**Take The Stage: BLINDNESS**

**The Time When Time Stopped by Haverstock School**

***The Time When Time Stopped:***

*A spooky atmospheric noise comes in and get louder then stops. It continues to fade in and out during the following sequence.*

*Throughout this sequence we hear a number of different voices of young people from London.*

It was a time where stepping outside seemed like a sin.

It was a time that caused worldwide panic.

It was a time when we couldn't go outside to enjoy the snow that graced us.

It was a time when tension grew in families as they stayed too close.

It was a time when online school felt normal.

It was a time when socialising remotely was the only option.

It was a time when the question when you came home was not ‘how are you?’ but 'have you washed your hands?'.

It was a time of suffering.

It was a time of loneliness.

It was a time when we missed, loved and lost.

It was a time when days blended into weeks, months even.

It was a time of lost opportunity.

It was a time where hope was needed most.

It was a time when mental health was more important.

It was a time we opened up to change.

It was a time of accountability.

It was a time of mass protest.

It was a time when people had to fight for their voices to be heard.

It was a time of righting century-old wrongs.

It was a time when the world united to produce a vaccine.

It was a time when we grew closer, far apart.

It was a time when time stopped.

***How I Survived:***

*At the end of each line, we get a beat of noise.*

**D**:

No more shaking hands.

Don't touch your face.

Never stand too close

In a crowded place.

A virus is amongst us.

It's roaming around our land.

It contaminates and does us harm

By the simple touch of my hands.

Dark days are fast approaching.

We have to be aware.

To this demon who waits out there.

Our world is now at war

With an enemy that's unseen.

But we can beat the invader

If we all keep our hands clean.

*The spooky noise has returned, layered with other instruments. It is now more constant.*

**X:**

I survived. We all survived. Trying our best to live.

To walk, to talk, to laugh, and to smile.

While being alone, we tried to own what was our and what we had left

A world so strange to live, but we are still surviving.

*Piano has been added to the underscore adding further atmosphere.*

**R:**

I don’t know how I survived. I got lucky, but I was not smart. I didn’t believe in corona, I thought the government was playing a game with us, but after I knew that people were getting affected, I realised that this is real.

So, because I had to stay in, I started exercising. I’d run up and down the road and do weights every day. I started getting healthier and it made time go quick. Summer blew by and I felt as if I was a new person, and by September I was like a new guy. A year later from the start of COVID, I feel happier than I was last year so think of COVID in a happy way for me, it changed my life.

*There is a constant rumble of sound underscoring the speech, getting louder and louder then fading out.*

**M**:

I am sad.

I am mad.

The whole world has turned upside down.

A man gives out a cold and dies from it.

Most people not staying 6ft without masks it’s being reckless.

Everybody fighting for tissue and dish soap, as if it were the hunger game to stay clean.

Then conspiracies flooding the world it is scaring us.

Not only a virus is infecting us.

Hatred spreading around the world is turning in to a survival game.

Just because he doesn't look the same or think the same doesn't mean he isn't the same.

Nor if they are attracted to the same gender.

Because in the end this is how we are surviving whether we are the same or not we are all humans, which, make us the same.

*There is low atmospheric hum underscoring the speech*

**D:**

I survived from my constant lazy attitude, and my forever tired state of mind. If not for these two negatives of my personality, I would have probably been going outside, and putting myself in danger, as well as my family in danger. But I think that’s how the rest of us survived as well. Instead of gleefully putting yourselves in danger, you embraced the negatives you had pre-lockdown, and survived. It didn't matter if it was lazing about or brooding or even punching your pillow every night before bed, you embraced them. And because of them, we survived. No man or woman on this planet is perfect. And those imperfections are what we should be thankful for. After all it is what saved our lives.

*The low hum continues and is joined by beats of higher pitched synthetic sound that pulses in and out.*

**L**:

I look back at the past year.

What I’ve seen, where I’ve been and how I feel.

I made it. I actually made it.

I’ve never been more grateful to be me.

We were thrown into this with no warning.

Just some rules, history, grades started falling.

Who knew where we would be today?

But I’m so glad I decided to stay.

People around me have suffered way worse.

I embraced life and I started to learn.

Family became more than people in my life.

They became hope.

One months, two months, three months, four.

