INT: OK, so welcome [laughs]. OK so ehm as we talked about just before eh this project is about friendship, and I’d like you just to think about one of ehm your friends, and can you tell me a bit about how you became friends?

SHAZ: Ehm I think we were about six and she’d just moved over from Germany and we just happened to meet and she, the first things she said to me was “I know English” and I thought “Oh wow come and talk to me” [laughs] and yeah, we’ve just been friends ever since, she’s like one of my best friends now so.

INT: Oh, OK.

SHAZ: Yeah my long longest friend as well.

INT: OK, so she came over for what, what reason did she come over to, move to England?

SHAZ: Ehm her family just moved over from Germany.

INT: Oh I see. OK so she moved over and then she’s living-

SHAZ: Yeah she lives eh in the same town as me, Milton Keynes.

INT: Oh OK, right.

SHAZ: Pretty good friends now so.

INT: Yeah. And then how did that friendship develop because obviously she came from a different culture so?

SHAZ: Yeah, I just, I just kept like, just like bugging her and asking her “What’s this in German?” “What’s this in German?” and she’d get stuff of me and I’d help her out and she’d help me out, and yeah just became friends even better and better and, now we’re just best friends now.

INT: Oh OK. So that’s, it’s kinda like a mutual learning for both of you as well?

SHAZ: Yeah, yeah, we’ve been through like everything together as well, like everything that happened to her for the first time, cause I’m a bit older so I’d like, like things with school as well, so I’d do things first and she’d be like “Well what do I do for this?” and then I’d help her and then, it’d just be like that really, yeah.

INT: So is that more with em schoolwork or more personal things?

SHAZ: Both really, like it’d start with school work because like when you’re young not really- not much happens to you, but you, like first boyfriends and things like that, and going out clubbing, and doing everything you’re not meant to [laughs], yeah.

INT: [Laughs]. So you were more of, you were more of, it’s because you were the older one you sort of, did you, do you feel like you took her under your wing a little bit?

SHAZ: For some things, but a lot of it, she matured faster than me for some things, so then like she took me under her wing as well so it’s, it’s a mutual thing I think, yeah.

INT: OK, yeah. OK and then do you, did you know quite a lot of German then?

SHAZ: Yeah, ended up getting an A overall at GCSE as well.

INT: Oh really [laughs]?

SHAZ: I don’t think it was because of her, she likes to think so, but [laughs] I think it’s cos I worked hard, but eh yeah.

INT: Just give her that one [laughs]. Erm, so, OK erm, so, so you’ve been friends since you’ve been six?

SHAZ: Yeah.

INT: Ehm so what kind of things do you do with your friend? What, what kinda things would you do with her?

SHAZ: Well we’ve tried making up diets, because for the past three years we’ve been saying that we’re gonna diet and then we’re gonna go on holiday and it’s gonna be really good, but that’s just not happened, and then we used to go swimming, but then we’d just end up going and getting like a kebab or something and then that would just wipe out any good that we do [laughs], and we just watch films and go out, normally just go for a drive or something and just do that really, just any little thing, we just like sit there for hours just talking and doing nothing, and yeah, once we just spent a whole hour just trying on different hats [laughs].Yeah bit sad but that’s what we do, yeah.

INT: And do you feel that friendship has changed since you’ve been at university?

SHAZ: Ehm I thought it would, I was actually quite worried that, cause em I re-sat a year of A levels so all my friends went to uni a year before I did, like all my school friends, and em a lot of, I grew apart from practically all- like there was a group of six of us and I grew apart from all of them apart from two, and I was like a bit gutted that it happened, I thought that was gonna happen with her, like with Eva when I went to, when I came to uni, but it was fine, it was, it was pretty much the same because we’d have like times when we’d see each other everyday for a week and we’d just be living with each other practically, but then em I didn’t see her for like a month or something, so it was kind of like that like so whenever I go home I always make a point to like meet up with her and catch up and it doesn’t even seem like I’m gone half the time, it just seems like, cause we’re always texting and calling anyway so you’ve always got that thing between us, it’s like I used to be worried but I’m not anymore.

INT: OK, and that, that, you mentioned that feeling of going home and em feeling like you’ve just caught up where you’ve left off do you think, how important do you think that is in a, in a friendship?

SHAZ: Very because eh when you, when there’s that gap between you, when it seems that you’ve gotta lot, well when you’ve got a lot to catch up on I think its good because then you can like re-include each other like in your lives and stuff, but then I like the fact that it doesn’t seem that I have to like start from the beginning again because it’s, it’s just like, it’s just literally carrying on from where you left off [INT: Yeah] instead of having like to like re-explain all the stories like, all the people in the stories she knows all about them anyway [INT: Yeah] so I don’t have, like if I tell anyone else I just have to like go like miles back and say “Yeah this person did this and yeah like this year they did that and stuff” but I don’t have to do that with her [INT: Yeah], so it’s pretty good, yeah.

