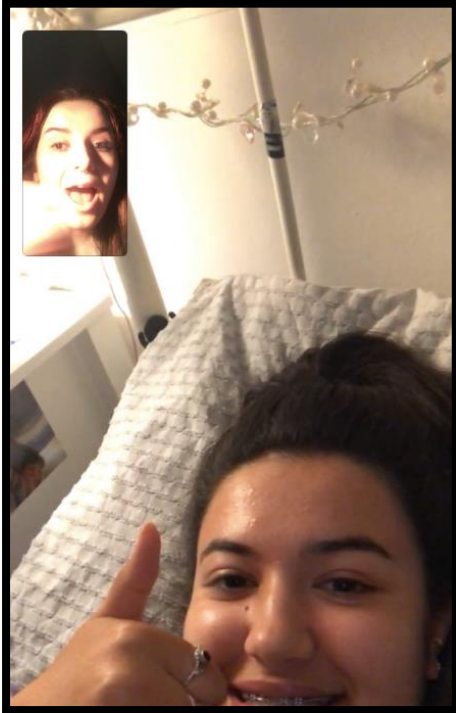


SARAH:



What strange times we are living through - I hope you are all managing to remain positive and motivated : )

At first, I really struggled to adapt to the newness of everything, but as time is progressing, I feel I am formulating more of a routine which has helped me keep on top of school work more effectively! I work for the tuition company Explore and we are now offering online tuition sessions which I am loving! It is so lovely to have a chat with the kids I tutor each week and see what they have been up to.

My friends and I are now doing a weekly quiz night and I have been facetimeing people every day. I am a very social person, so the lack of contact has been difficult for me, but these little things are making this experience SO much more enjoyable.

Finally, a huuuuuge shoutout to anyone reading this who is a key worker, whether you are working in a supermarket, on an NHS ward or delivering parcels, thank you for making this whole experience that bit easier for the rest of us.

Again, I hope you have all been able to remain optimistic and are keeping yourselves entertained! Stay home and stay safe.

NATALIE:



Hello everyone, we've almost made it to the end of another week! I hope you are all doing well and enjoying lockdown as much as you can, even if it is all rather confusing. So far, I've found that it's all been a lot easier than I imagined which I'm sure is down to the sunny days we've had as I've been on loads of walks and even had a couple of cheeky BBQs with my family. I thought lockdown was going to be very difficult as I love to chat and I didn't know how I'd cope being stuck in my house going without Bacco Lounge meals and my friends, but just before lockdown, luckily for me, my sister had to move back home after working abroad

for the past six months, so we have had a LOT to catch up on. I've also explored my love of films and I'm working my way through a 4-page list of classics which I've found is a great way to relax after my school day although I've got to crack on as I'm only 4 films in!

I hope you have a lovely week and are focusing on the happy things in this time!

BLAKE:



I hope you are all doing well in these strange times, so far, I have been coping just fine. Subjects are going well and everything is uncertain, but I am not worried as the support available from the teachers has been great when I have needed it, for example Mr Alonzi has always quickly responded with an answer to any of my queries. It's very different doing work in the same place every day and it can often blend all into one in someone's memory. Therefore, it can be hard to judge how much work you have done and how successful you have been in doing it. I got around this by writing, at the start of everyday, a list of things I aim to do on an Excel sheet under the day and date. Every time I do a task I tick it off and it just helps to stay organised. After "school" I have been playing cricket with my brother in the net in the garden and that's been a really nice way of doing some exercise and also something which I am passionate about. I have been staying in contact with friends on facetime and I am sure

you are all doing the same. Another thing which I have really enjoyed is the games I have been playing with my family after dinner. We have played a lot of Monopoly Deal as well as the original Monopoly board game. I won, even though my Dad kept cheating.

MITZI:



I hope everyone is keeping safe in these extremely strange times. We've been very lucky to have sunny weather (not loving the rain that has come this week though!). I feel as if its Groundhog Day, I find myself doing the same thing every day! One positive thing that I have found out of this experience is the fact I have been spending a lot more time outside. My Mum and Grandma have a farm and it's been lambing season over the last month, so I have been lucky enough to go up to the farm every day and help out. There's something very relaxing about being outside in the countryside. Additionally, I've been spending this time trying to get my summer body and get fitter, I've been doing a workout a day. Since I started working out, I have become more positive and felt physically and mentally stronger,

so I definitely recommend doing some form of exercise.



ELEANOR:

I hope you're all doing well with the online lives that we're having to lead during quarantine. I have found working all day in my house to be INCREDIBLY tiresome and have found myself getting side-tracked by TikTok more than once... Anyway, since I decided to set my screen-time for social media to a measly hour a day, I've found that I'm being far more productive and actually getting my set work done!

I've also found that instead of following my timetable, I work better by picking two subjects a day and spending the equivalent of three lessons on each. I've had to trial and error a lot of different

ways of working but I'm glad because it looks like I've finally found one I can stick to.

When it comes to after school activities I decided that I was going to try my hand at baking! Unfortunately, the first cake I made had the texture and consistency of rubber. Note to self: read how long things should actually be in the oven, don't do a John Torode. Thankfully my next attempt turned out vaguely cake-like so it's only up from here!

Like many of you, I was nominated to do a 5km run and wow, let me tell you, it wasn't pretty. So I've challenged myself to stop bingeing Netflix and drag myself out the house for some government permitted exercise, time will tell on how this goes. One

However you have found isolation so far, well done for not breaking the rules of quarantine and making sure that you're protecting yourself and protecting your mates. It looks like our efforts so far are paying off!