

SARAH:

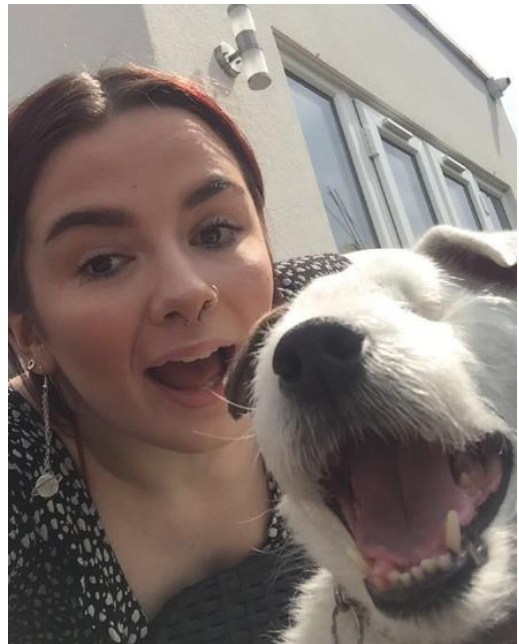
Hiya again,

Hope you are all well and are still managing to remain optimistic! Honestly, I have fallen out of my routine in the past two weeks and as a result I have fallen behind in work slightly. Because of this, I have formed a new routine, and I am trying to plan my days more, creating a to-do list each morning. I have also realised that I find it easier to work when with other people, so I have been facetimeing my pal Sophie when we would have been in drama and history lessons so we can work together.

I have been watching plays on digital theatre these last two weeks - I particularly enjoyed 'A Disappearing Number,' which told the story of mathematicians Srinivasa Ramanujan and G.H.Hardy in 1910, interweaved with the modern day story of maths lecturer Ruth and her husband Al. It was devised by 'Complicité' and won the 2008 Olivier award for best new play - I would highly recommend to those of you who have access to digital theatre plus! The physical theatre in it is BEAUTIFUL!

Have a good few weeks - try to stay positive! :)

(Here's a pic of my dog Pip absolutely loving life in the sun)



MITZI:

Hi it's Mitzi, I hope everyone had a lovely bank holiday last week and are staying safe. I miss the sun this week as I always find that it puts me in such a good mood and I always feel so positive when the sun is shining. All the days seem to be rolling into one, to pass time I have been watching lots of films. Last week my friend recommended that I watch Shutter Island directed by Martin Scorsese, it was so amazing and shocking, I couldn't stop thinking about it for days after I had finished it. I definitely recommend! I have also been noticing that as the weeks go on I am eating less and less healthy. So I looked on Pinterest for healthy snacks and liked the look of 'cinnamon apple chips,' so I made them and they were delicious.



NATALIE:

Hi everyone! I have found this week a bit tougher than the others meaning, if I'm being honest, that I haven't been very productive at all. After Boris' speech on Sunday I got a bit disheartened and frankly fed up, so to pick myself up I decided a pamper day and films were definitely needed. I am a massive fan of face masks so I popped one on and settled down to watch 'The Pursuit of Happyness' which I expected to be a nice, uplifting film, but in the end had me balling my eyes out instead! With that being said, I am feeling a lot more determined to make this week a good one, despite the weather, and I have had zoom quizzes and catch ups, and yesterday I facetedimed my grandparents because checking in with people feeling the same as you just seems to make it all feel a little easier :) My sister is planning on spicing her look up and dyeing her hair so I imagine that will keep me occupied, especially with music on and freshly made banana cake as that seems to be the new craze! I hope you're all doing well, powering on through and taking time to relax, and hopefully soon we'll see more of the sun!

Stay safe and have a lovely week,
Natalie :)



BLAKE:

Hi everyone, here's a quick update:

In the last week I have read three books, all part of the Sharpe collection because I really enjoy reading them. They're about the journey of a British soldier called Richard Sharpe and they start in the late 18th century, during the conquest of India by the British East India Company. He saves the General of the Campaign, Sir Arthur Wellesley (future 1st Duke of Wellington and two term prime minister) and gets a field commission. This is very rare because during that time period to get a commission (some sort of leadership role) you had to purchase one off of someone already in the military or pay for the entire construction of a new regiment. As Sharpe is from the 'ranks,' he can't afford to buy his next promotion and is 'only as good as his last battle' meaning he has to get promoted on merit. The latest books I have been reading all take place during the Peninsula war (war for Portugal and Spain) where the British, Spanish and Portuguese armies are heavily outnumbered and matched by Napoleon's forces. By this point Sharpe is a Captain and keeps getting into trouble as he wages 'his own private wars,' affecting the politics of the campaign without realising it.

I wrote a lot about that because I haven't really done anything else remotely interesting - actually, VE Day happened and that was rather cool. My whole lane had the gazebos out on the front lawn for the picnic.

Perhaps one of you will look into the Sharpe books - if that's your thing.

Blake

Eleanor:

Heya everyone! It looks like we're starting to see a light at the end of this quarantine shaped tunnel. It's great to see the sun start coming out again, especially on VE Day last week; my Mum and I had the most extra afternoon tea in the garden and then a BBQ over the fence with the neighbours. It's sad that we couldn't mark such an occasion more publicly but hopefully some sort of normalcy will have returned by VJ Day.

Something quite wholesome happened since the last SSLT blog too, the dog we were fostering got adopted and is now in his forever home! The family who adopted him are really pleased and he's just loving having people around to pet him all the time. Anyway, we're now fostering another dog called BeeBee. Though she's really lovely she does bear an unfortunate resemblance to a bat with her pointy ears.

Finally, I've also been staying an active member of my Air Cadet Squadron; who hosted an International Virtual Parade with 121 Red Arrows Squadron in Ontario. (In plain English: we had a Teams video call with Canadian Air Cadets, their staff and the person in charge of the entire British Air Cadets.) We were the first people to do this and it looks like a lot of other units have taken the idea! It's weird to think how a virus that keeps us so confined in our own homes has paved the way for transatlantic connections.

