# Transcript

# Audio file

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Agertu

Hi, welcome back to this week's episode of Your Favorite podcast with your host, Agertu. And this week, we're going to be talking with two of my close friends, Mariam and Salil, about their experiences during online school and how it felt for them coming back, and how that may have affected, you know, their social skills and making friends. And just how they felt in general being online, so yeah. Let's turn right in. So my first guest is going to be Salil. So let's jump right in. The first question is how was online school for you?

Salil

Online school was definitely a time for growth for me. I feel like I changed a lot during online. I actually I feel like I did, like pretty good online for like everything that. Was going on. And like the motivation, I feel like I didn't do too bad. One thing that. Motivated me to do like good in school was to make kind of like a good impression on my teachers because like, it was kind of like I wanted to go to school and like, see my teachers in person and they like, have them know that like, you know, like even though I was online like. But yeah, I actually really enjoyed it. And I honestly like, I was thinking, well, I wanted to do like more online, honestly. Like I didn't like, I wanted to in person, obviously to have the experience and stuff. But I feel like I was like, so used to all mine and I felt like I honestly, I honestly, if I had the choice, I think I would have kept doing online, yeah.

Agertu

So my next question is going to be. Did you feel trapped at home during that period?

Salil

In the beginning, I definitely have the idea, not the. Idea, but like I was. Like I was like, I was kind of. Like suffering like. Not suffocated, but I was just tired. Like I wanted to go out and stuff, but obviously locked down, which is understandable. Like people were getting sick and stuff. It was a very sad time. But I feel like. Like I didn't feel like trapped, but like I it was definitely sad. Like I would see stuff happening on like because COVID wasn't the only thing that happened. Like a lot of things happened and it was honestly just making me like. It was like draining me like I didn't even wanna get on my phone at one point, like just seeing getting on my phone was like draining and it was just it was kind of depressing. And then at. Some point I was just like actually like, I don't even care if I go out anymore. I just want to like stay home. I don't want to see anybody. So it was a little depressing because of everything that was happening. And I just, I was not really in the right.

Agertu

Next question is going to be. Did did you make many friends when you were online?

Salil

I didn't make many friends online, but one thing that was cool was that I was paired up with. A person from my class to check like our work or something. It was for my English class. Her name was Miss Mayes. She she paired up me and my first friend from that school. Her name is Nixie. So I yeah, I mean we we actually ended up talking a lot like on not on the phone but like. Texting and stuff. So that was nice. And we actually did, like we didn't. We talked a lot during the school year, but then we kind of like stopped talking when school started. And I was kind of scared to talk to her, like in real life. But eventually, like, I did. And we actually got, like, we we actually became friends. And so like having that friend led me to having more friends cause she knew more people than me. And I just kind of. Like was there.

Agertu

Next question is how did you feel when you found out you were going back to school?

Salil

I was well, it was kind of mixed emotions. Like one side was like I was like really happy because like, you know, I was like seeing everybody in person. And I thought like, I like, you know, high school because I started my freshman year. Obviously so like I had this idea that. It was gonna be like. And yeah, I feel like everybody has this idea of it and like it never turns out the way you thought it would, but I feel like it was still an important experience to have, which is why I was excited for it. But at the same time, I was like, what if I don't do as good and like, what if I don't, like, make friends? And what if, like I? Just forgot how to socialize. I was definitely very nervous because I took I genuinely didn't know any except for that one like friend, but we hadn't talked the whole summer. And I was like, actually really scared. But eventually, like, I made some really good friends. And I don't think I would have made friends if I kept doing online.

Agertu

Alright, next question is how did you feel on the first day back?

Salil

I mean, I was nervous because it was like my first like day obviously. I didn't know anybody and. I feel like. Like everybody kind of knew each other. They came from the same school I knew, like two people from my old school. But I didn't talk to. So if you like not not everyone, obviously, but most people were already like acquainted, and like they knew each other. They had friends, yeah. From the middle school. So yeah, it was it was. It was intimidating because I felt like, because like everybody, since everybody already knew each other already had their, like, little groups, I thought that it was like already too late for me to, like, kind of make friends. Like I was like, oh, well, there's no point in, really. Trying to socialize when everybody is probably already content with the friends they have or whatever, but obviously that wasn't true when I made a lot of good friends. And I'm happy for that.

Agertu

Our last question is, what advice would you give your freshman year?

Salil

Ourselves? I would definitely tell my freshman year self to not take things for granted because. I feel like I didn't go through as much as others may have because a lot of people lost their family members. Lot of people lost their jobs, businesses and stuff. It was a it was a mess and I feel like I should definitely be more grateful. That, that, that happened to me and I need to like be more aware. So and I feel like I have learned to do that now, but that's something that is really important and I feel like my I would that's like the main thing I would tell myself when I was a freshman.

