you missed out on? What about exams?

S- Well no exams we just did the more independent work at home.

F- You say you're into math for example. Right? So could you continue to do everything at the level that you want him to?

S- Maybe not because we weren’t able to get all the support we needed.

F- From the school?

S- Yea.

F- Why do you think that is?

S- Cuz of corona.

F- And what about at home did you have support?

S- Yeah from my family.

F-When you came back to school did you get any special support with the return?

S- No not really.

S- We had that summer school but that was like a select number of students.

F- Did you have to repeat any work?

S- Most people just sat at home doing nothing.

S- you try to do things at first and then you just give up because it’s hard.

S-And it's not like you can get really get punished for it.

S- You can get away with it.

S- You have to do your work but you never get a punishment for it.

S- The whole environment was more lazy so…

S- People sitting home watching television shows. (Ref image

F-This was done by an Israeli artist, showing the politicians on the telly. Dp any of you pay attention to the politicians on the telly,

S- Not really the politicians, but I knew that the Syrian conflict was happening.

S- I just picked it. Because during my days I was sitting about watching Netflix.

[side conversation about shows, watching TV- helped to energise them a bit more]

S- I guess it is represents education all the time. Because no one really cared for… work wasn’t getting done. We couldn't really learn anything. So he's like, just more back in education, if that makes sense.

F- Why did you feel like you can learn anything?

S- Not like much teacher support is like, almost a disconnection between us and school and stuff.

F- What kind of support do you get when you're in school that you didn't get whether online learning,

S- you can have a conversation with the teacher, I can talk about that. When you don't, we don't know what you know, stuff like that.

F- and in the online form, you didn't feel like you could do that.

S- No really. Because it's like, you have to email an email, it doesn't really work. And no one can really be bothered, because you’re at home, and you're like, surrounded by distractions. And it’s different from before when you can see that.

F- meaning you can’t be bothered to contact them? Or they couldn't be bothered to reply?

S- It wasn’t like that… It is delays. When you email someone it takes a while for them to at least read the email and reply back. And for you to receive it takes a while for you to see it and read it as well.

F- Okay. So different then like, say you're working on a math problem, and you get stuck then you can just ask the teacher.

S- Yeah. You just put your hand up and they come over. But online it doesn't really work like that.

S- Relates to being at home when I was supposed to be doing work. But our brains was actually in the games, movies, and we didn't really focusing on what we're doing. Just to finish the work, and then do I whatever I want to. I didn't really learn much, I guess.

F- So were you gaming on your other screen?

S- No, it was just like I was doing the work. My time was to finish it as soon as possible to do whatever else after. today. My brain wasn’t focused then.

F-And then we’ve got another screen-based selection.

S- Doing everything interactive was is not the same as doing it in reality. So even doing the same if you have a birthday, it is not the same as doing it with people, different experiences.

F -How many people had virtual events?

S- Birthday.

S- I heard about funerals, because they couldn’t go.

F-What do you think happens in this virtual world that you don't get in person from a social point of view?

S- It's quite contradictory because online you think that everything's instant, but you don't feel that. If that makes sense. Like, the atmosphere isn't as positive.

S- And you lose the social skills. Maybe when after lockdown probably it was more difficult to socialise with other people. It is different from doing online really because doing it in real life is harder to socialise.

F- And in terms of your friends, can you get that from the virtual spaces?

S- Yes, yeah, but it is completely different to real life. Like, some people like double faced as well. For me it is actually really good in real life.

F- Did you all have like WhatsApp groups or group chats?

S- Yea [echos]

F-And were those supportive for you during pandemic?

S- Yeah, cuz he could talk.

S- there’s still the social contact there, even if it wasn’t face to face you could still speak to people. And if you’re bored with nothing else to do it gives you something to do.

S- And then you'd be talking about just random stuff and then carry the conversation about gaming.

F- And then you both have also picked other real life gaming with your football love options. Can you tell us about why you picked that.