INT: That’s, that’s, yeah, and how, how important has it been to you to maintain that friendship at university?

SHAZ: Pretty important because like at uni I’ve got frie- like, quite a- thing is cause I’ve got like close friends I don’t have that like a whole large group of friends that I’m just like all right good friends, but ehm yeah I tend to have close friends so maintain those close friendships, that means more to me, cause I’ve always got that thing to go back on and I know that there’s always that person there for me [INT: Yeah] maintaining that, I know I need that to kinda feel safe and good in my [inaudible]

INT: Yeah so maintaining the old friendships that you’ve got, did you find when you came to university that ehm there was a big change with this particular close friend or did you find that you’ve always-

SHAZ: It’s sort of just always stayed the same it’s always been really consistent, yeah.

INT: Mm OK, and then, so you mentioned how you passed time with the friends like it can be anything from, from trying on hats to eh em eating kebabs and just generally sort of passing the time, is that how you spend time with other friends as well?

SHAZ: Ehm, well some friends that I always feel that I need to have something specific to do otherwise I’m gonna get bored, or ehm just like when there’s kinda awkward silences or when, cause I, with my friend Eva when I go home when there’s silence it doesn’t matter because we both know that there’s something going on in our heads and we’re just thinking of stories to like tell each other and things like that [INT: yeah], but with some friends I’ve found at uni it always seems that when there’s a silence I always feel that I have to break that silence, but even just like, even if it’s watching TV then that’s OK because we’re actually doing something specific rather than just sitting there doing nothing. I don’t feel that I can do that with everyone.

INT: Yeah, so to you that’s an important sign of, of friendships that ability to feel comfortable?

SHAZ: Yeah, definitely, yeah.

INT: Yeah in that silence. And em that, that ability do you feel, when, when do you feel that happens in a friendship? Do you feel there’s a certain point that that happens or-

SHAZ: Ehm well I think, that if it’s going to be there it’s always going to be there, because like with like with Eva I’ve known her that long but I’ve never, that whole time that I’ve known her, I’ve never felt that it’s been awkward it’s, from day one since we were like six it’s always been that level of comfort it’s just been good the whole time yeah [INT: yeah], I’ve not had to make any specific effort to like talk and make sure that I’m keeping her happy and I’m not leaving her out and stuff and, so yeah it’s always been pretty good.

INT: And then is that something that you feel with other friendships is missing?

SHAZ: Yeah. I wish that it could be like that with all friendships but I know that it’s not going to be, cause you, you don’t always, you’re not always best friends with every single person that you that you’re friends with [INT: yeah], so yeah.

INT: Yeah and then did she go to university as well?

SHAZ: Mm she’s going, she, she re-sat a year as well, this is what I [laughs] [INT: ah OK]she re-sat a year as well but she was, academically she was a year below me even though she’s only six months younger, but em now she’s going to uni next year, at the end well September she’s going to uni yeah.

INT: OK so em has she talked about her sort of exp- you know feelings about how she feels about going to university?

SHAZ: Yeah like the first thing she said was like “aw you have to come like stay with me during Fresher’s Week” but I said “no because in Fresher’s Week that’s when you’d make all your friends and all your first experiences”, so I said I’ll come like three months into the year or something [INT: yeah] cause then it’ll be, I won’t have exams and stuff yet but I’ll still be able to go there and spend some time with her [INT: yeah], but we’ve already made like plans because she’s going to ((UNIVERSITY NAME)) and when I drive up I pass ((UNIVERSITY NAME)) on the way so we’ve already made plans that we’re gonna go up and down all the time.

INT: So it’s a good halfway point to meet and meet up and things?

SHAZ: Yeah, yeah

INT: And how, how, how did she respond when you said, when you mentioned, suggested this? Like going up after three months instead of the first week?

SHAZ: Yeah she, she said, she was like “yeah actually your right”. And that was it [laughs].

INT: But I think that’s a sign of a really good friend as well cause I think you’re right.

