

**ELAINE INTERVIEWING MILLIE HOWARD**

**ELAINE**

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**MILLIE**

Well, I wasn't expecting it, I don't think anybody was really, and I was sort of happy because I wasn't going to get to go to school. But as it sort of went on it sort of became a bit sort of sad not being able to mix with my friends and I realised it was actually nice being in a class with a teacher explaining things we were working on.

**ELAINE**

How did it work out with home schooling?

**MILLIE**

Well, I sort of tried at the start to sort of keep up with my work but when it got to the end I sort of lost motivation because it's sort of weird having to do all your lessons in your home. Yes we did have lessons online but they weren't really lessons. It was more the teachers telling us what we have to do for homework, so I thought that was a bit bad because I wanted to do some lessons.

**ELAINE**

And how did your mum cope with doing the home schooling, did she turn out to be a brilliant teacher?

**MILLIE**

Umm, I think I really tried to do it on my own, I think, yes. She helped me set up my video conference calls, and the odd question, but I really tried to do it on my own without my parents. As I say I lost motivation in the end and I didn't really keep up because well I don't think any other of my other class mates were.

**ELAINE**

How did the teachers deal with the situation, would they been going in to school or teaching from home?

**MILLIE**

They'd be teaching from home but as I say they didn't really teach on the conference calls, they were more like just – because we've got a website, so we can see all our school work that we've got to do. They just put like lots of homework to do for so-and-so date. I thought they could have done maybe a few more conference calls.

**ELAINE**

So you went back to school at what point.

**MILLIE**

On the last week I think, right before the summer holidays.

**ELAINE**

So that would have been July?

**MILLIE**

July. So I went back for three days. It was all very strange. We were all wearing masks and it was just really getting used to it and I think that was good – a few days back at school because we could really sort of know what we're going to be expecting when we come back to school.

**ELAINE**

Previous to that though, there was a point when half the class were able to go back, weren't they?

**MILLIE**

Yes. So that was the class that hadn't really worked during the confinement – so yes so half the class, that's something like 24 in my class, so like 12 went back.

**ELAINE**

How did they select those? It wasn't maybe alphabetically?

**MILLIE**

Well I don't really know how they did it, but what I understood was that it was just the people that hadn't really done well, that didn't have very good grades that went back.

**ELAINE**

Maybe the ones who didn't have the access to technology to help them. When you went back in September, obviously you were then in Troisième, you'd gone up to the next level, and you had new teachers.

**MILLIE**

Yes, we had some new teachers. That was sort of good.

**ELAINE**

The whole class went back but you had to wear masks.

**MILLIE**

Yes so we've all got to wear masks. At the start they kept telling us to wash our hands and stuff, but nobody really does it anymore. It's sort of hard when you've got lots and lots of students to make everybody wash their hands.

**ELAINE**

Did you have to have windows open?

**MILLIE**

Yes. So when we go out to the playground every two hours we've got to open the windows just to let the air in.

**ELAINE**

And what about the teachers, did they have to wear a mask as well?

**MILLIE**

Yes. Everybody has to wear a mask, but we can only take them off when we're eating and when we're doing sports.

**ELAINE**

So did you find it difficult?

**MILLIE**

Yes. It's quite hard, because I can't hear sometimes what my friends are saying and I know it's hard for the teachers as well. I can see it's hard for them.

**ELAINE**

So, how's it going now at school?

**MILLIE**

Well, I think we've all really adapted to all the changes that have happened. We're still wearing masks and we've got our own tables in the canteen now, so we don't all mix, the two separate Troisième classes – it's sort of normal now.

**ELAINE**

So what was the worst part about going to school over this year?

**MILLIE**

Well, the masks aren't nice at all. You get all like steamed up, all people with glasses get their glasses steamed up. It's just not very nice having masks.

**ELAINE**

But what was perhaps the best thing – apart from not having to get up the first time round to go to school, or catch that early bus?



**MILLIE**

Umm, the best thing was when I got to see my friends again after that long time we were in confinement.

**ELAINE**

Well fingers crossed that, after Christmas, things will be perhaps more levelled out and you'll be back on track.

**MILLIE**

I hope so. Yes it would be good if everything became normal again.

**ELAINE**

Well have a lovely Christmas and thank you very much.