S-Football wasn't on the TV after a while so there was a big gap and you couldn’t just watch football. And also you couldn’t really play football because you couldn’t see each other either.

S- When football came back, obviously I’m a fan. And the euros was on time, a whole family all came together and watched it.

F- And when you don't have things like football to play, what do you do?

S- games online

S- Playstation

S- Yea.

F- When you couldn't go outside and play, or did you like make a way to get into the pitch and play.

S-No. I could have but didn’t really.

S- it didn’t last that long and they started opening up. But also the rules for lockdown.

S- Not only lockdown, your parents, our parents like wouldn’t let us do anything, because they were obviously concerned.

F-And did anyone get COVID in your household?

S- Yes. You've had it twice.

F- How was that?

S- I enjoyed it if I’m being honest.

F- Why?

S- I just looked at it from the positive side- no school free room service, just played games, watched movies. Do you?

F- Were you unwell?

S- I was unwell, I didn't sleep for a few nights but I still enjoyed it.

F- Someone else also got it?

S- My mum had it and she was really exaggerating. Thought she was gonna die. She was really really over exaggerating.

F- Did that make you scared? Did you think she was gonna die?

S- no, not at all.

F-And you also had it

S- yeah, it was more of an excuse to either be more lazy, I guess. Just chill in bed and go on tick-tock all day.

F- Does anyone else want to share the other ones that you picked?

S- I guess this I thought was representing society. Because everyone is represented by a lot of things - you can see that governments you can see even ordinary people could buy stuff like toilet paper but that didn’t really effect us off because we have other means. (Ref image )

Directive Politics and Power

S- So this one it show’s he’s drawing on the boat and we don’t know why. The government's didn't really support doctors during Coronavirus. I mean they did, obviously, but they could have been better supported. I thought that doctors were just trying to deal with it by themselves.

F- What do you think politicians could have done better to support doctors?

S- financial support, also for their families as well. Like recruiting doctors from other countries could have helped.

F- Did any of you go out and clap for the NHS?

S- In my house?

S- Wasn’t it like at 8 o clock?

S- Yeah, on a Thursday.

F- And do you think that helped at all?

S- It showed that the UK, we support the doctors and are appreciative, but doesn't actually benefit. Maybe that might strengthen them, but that’s it.

S- But in Italy, this was quite strong, on the balconies. People used to show up and shout, ‘we will we'll find a solution’.

F- And do you think that helped?

S- It definitely helped. But not physically, just mentally it did. I think the mental health is the first one and gives more motivation and stimulation to further try and not give up I guess. If I'm gonna say to them, like,’ don't give up… Don’t. Just try and try.’ Even if he knows that he probably won't be able to succeed, that push will help him.

F- Did you guys do that for each other during lockdown?

S- No.

F- You didn't support each other?

S- there was no need to support.

F-People weren't struggling?

S- I can tell you now we will living in life.

S- Yeah. Good.

S- I would love it if there was another lockdown today.

F- How many of you would go back into lockdown?

S- Everyone! Ask any student.

S-I can understand that for older people it’s hard but for us lot, it’s great.

S- online so pretty much no changing.

F- So wasn't that tough? Yeah. COVID lockdown, easy, happy days.

S- for me it was. I used to be a person who used to go out a lot and it was a bit difficult to stay at home every day.

F- Even being around your parents and your siblings.

S- sometimes it got a bit annoying, but it is what it is innit.

S- it got a bit suffocating but you deal with it.

S- t kind of like helps your relationships as well.

S- yeah 100% (agreeing about family)

S- Because with your family, you're stuck with them so you almost have to talk things out. You almost have to like live with them all the times.

F- And you picked one that's kind of about solidarity. Tell us why you pick that one.

S- I think is that is that representing the first time moon landing. And that is showing like how the vaccine is like a pioneering in our world. (Ref image )

-discuss image source battle of Iwo Jima

F- You also chose once on on the vaccine. Can you tell us about that?

S- This is about government politics. Europe didn't really have much over the vaccine into a struggling compared with Britain and China and America quite a bit. Meanwhile trying to vaccinate most people.