SHAZ: Yeah

INT: Em it can be quite scary going to university and you want those people perhaps

SHAZ: Yeah cause it’s always easier to like go back to your comfort zone, like I’d be her comfort zone because it would be a new thing, but then I think that she needs to be thrown into the deep end a bit when it comes to things like that cause she is really good at making friends, she’s confident, she’s good like that but, I think when you’re at uni you’re always, like especially the first night, that first night I was at uni I cried my eyes out I was like “Oh I wanna go home” but I think that you need to have that push to actually go out and make friends cause otherwise just gonna be so lonely the whole time [INT: yeah] and just, you won’t experience as much like going out and doing stupid things [laughs], yeah I think you need that.

INT: So how, how, how’d you think she felt when you first came to university and you, you talked about your friends that you’d made?

SHAZ: She wasn’t, to be honest she’s not really bothered, like I’m always the one that worries more, like I was like when I told her that I was worried about when like, cause I told her about halfway through my first year, I told her like I was really worried that we were gonna grow apart, and she was like “you’re so sad we’re not gonna grow apart” [laughs] “Oh fair enough” [laughs], but no she’s fine, it’s like she just, as long as I keep her up to date with stories and stuff she doesn’t really, she’s not really bothered [laughs].

INT: Yeah. And how, how does she, has she talked about how she feels since you’ve gone?

SHAZ: She doesn’t say, nothing’s really changed since I’ve gone and she doesn’t feel any different, I don’t feel any different, [INT: yeah], yeah. Just, she does make she’s, like she gets a bit like she tries like insulting me and stuff, like when I go home I don’t have time to meet her cause like say if I need to go home for a family gathering or something I won’t have time to meet up with her and stuff and she’ll say like “Oh you don’t meet up and all this” but I say “oh next time”, but yeah.

INT: And how, how do you feel sometimes when you can’t always fit her in when you go home?

SHAZ: Mm I feel a bit guilty, but also cause I like catching up with her and I really want to, but some- when you can’t, you can’t really, so I feel a bit gutted sometimes but I know that next time I go home I’ll always make up for it, and we’re gonna do things and we’ve got the whole summer anyway to do things [INT: yeah], so it’s not really the end of the world but, she knows that I would meet her if I could.

INT: Yeah, OK, emm and how, and is there someone sort of that you’ve met, cause you’ve obviously met people at university?

SHAZ: Yeah.

INT: How did you find it when you first came to university in terms of making new friends?

SHAZ: Mm I made quite a, well I made quite a few quite fast cause I lived in ((HALLS OF RESIDENCE NAME)) first year, and cause I was uni of Liverpool last year [INT: OK] and everyone on our floor, we all end up like for the first two weeks we all went out together to all of the Fresher’s things, every, the whole floor, like twelve of us, we all just went out together, so we all became quite close in that week, the first two weeks, and then, and then after that it all started, like all the girls we all stayed close, like we’ve got five of us, so then we’d all be just like getting a bit annoyed with the boys cause they were pretty nasty [laughs].

INT: They’re boys [laughs]

SHAZ: Yeah em leave the toilet seat up and things which is really annoying [Laughs]. And em yeah, and then we still like stayed close we’d all just go to go to someone’s room and watch TV or watch a DVD or something, but then em none of those lot were on my course but then the two, like the two girls that I met on my course and they were practically the same as me just, a lot crazier [laughs] and we, the three of us just spent the whole last year just going mental [laughs] and like, cause we’d go out pretty much every day and the girls on my floor they didn’t really go out that often so in that way I kinda grew apart from them and I got closer to the other two but then because I actually lived with, I lived on the same floor as the other girls there was like that balance between the two, but I, with the two girls on my course I always seemed closer so I’d always make more of an effort to go to their rooms and go to their part of the halls and chill with them.

INT: Yeah. And then so, so why, so what’s the difference then do you think between that initial group of friends and the group the two girls that you stayed more in contact with?

SHAZ: Em, I think it’s there’s that common interest of having a crazy first year [INT: yeah] and going wild and doing absolutely everything that you can do cause they’re, I suppose the girls on my floor they’re a lot more sensible and the fact that they, like they worked like when they, when it was time to work they worked but I think my balance is a bit ha-ha dodgy, but yeah. I think it was just cause em all of our experiences when we were out and stuff as well that things that happened when we were out that brought us like quite close together and ehm I suppose cause those two are Asian as well on my course so there was that other common factor that kind of, it’s a bit sad that it happens sometimes I think but it just does and you just tend to gel a bit more because there’s like that cultural understanding as well, cause like with my girls on the floor there was like a Chinese girl, a black person, white, but I think like with Asians, well just anyone like people of your own race and stuff you know like cultures that are similar to yours they seem to understand you more [INT: yeah], they’re likely to understand more and I think that’s why I gelled more with those two.

INT: So do you feel that they understood you better perhaps than the other people that’d you met?

