

Frances B



January 2020, the most oblivious of times for everyone. Beginning of a new year, how exhilarating, only this was just the start of what would feel like a dystopian novel. At this point, school was a thing of normality, making plans to go out felt like routine work however it was just a matter of time before each of these things would become a novelty. Living through the final year before transitioning to the dreaded teenage years had planned to be a joyous year filled with friends, family and living freely with purpose. Obviously as already demonstrated, this had not played out how I expected.

Corona virus, lockdown, world crisis, protests and even more made this year be one to go down in history, for positive and negative reasons. Reflecting on the past has made me realise how important it is to hold on to the moment, do not take everything for granted as it can be taken away in a heartbeat. Sometimes I ask myself, what made this year so difficult? Although there are a lot of contributing factors, there is one that really stands out: loneliness. Out of everything this year, the thing that hit me and everyone the hardest was being stripped away from the people we love. It feels as if we should be in a George Orwell novel, with his obscure ideas and dystopian style. Nobody ever expected to be hidden away from their most precious reasons to live, making this year, one of the hardest in history.

The past year could not have been more challenging, but I am so thankful I got this experience, It taught me to appreciate what we have and live in the moment as we never know when all our joy might be stolen and destroyed for good. This year had its ups and downs, but I will always remember how much it tested our limits and how most of us surpassed its hardest levels. It is a reminder of how strong we are and how much willpower we really use every day unexpectedly. From the past 365 days, I have learnt a valuable lesson and that is: live everyday like tomorrow will not exist, we never know what the future has in store for us.