F- You also chose one related vaccine.

S- Yeah. Say you know when the vaccines were introduced, and then life went back to normal. You are going to be okay so it’s like symbolic of the time of corona. The vaccine defeated corona basically. (Ref image )

F- Did you feel free for 21?

S- I was kinda sad to give up that whole lockdown experience.

S- I was more worried about leaving lockdown than being in it.

S- You didn’t want to go back, when you know you've got your GCSE, it’s an added stress.

F- Oh, yeah, that's true. You're an exam prep time now, right?

S- Tough one.

F- Okay, can we go see what you picked here?

S- I think he's like, as screaming behind the mask, it feels like we don't have power to change anything, anybody free to change. And we just had to wear a mask and we didn’t really have power to change anything, that’s why I picked it.

F- Have you had the power, what would you change?

S- Not sure.

F- Do you feel like you have a voice as young people in politics?

S- I don’t really mind. I’m not bothered.

F- So when people make rules and control whether or not you can't go on a football pitch, you don’t care.

S- That’s when it affects me. If it affects me then I care but if it doesn’t I don't.

F- But most politics affects, you, no?

S- Maybe in the long term, but short term not really. So maybe if it’s something about football or Playstation or something like that, then I’d care.

S- You kind of do care. But you’re not even allowed to vote so. We don't have much of a voice like most adults would say, ‘Oh, he’s just a kid so what would he know’.

F- But what about kids, that get involved in protests and social movements?

S- I’ve been to protests. That was for moral reasons for the conflict between Israel and then for Syria, stuff like that. Yeah, I went to that a few times.The Free Palestine protests, other than that I don't care at all.

F- And what about anti-vaccine and anti-masking?

S- I don’t go.

S- mask or not, it’s the same thing.

Dictionary

S- I didn’t really know what pandemic was. I didn't really know what it was before.

Drawing

S- Shows in 2020 COVID is quite big. In 50 years COVID going to be there bit a little smaller, but you can interact with me and

F- Do you think it’s is ever gonna go away?

S- No. It's like the flu where it was a big pandemic a long time ago but it’s just there now where everybody gets it.

S- I think in the future that people become more lazier. And they just stay indoors and don’t go out anymore.

F- You think this quarantine lockdown has changed us forever?

S- Yeah. I think people will just stay in the house and not go out and interact.

F- Do you think that’s a good thing?

S- No not really?

F- How is it a utopia?

S- It’s just reality.

F- How do you think people can get out one interact more.

S- Events.

S- My one is split in half. All sunshine and happiness. Or it could be just Coronavirus and wars.

F- And there's nothing in between?

S- It’s just chaos.

F- Which one would you want to see?

S- A bit of both. I called it ‘Two Ways’

S- Three different time periods. So here’s the Spanish flu. So how what people lived with it in their home. What life was like outside to see like it was like old fashioned board games like nots and crosses and castles, a horse and a guy riding in like a cart. In COVID-19 it’s like the present and you just see people playing games. In the background, you can see war, such like in Ukraine. And in the future you have people in the new meta verse, virtual realities. But then in the background aliens from the moon.

F- That's not very optimistic future.

S- it’s just talking about how one problem can lead to another issue. Like everyone is here just at home so much going on. But then in the future, since everyone is at home, people are getting desperate such as a country like Russia, I'm guessing. They’re invading Ukraine, you can see bombs and stuff. The future of everyone's at home, doing anything. And so people are just scared of being abducted by aliens.

F- How soon do you think that's gonna happen to us?

S- Maybe 100 years.

Course Evaluation

Unknown Speaker 1:05:42

S- It was alright.

F- Would you do it again?

S- Yeah.

S- I preferred this.

S- Yeah, yeah, I prefer this

F- Why is that?

S- We’ve been more open.

S- It’s better in a smaller group.

S- the other one is too many people

S- Too many people

S- We just talked about something else, maybe about football or something else. And I don't really focus on what we're meant to do.