Agertu

That's a rap with Salil.

 My next guest is going to be Mariam, so let's jump. How was online school for you?

Mariam

I actually didn't mind online school because I felt like I had more time to do things in the morning. Like I woke up early, had a good morning routine like I was able to work out. Also at this time I got like 2 kittens so I had time to actually hang out with them. So I was keeping myself busy. But also doing online schools. So that's why I really liked it, because. It wasn't just like 7 hours of being in a building, it was actually being able. To get a. Get a snack or use the restroom at my own time or. Being able to. Do work on my bed, which might some people might say that's bad for me. It was nice because I was with my cats. I I also wore whatever. Drink coffee without a mask, so it was actually pretty nice.

Agertu

Next question is, did you feel trapped at home during this this period?

Mariam

I would say like at first when COVID hit, I felt isolated and trapped because I wasn't able to communicate with my friends. As much, but because I. Was so used to the environment of being at home for a while. I just kind of stopped feeling like I was trapped like I guess I guess I was so distracted with other things that I didn't really mind. Like I didn't feel trapped, no.

Agertu

Next question is did you make many friends?

Mariam

I remember this one specific moment when someone emailed me and said like. Can we get Each other's Instagram so we can be friends. It was Zenga, so it was really nice that people were reaching out to me. But I was kind. Of scared to reach out to others. People I did have some old PCS friends like people that went to my old elementary school that I could reconnect with like Benny and Hadeel. So it was nice to reconnect with them, but. I didn't make a lot of new friends, but when I went back into the building later on. That year I did.

Agertu

So how did you feel when you found out you were going back?

Mariam

I was very, very, very, very excited. I don't know, just being home for a while, I was getting tired of it and being able to see like the people I've been talking with online was kind of cool. So I was really. Excited to go back? How did you feel on the first day back? Like sophomore year? Yeah, the first day back, like with everyone coming in. It was at first I was like. But then I got nervous because I was going to start being chaotic, like back in the old building. There were only like 15 people that went back in. Person versus like the 90 sophomores coming in, but I was also excited, you know, I got to. See some new faces.

Agertu

So as the year progressed, did you Feel more comfortable and made make more friends?

Mariam

Yeah, I definitely felt more comfortable because I've switched around friend groups like I was trying to find a group of friends that actually believed in the same things as I believed and had that same personality that I had. So I definitely felt more comfortable now, as in making more. No, like I'm not actively trying to make new friends. I'm just like finding. Like I'm not making more friends, I'm just finding. The right group, yeah.

Agertu

What advice would you give your freshman to yourself?

Mariam

This is like a. Broad question but. This is actually a good question because. It does not matter. Freshman year, a lot of people say freshman year is like the year where it actually matters. It does not matter. I promise you that it is your sophomore, junior year when you actually start taking, like rigorous classes. I was so focused on my work freshman year that like even I was, even though I was isolated during COVID I was becoming more isolated because I was choosing to do work than talking with friends. I would say girl, you do not need to have. You did not have to do all that. Work freshman year, yeah.

Agertu

That's it with Miriam.

 So after our interviews, I would like to say that. And so we'll have two different, you know, views on what was going on, but I feel like there was many similarities, of course. And I related to them both a lot. Like I enjoyed online school a little bit at 1st and I did start feeling I wasn't like extremely trapped. But I did feel trapped at some points because. You were just alone at home and you didn't really have much to do and it was just like the same thing every day, and you weren't really going out as much. So it just felt like a lot and you're just like, when am I going to leave the house? And I would say my freshman year online, like, my experience personally at the beginning, like, how it was with Miriam. I was like, you know, doing my work and. You know, getting everything done, but then like as the year progressed, I was a little bit less motivated to do my work. But I did get it done eventually, but it's just like it was a really like, lonely time freshman year. And I feel like when I found out that I was going back to school, I was nervous as well and. And I didn't really know anyone at my new school either cause or I didn't know. Some people, you know, coming from a middle school. But I wasn't really like, you know, close friends with them. So I didn't really. You know, hang out with them. When we came back, but I did have one close friend and we did hang out for a while. We were close friends, but we grew up. Art and I just started talking to a lot of other people and that made you branch out and make new friends because at the beginning I was really to myself and just with my one friend and. Yeah, and it was just like my social skills were horrible, too. Coming back from online school because I wasn't really talking to anyone. And when we did have to, like, talk on, like, you know, the video, the calls that we had. To get on it was really awkward for me because I didn't know them and it was just really awkward, so I didn't really know how to talk to anyone. So yeah, when we got back, my social skills were really bad. But like as the year progressed and I started talking to more people and like making more friends, it was easier for me. So yeah, that's a wrap on this weeks episode. I really hope you guys enjoyed it. So see you guys next week.