



horizons

LOOKING BEYOND COVID-19



COVID-19 EXPERIENCES

At the time you took part, almost half of you had already had COVID-19. Just over 2 in 10 of those who had had COVID-19 also experienced long COVID. Overall, just less than 1 in 10 of you were asked to shield during the pandemic.



CHALLENGES

Half of you said the pandemic had hit your motivation to study and learn. Around 8 in 10 of you, and 7 in 10 of your parents, felt that your educational progress had suffered due to the pandemic.



LEARNING DURING LOCKDOWN

In the first national lockdown in 2020, the biggest barrier to learning you mentioned was no live lessons being offered by the school, a problem significantly overcome by the third lockdown in early 2021. Those who didn't have an electronic device at home for remote learning, or could only use a mobile phone, had their learning disrupted the most. The number of days you spent per week studying, also the number of hours per day you spent studying, went up from the first to the third lockdown.



MENTAL HEALTH

We saw that your generation reported poorer mental health compared to a cohort older than you, who were interviewed when they were around your age. Young people identifying as non-binary or in another way or female were at higher risk of mental ill health compared to those identifying as male. Personal experience of having had COVID-19, long COVID and having been asked to shield were all associated with higher risk of ill mental health.

SCHOOL SUPPORT

We found that some schools were slower to adapt to pandemic conditions than others, and even later on in the pandemic there were different levels of support for remote learning available to young people in Year 11, an important finding to help understand pandemic impacts on education.



FUTURE PLANS

We found that almost two-thirds of you had changed your education plans in some way due to the pandemic, and this was more common if you had had COVID-19, long COVID or were asked to shield. Around 6 in 10 of you had changed your career plans. We also looked at young people from households that faced some economic hardship since March 2020 and found that they were more likely to have changed their education and career plans due to the pandemic and were less likely to apply to university.

THANK YOU

Thank you once again for sharing your experiences with us. The information from the study will provide vital evidence to understand the lives of your generation and the impact of the pandemic on your education, employment and well-being. It will help policy makers and organisations to provide services and support. If you are worried or affected about any of the issues covered in the study, there are organisations that offer help and advice. Please visit our website for more information: <https://horizonsresearch.co.uk/Support/>

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THANK YOU