S- I guess this was like more efficient.

F- Do you think it's nice to have more opportunities in school in small groups to share what's going on?

S- yeah [total agreement]

S- 100%

S- yeah 100%

F- Do you have any forums like this where you get together in small groups to talk about issues?

S- Naw.

S- No

F- For example, where issues like climate issues, Black Lives Matter, free Palestine movements or you mentioned the war in Ukraine.. Are there any forums in school for you to come together and talk about what you're thinking about what's happening?

S- Say if you have issues they say ‘go and talk to your teacher’ but nobody's willing to really go. If I have an issue I’m not going to talk to a teacher about it

S- I'm not going to talk to my teacher about my problems.

S- I’d rather talk to my friend about it.

F- So when you're getting like all the news and media and stuff, then how do you manage all that?

S- You see everyday and ignore it.

S- It’s just regular. You just see it.

S-In the past few years to see that every few months you'll see a new problem that maybe a new conflict or a new disease.

S- If I see a dinosaur outside I wouldn’t even be surprised.

S- yeah, I wouldn’t be surprised.

F- If you saw a dinosaur on Facebook would you believe it?

S- No,

S- Maybe from multiple videos at multiple angles.

S- Different sources

S- You gotta see it with your own eyes.

S- You question it until you see it with your own eyes.

F- What about climate change, you can’t necessarily see that.

S- yea but I don’t really care.

S- Everyone dies at the end of the day.

S- Those dinosaurs, they went extinct so I suppose as humans we might go extinct too.

S- we should leave our best to live this life.

F- But if you go to protests for reasons that you want change.

S- Yeah, but that’s because you have a religious content to it. Like obviously I couldn't care less, I have better things to worry about. I'm just living one life.

F- But with your religious convictions, you feel compelled to align and solidarities?

S- When it comes to that, you have to. Bit it's a sticky… it's like a grey area.

F- How do you pick which one is like the right path?

S- Maybe not the right path but like a consensus, if that makes sense.

S-Pick the one that makes most sense and whatever you prefer. so you have obviously got a lot of different things opinions so you just pick what you prefer.

S- And what was generally agreed

F- Do you think is important to be critical about the information that you get?

S- Somebody for saying there's videos about people dying in Ukraine, some people were saying it was from other conflicts.

S- There's like people who share fake videos. I haven't on tick tock bear live streams of people shooting and stuff. Obviously, if you’re in a war situation, you’re not going to think ‘let me get my phone out and start doing a ticktock live.’ It’s not real.

S- You can look at different media like you look at social media and news, then what people say, then you like try to find the link between all of them and then what you think is the middle.

S- I think when covid started people were saying it’s just a flu, it is fake. Still, people are still saying everything was staged by government, but we don’t really know.

S- same thing with the vaccines. A lot of people are anti-vax people even says like 5G and everything like that. Now everyone's got, like most people got vaccines, or are vaccinated and you can see the benefits.

S- On the news you see right people are getting vaccine then they turn into spiders, on the social media.

S- It’s a meme that people take serious.

F- And in terms of the political cartoons do you think is an interesting way to engage with news and media?

S- Yeah. I think they are more influential because display a message.

S- It’s to a wider audience as well. Even younger people probably can still get it. Like you can tell your child is not going to watch a one hour news but they would watch a cartoon.

F- What do you prefer cartoons or memes?

S- Memes

S- I never really though about it except in history.

F- You never seen them before?

S- Naw.

S- We didn’t know how to interpret them.

S- When we grew up there wasn't really much politics.

S- Or we weren’t really paying attention.

F- Do you think the pandemic makes you more attuned to the politics of what's happening?

S- I think people were quite bored so they would find out about things.

S- like some things you just got to deal with how it is. You can't do anything about gravity you just got to deal with it.

F- You never break the rules?

S- Well, that's like different in it, if you scale it down you can break the rules a bit. But Boris Johnson isn’t going to listen to someone like me and my own opinion is not going to be that influential.