

Letter from

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Introduction

This Anthology of is made up of poems, letters, thoughts, and musings contributed by teachers and students during our Spring 2021 Lockdown. The contributions are our opportunity to record and share the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of our Sheffield family of students and teachers.

We have experienced, both individually and collectively, an historical event – this medium is a way of recognising that and celebrating the resilience that everyone has shown.

We hope that you enjoy reading this anthology.



I miss the Before

I miss the before,
When we could see those we love without breaking the law.

I miss the before,
When weekends would mean drinks and hitting the dancefloor.

I miss the before,
Trips to shops, restaurants, and cafes, instead of deliveries to my door.

I miss the before,
Summer holidays, surprise trips away, visits to the shore.

I miss the before,
Even the parts which used to feel like a chore.

I miss the before,
But taking for granted This Life - will now, be nevermore.

Anonymous

Lockdown

Looking out across an empty playground.

Online lessons replace the classroom.

Collective solitude and isolation – the whole world in one situation.

Keep your hands clean! Where is your mask? Constant frustration. Constant tasks.

Distancing ourselves from familiar faces. Lonely thoughts invade our spaces.

One queue, two queue then another day of Netflix. Another day of just you.

Walking in circles or back and forth, dancing to TikTok with no remorse.

Not quite over. Not quite done - be patient, we've very nearly won!

Ms Mattox (English teacher)
Shelfield Teacher

A Changed World

I know you're there, beloved
In a world you can see
In a place of threat and danger
That has just been timesed by three

I know you're there, beloved
At home, safe and sound
No-one there to come into your house
And turn that frown upside down

I know you're there, beloved
Despite what the world may be
Even if it's made out of pixels
I am still there to see

I know you're there beloved
Not long until you're free
I am there outside your window
For the safety of you and me

I know you're there, beloved
And now let's take the knee
And clap for the NHS that have saved us
Throughout COVID-19

Joseph H

Lockdown Poem

Last year we were all feeling down
But some people turned up our frowns.
The NHS were all such heroes, saving lives
And I wish we could give them all high fives.
We all played our part staying at home
Even though some of us were living alone.
Communities got together to help their neighbours
So we could all get through our labours.
Lots of us tried to stay in Zen
Listening to We'll Meet Again.
Yet that year was still tough
All of us had had enough.
But 2021 is a new year
Hopefully to give the world some cheer

Matthew C

Key to Normality

COVID-19 a deadly virus.
Who knew we needed something that could kill
to inspire us.
Something neither you or me could ever see.
Something that has caged us and never set us
free.

Locked us up in our houses and threw away our
keys.
Make us fear our loved ones and shattered our
dreams.

Closed us of from the world in every single way.
I didn't cause this, yet you're still making me
pay.

Is this what it takes.
For millions to die for us to notice our mistakes.
Is this what we get for turning on each other?
Is this what we've caused to make people suffer.

I don't understand this. I need to know.
I need to find purpose, another reason to grow.

World, I speak directly to you.
I know that 71% of you is covered in bottomless
blue.
But I didn't expect that you could make me feel
like that too.

If I could ask you one question. Only for you.
Because everything that we see is from your
point of view.

I'd ask what could we do?
What could we do that could make a
difference?
What could we do to show perseverance?
Please, speak to me and show me.
What could we do that could set us all free?

Now please. Let me tell you something that
helped me find reason.
All of this madness bought social cohesion.
We united as one and all took a stand.

For George and Breonna we stood hand in
hand.
We came together for people for places.
For blacks, for whites, and all of the races.
For me, this is the true meaning of life.
So hats off to you world for allowing us to see.
That this family we call humanity.
Is the one holding the key.

Laura K

A Silly Song

Lockdown has been rough
Today I thought it was really tough
Have I got a cough?
Maybe its Corona?!!!!!!

I am going mad
I feel so very very sad
Perhaps I slipped over or..
Maybe its Corona?!!!!