I ended up being trapped behind a door.

I’ve never seen so much unity.

I started to understand the people around me.

Distance is slowly becoming unbroken.

Some of this year remains unspoken.

Schools are starting to open, families reunited.

Smiles on our face we became delighted.

We have faced so much catastrophe,

but we all owned it with an apostrophe.

*The high pitches beats fade out and the low hum continues underneath the speech.*

**D:**

We are survivors.

We survived one of the greatest plagues bestowed upon mankind.

We recognise that.

We are survivors.

But were we not survivors before?

Did we as human beings not know how to make do?

Or was it just this, this spectacular phenomenon that highlighted the fact.

We are survivors.

We compromised, we worried, we feared the worst,

But those things were not things we suddenly learnt in a lockdown,

We survived because we are human beings,

We are survivors because of the hardships we've always faced.

I'm too young to remember the 2008 financial crisis,

But I still remember it's impact, my home, our business,

I remember sitting in the lobbies of offices and courts looking at goldfish,

When the shutters closed, we moved on,

Because we are survivors.

For many people the dials were cranked up to their maximum,

People were scared, they thought they were unprepared,

But if you can survive the dial turned up to 80,

You can survive when it's at 100.

I am a survivor,

I have survived every day of my life,

Each on its own a small feat,

As a whole it looks like a big feat.

That's why when people ask me "How I survived?",

It's not because of anything I changed,

It's because of human nature,

We are born survivors, relentlessly setting our eyes on a better future,

And that's why we survive.

*The background synth humming sound gets higher pitched and louder.*

**Y:**

Keep asking. Keep your head up. Most importantly, keep trying because someday, the wind will sweep you off of the top of a mountain. Someday, the leaves from the tallest tree will decay and fall. Someday, the seed will thrive and shine as it was destined to. Someday, your heart will bleed more colours than just red onto the page.

**X:**

I don't know what to say well, I mean what am I supposed to say? Be happy, give you good advice? Encourage you to do something? “Hey, you can do it, don't let anyone bring you down, you’re important.”

Well, I'm not going to do that. I'm not going to encourage someone to follow their dreams if I can barely get out of my bed and follow mine. I am going to say this, do what you want. No one has control over you not even your parents… well maybe your parents do. What I'm trying to say is be free, you probably live in a world where everyone has a voice and can be heard, use that voice to get your opinions out. I don't know what you’ve been through, but I know what I’ve been through and what I had to go through, you would have probably learnt our history but you never lived it, if you live in a world that confines you…..escape.

Sometimes it's best to live in a world that's in your own head than to live in reality.

*We hear melodic beats of sound underscoring the speech.*

**R:**

I do not know what the future holds for us but what I've experienced is that not many realise how strong we can become if we help each other. Many only worry for themselves and that's understandable. But if we could all just put our differences aside, we could help out and contribute to the community. In the end of it I just want many to realise that there's no excuse for their malicious or greedy actions and we have to start taking responsibility for it.

*We hear atmospheric noise underscoring the speech.*

**F**:

In 30 year’s time I wish the younger generations live a more happy life than we did. That discrimination is a thing of the past. That society accepts all and that we have evolved in understanding one another. I recommend not taking anything for granted as you never know when it’s gonna be taken from you and cherishing even the smaller things in life such as being able to meet your family during holidays which was something so cruelly snatched from us. Hone your skills as it could be what one days saves another. Be it studying science or cooking, work your hardest and always remain determined. P.S. I shouldn’t be telling you this but here you go...in order to prosper you will need to be prepared for the worst but wish for the best.

**E**:

This letter will be found by a random kid in 2050. If you’re that kid, well done. Because you’re in 2050 not 2021. Ever heard of the corona virus? Yeah, you’re probably learning it in history or citizenship. By the way, has Gretta Thunberg helped the climate change in anyway? You see our time has so many problems coming together at once. BLM (it does), climate change, COVID-19. So much stuff at once we can’t handle that! You know I don't really know what to ask anymore from the future. Well write me back when you get this, you probably can. Next morning on my desk there will be a letter coming out of portals and stuff. Enjoy the little things mate. Better not be a zombie apocalypse out there.

Right, that's all I got to say.

*The underscore slowly fades out to silence.*