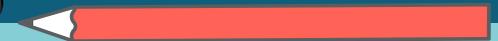
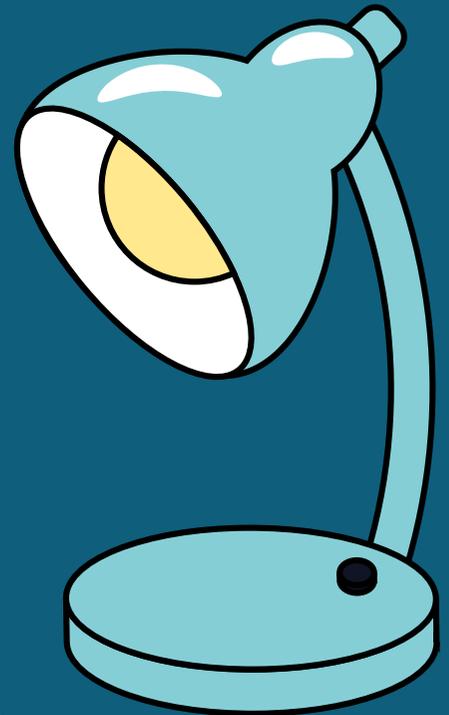


YOUTH BLOGS



07 JULY 2020



#PYLBLOGS #CLAPFORTHENHS #STAYHOME
#STAYSAFE #WASHYOURHANDS

My experience during the lockdown

I am a 17 year old student and for me this lockdown has been full of endless video calls, time with my family and catching up on work. As an aspiring writer, it has given me the time to write more books and scripts. At the start of the lockdown the days seemed endless and identical, I then adopted a routine, which greatly improved my productivity during this time. I am also especially grateful to my family and friends, who have helped to make this lockdown time the way it was for me.

Family and friends

I am especially grateful that I am fortunate enough to have been able to spend this lockdown period at home with my family. It has been a nice opportunity to spend more time with them before I leave to go to university in September.

As well as spending time with my family, I've stayed in close contact with my friends throughout the lockdown. This has meant that although it has been months since I have seen them in real life, it doesn't actually feel like it has been too long.

Exam cancellation

My friends and I are just a few of the pupils that were greatly impacted by the school closures. It meant that I missed the end of my final year of school. Although, I did not dwell on this rather I was more preoccupied at the fact that the pandemic had already gotten to the stage where it was that severe. Everyone reacted to the news in their own way and I witnessed this on my last day of school, where there was a mixture of anxiety and excitement. The majority were delighted that they would now have no exams. There were also others, who were terrified about what the cancellation of exams meant for their future. Personally, my exams being cancelled was a relief and I know my brother, who was about to take his GCSE exams, also felt the same way.

University.

As well as the cancellation of my exams, the lockdown also meant that my university interview was cancelled. Fortunately, my interview was rescheduled as a telephone interview and from this I received an unconditional offer, which is a great comfort as it has given me the assurance that I have a secure place.

Due to social media, I have been in contact with many of my future classmates from my university, so now I feel more at ease since I already know many people, who will also be going there.

Overall

The gift of extra free time that lockdown presented has positively impacted me greatly. It has meant a lot of personal development, which without the lockdown most likely never would have happened.

As it did for many, the pandemic definitely made me fearful. I became weary of going outside resulting in me only going outside about 5 times throughout the whole lockdown. I am very relieved to see a decline in the cases. This will be a period of time that will never leave our memories and has shaped many of us as I know it has for me.

Salem Habtom