I am trapped in the house
I feel like a little mouse
When will this be over?
Please no more corona!!!

Days will soon be brighter
Maybe I'm a fighter?
Better times ahead or
Perhaps I'll just go to bed!!

Sam (Year 7)

The Powerful and Dangerous Mask

Whose mask is that? I think I know.
Its owner is quite sad though.
It really is a tale of woe,
I watch him frown. I cry 'Hello'.

He gives his mask a shake,
And sobs until the tears make.
The only other sounds are the break
Of distant waves and birds awake.

The mask is powerful, dangerous and deep,
But he has promises to keep,
Until then he shall not sleep.
He lies in bed with ducts that weep.

He rises from his bitter bed,
With thoughts of sadness in his head,
He idolises being dead.
Facing the day with never ending dread.

Luke (Year 9)

Lockdown 2020/21

Lockdown has been strange; it's been a crazy experience and horrible being in the unknown. So many people have lost loved ones, family members. It's really sad and even when they aren't your family- or it might not be somebody you know it still has an effect on you! The constant things we ask ourselves: could you be next? Could it be your family? But unfortunately, nobody knows the answers to that, we just have to do our best to stay home and protect ourselves - as well as other people!!

Lockdown has been very boring at times, doing the same thing same stuff over and over again, just a different day really. There have been so many times where I have felt lonely, the feeling like I have nobody around but I have 2 brothers 2 sisters and a mom and dad who are perfectly healthy and there are people out there that don't even have that so I think to myself I'm so lucky just to have my family and the roof over our heads. It's been very hard being stuck in the same house nonstop. My siblings and I have had numerous amount of fights and arguments I have lashed out on my mom and dad many times, but I understand its nobody's fault!

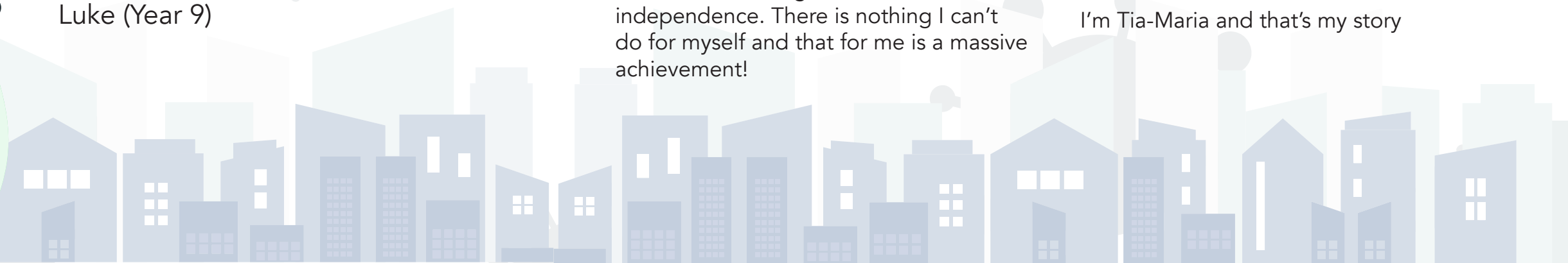
As a family we have become even closer then we already were considering its just us. We work together. We all help around the house, my mom's been teaching us actual life skills, like laundry, separating colours from blacks and white, and cooking! Which, might I add, is so important to know. It's safe to say, this Lockdown has taught me a lot of independence. There is nothing I can't do for myself and that for me is a massive achievement!

There have been so many bad points about this Lockdown, so much we have lost out on. The Year 6 Residential trip being one!! That was a once in a lifetime opportunity to go away with all of Year 6 before we left for high school and that's something our year 6 leavers will never ever get back, we missed out on all our last days with friends and teachers we won't see again, who have been a big part of our lives'. And starting Year 7 in a total different way to any other year. The changes we have had to adapt to and the new way of living we have had to cope with is something beyond words but it's safe to say we will go down in history!

