

## Growing Up During Covid-19

July 2020 - My 16th birthday...was meant to be in London with my mum to see Les Misérables as a birthday present, obviously not possible. Quite upset that we can't be there and see the show, but it is what it is.

I'm also meant to be doing a language exchange with a Spanish girl in July, no idea if that's possible and even if it is, whether or not everyone involved will be comfortable with it happening. I really would like it to happen, I love Spain and I love (trying) to speak Spanish. However, I do understand that it isn't up to whether I want to go it's a matter of safety and following the rules.

(It's now August, after lots of date and flight changes to make it all work, the government put Spain on the no fly list so it didn't happen. Both the Spanish girl and I are really hoping it will happen next year and are keeping in touch but we were both upset we couldn't go)

Went into a shop today (day before masks are mandatory). Most people have masks but not as good at maintaining a distance from others. 2 weeks ago: in shops fewer people with masks, but maintaining distance better.

Awkward wearing a mask and glasses - have been looking for solutions like a tissue on the bridge of my nose, mask under glasses and soap on the lens. Very minor problem but noticeable to me.

Sat in the garden of one of my mum's cousins for lunch - he works as a teacher in a prison and said that at the moment the prisoners are in their cells for 23 hours a day, it's all single cells too so they're alone for 23 hours a day. What?!?!?! They may be criminals but they're still people. I don't think that locking people in a single cell for 23 hours a day is humane.

Started back at school (first week of September) - forgot how tiring, mentally and physically, it is. 6 months of nothing will do that to you I suppose.

At school, due to Covid and staggered lunch times, I don't eat until 1.30pm - it's fine but will take some getting used to. Such a 1st world problem.

Why on earth have the government moved some testing sites, or at least reduced the capacity of some - it means people are having to travel up to 100 miles to get a Covid test. If I needed a test I would probably have to go to Dumfries, in Scotland. I live in England, that seems like lunacy to me.

2nd day back at school - it's really hard to socially (or physically) distance. People are trying and being very good, but the buildings aren't designed for it and it's new to everyone, so all are still learning.

Noticing less focus on covid during news bulletins now - more stories about other things, of course covid is still mentioned but less so I think. It makes more sense, now that people are allowed out of their houses there are more things to report on.

Teachers seem to be doing everything they can to avoid saying 'covid' or 'coronavirus'. Instead they say things like 'what's happening at the moment' or 'these strange times' etc. Odd but amusing for me.