Hello my lovelies,

I hope that you are all doing well and keeping safe and sane.

Hopefully, you are all finding some kind of balance.

We, as a school are trying to give you work that’s manageable. We are aware that some of you might have limited access to laptops, computers- and that some families have to share.

The idea is that you work through tasks slowly and towards a deadline that takes the pressure off you. I think the most sensible thing is to try and get our course-work done between now and the end of the summer term. This gives us a lot of time.

I will send you weekly reminders or I can do so every two lessons. Let me know what you’d prefer. Throughout I will be online every day so email when and as you need and I will always try to get back within a day (or two).

Today, I am sending you lots to get you started.

The course-work needs to be completed in three phases-

1. Watch up to 80 minutes of Short Films- analyse them with a view to how they might influence your own work.

2. Make a short film OR write a screenplay with accompanying storyboard.

3. Write a reflective analysis.

The good thing is that we have only just finished our Year 12 Screenplays/ Film Extracts and a lot of you wanted to have a go at filming but ran out of time. Well now’s your chance. We have plenty of time!

TASK ONE- GET WATCHING!

I have included the list short films, as prescribed by the Exam Board on another document. We **have** to study these. PLEASE make notes as you watch them. There are accompanying activities for some of the films that you can access through the Eduqas Digital Resources- <https://resources.eduqas.co.uk>.

Another way to record your thoughts is to look at the Oscar Night PPT (a resource I found online) where you could record which of the short films you thought had the best use of editing, sound, etc . Or you could do a straightforward analysis as we always do where you look at the different aspects of film form- sound, cinematography, editing, mise-en-scene, lighting and then discuss narrative- including structure, use of binary opposites, character alignment (who we root for and identify with and why), etc.

TASK TWO- GET CREATING!

We are living through unprecedented times- no-one has experienced what we are going through ever before. Our post-apocalyptic screenplays and film extract vibe seem weirdly prescient, but living in lockdown is not quite as I imagined. As a huge sci fi and zombie head, I love a bit of social breakdown (obviously minus the loss of the innocents, particularly doctors and nurses and anyone caring for the vulnerable) but this feels different- I personally am veering between clinging on to a sense of normality, and wondering if life has changed for ever.

So to film- what would be amazing would be for you to start filming- either think of titles like ‘Isolation’ or ‘The Year That Changed the World’ to get you started. How does life look now?

You could start by filming some quiet moments, things you have never taken the time to appreciate before. Think video diaries of life in lockdown, or poetry through film. How are you feeling? What do you notice? Is every day the same or are their subtle differences? What are they? Is time slowing or speeding up? How could you represent this through film? How has life changed for you? Are there some things that have become far more important, and if so, what are they? Maybe living in one environment makes you feel terribly constrained, or maybe there is one corner in your house or garden that you have never noticed before, that you now focus on far more. Maybe you are enjoying a different pace.

Some of my favourite films are very much bound to one environment- things happen (or don’t) in small spaces, minor changes ring a sense of displacement or unease. Small regular rituals present an insight into a life- normal or unravelling- you choose!

Short films can be far more experimental in tone, some contain mini narratives, but often they are more experimental or abstract in tone- a series of images that express feelings and ideas.

There is no remit- you do whatever you like. I would, as always encourage to try as many ideas as possible. Go weird, go normal, go day-to-day, go leftfield. Don’t be afraid of it not working out- better to have ten little films and rank them, send those you are proud of to your friends- defend those you like (even if no-one else does) to the death- rather than produce one mediocre one.

P.S

You may want to do something that has nothing to do with lockdown whatsoever- like I said- no restrictions. You come up with anything you like.

Just get filming- the more footage the better. Most of all enjoy- time is freedom!