All babies born during Lockdown have missed out on precious time with family. It's ok people saying you can make up for lost time, but can you really? Missing out on all of their first things is something you can't get back. All the memories will just be for the moms and dads - no other family will have that memory of them ... my brother was born December 2020 and he has left the house three times and he's over 1 now. He's been to Wacky Warehouse once!! He's missed swimming. He hasn't met his auntie. His grandparents ... nothing. And the effect it has on him is noticeable; he doesn't leave his dad's side and he won't go to anybody else. He won't look at anybody else! So that's a bigger task parents have to face. But all of this stuff isn't spoken about much in media: the effect it has on us and every other person.

I could say so much more but I'm currently doing home schooling with my mom at home ... new way of life!! So, I'm going to be late for next lesson.

I'm Tia-Maria and that's my story



To my form group-7LXG

Lockdown has been tough on the entire country. You have all handled it though!

I am so proud of how you have continued your education and found things to focus on instead of worrying about the future. We have no control over this virus, but we do have control of how we cope with it. Many of you have struggled but have continued to push forward and flourish.

Not being in school has been a massive challenge for some of you: you miss your friends, the routine, and the freedom we once had. Hopefully, there is light at the end of this tunnel though, and we can soon resume our lives again.

You have learned how to adjust to the new normal and have made the most of your time with family, time that is so very precious. Some of you have lost loved ones but have memories to take you forward, some of you have struggled mentally with the isolation you have felt but you have got through it and are here to face another day.

You are all little stars and have brightened up my days - little chats and kind words to each other have made this difficult time bearable. I have missed your smiles and cannot wait until we are in the classroom again so we can talk face to face rather than through a computer.

Not long now and life can resume, and we can be thankful that we are still here and that we have made it to the other side safely.

For now, though we must be strong and remain safe.

Mrs Griffin



Dear Boris Johnson

When the first Lockdown happened in March 2020, I didn't think it would last very long. All the schools had to shut to help stop the spread of the virus and we had to do all our schoolwork online. We couldn't go anywhere. We did go out for exercise, but I missed school, and my friends, a lot. I completed all my games on my X box, I watched lots of videos on YouTube, I clapped for the NHS on Thursdays and all my neighbours came out and joined in.

Then Lockdown began to ease, some things started to go back to normal and we enjoyed some of the summer. We went on holiday to Skegness; I loved playing on the beach and going on the fun fair. Maisie, my friend, had a bad time: she broke her wrist and had to go to hospital. I felt really bad for her - she was in a lot of pain.

We did enjoy Christmas this year, even though I didn't get to spend time with all my family because of another Lockdown. 2021 and the schools again had to shut, and we had to start all our learning again online. I didn't mind the online learning this time because I liked the way the school did it. Using Teams is really good as I get to speak to my teachers and friends.

The sad news in this Lockdown is that we lost Captain Sir Tom Moore. I did go upside and clap for him.

I'm feeling a little bored. I want everyone to get the vaccine so we all can get back to a normal life.

I miss my family and friends.

Cameron (Year 7)

Mourning for yesterday

And this morning I mourned for yesterday as the semi-skimmed milk drowns the cornflakes which bob up and down. Synchronized.

Mundane. There is never any change.

Sometimes I think the flakes change,

And I search for this, prodding the flakes like battery hens

Completely redundant with no sign of change and I could have hypothesized that but

The flakes are deceptive.

Spiked by Dolos; sending word as Thanatos lingers

A reminder of our mourning for yesterday

The days lead to a ponderous looming.

Separated mice each living out singular experimentation.

A crave for before snags at the souls

waiting for their in, in the quarantine line

Aristotle longs for something

Anything. To precede the individual

And, he too, mourns for yesterday.

An oddity in humanity. A crisis is at hand.

Persephone is kissing the foreheads

of those who fall; wishing, mourning for yesterday.

The cornflakes lay stagnant in my bowl; I plead

for change but the crystalized tear remains in place as I mourn for yesterday.

Ms Cottrell (English Teacher)



Letter from

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