SHAZ: Yeah, well the thing is that I did at first and, but by that time I was really close but then with the others I started realising that they know me and they understand me just as, well nearly as much, but even like cause things with like boyfriends and stuff cause obviously my parents can’t know but my other, like my non-Asian friends they understood as well, like it, like I didn’t think they’d understand that because like all my other friends at school and that they’d have boyfriends, their parents would know, they’d take them home, but it couldn’t ever be like that with me, and I didn’t think that they’d understand and like a few other things I didn’t think they’d understand but they really did and I don’t, I think my first year would’ve been absolutely rubbish if I didn’t have those lot as well, yeah.

INT: Yeah, and do you feel, because that’s obviously quite, quite an important point I think as well, did you feel that with your non-Asian friends that you had to explain that to them though, whereas did you feel with your Asian friends that they had, already had an understanding?

SHAZ: Yeah well they already had understanding but I think with my non-Asian friends after I said it once they understood like the gravity of like my parents finding out or something like that [INT: yeah], so after that it was like they were like my Asian friends as well really [INT: yeah], yeah, yeah, it was good though, but then cause there was like different things like tastes in music as well like those that were into indie and that, and I’m not into indie at all, and I went out once with them to an Indiecation[[1]](#footnote-1) and I didn’t like it at all [laughs], I really tried [laughs], but I didn’t like it, so I think there was that thing as well because when you go out there’s not many places that cover all types of music, it’s just like the same jungley

INT: Like a specialised kind of, yeah

SHAZ: Yeah, yeah but, yeah

INT: Yeah so the kind, so there’s the common grounds of kind of music and then the cultural background and the understanding of that.

SHAZ: And the fact that we’re on the same course as well [INT: yeah] so we’re all practically going through the same thing at the same time [INT: yeah], I think that’s important as well.

INT: Yeah absolutely. So ehm, so going back to the friends at school, your friends at school, can you tell me a bit more about your friends at school?

SHAZ: Ehm yeah they’re all non-Asian. Ehm I know we were friends from year eight cause I started secondary school cause back in those days it wasn’t year seven when you started [laughs].

INT: No, no it wasn’t when I started either [laughs].

SHAZ: Yeah it was year eight that we all met, and em, cause I was the only one that, from my previous school, from my middle school I was the only one that went to my secondary school cause I was from grammar school, or well cause the secondary school’s a grammar school [INT: right]. So that was a complete mix, and it was in a, it was a different town as well [INT: oh right, OK], it was an hour’s bus journey and I didn’t really want to go there in the first place, but ehm yeah I started making, the friends there they were all really em, cause they were all from villages and it’s like, a lot were from villages and I’d already, I’d only experienced people from like my area at home cause I went to like, my school was like in a catchment area and stuff as well so, and yeah seemed a bit odd at first, I was like “Oh I don’t know where you’re from” [laughs], I had no idea but, I think it was, I don’t know, I didn’t really like it there for the first like couple of months but then I got used to it, but obviously cause like leaving all my old school friends behind I’d been with them since nursery, nursery to middle school so it was really hard leaving those but I think secondary, oh secondary, I just didn’t like the whole secondary school experience because obviously like confidence levels are really low and growing up and everyone’s like maturing at different rates and it’s just really crap [laughs], so yeah.

INT: It’s a hard time to make that transition.

SHAZ: Yeah.

INT: I guess as well isn’t it cause

SHAZ: Especially at that age as well when you start getting spots and everyone’s taller than you [laughs].

INT: And the whole adolescence.

SHAZ: Yeah, definitely, yeah.

INT: Yeah, em so, so you said that you didn’t want to go to that school was it something that your parents wanted for you?

SHAZ: Yeah but I, it is obviously a better thing for me cause it was a grammar school and the school that would be in my catchment area that was, was known to be a bit of a dodgy school but all my friends were going there so I was like “Oh I really wanna go, I really wanna go” [INT: Oh, OK], but I couldn’t, well I couldn’t, I didn’t feel I could tell them because then they’d be like “Oh why do you want to go there? It’s clearly a rubbish school” and things like that [INT: right], but em yeah, and I think cause my brother was at my secondary school as well and we’ve always been at the same school, there’s only, academically there’s a year difference, so I think my parents would be, they’d be happy knowing that we’re in the same school and that he could look after me and, yeah.

INT: OK, em so how did you deal then with being told that you are going to a school that you didn’t necessarily want to go to initially?

SHAZ: I just kind of had to go along with it, I’ve, I have to do that a lot really cause ehm my parents, you can’t, I don’t really feel that I can argue against them much and go against them that much because, I don’t know just cause they’re my parents [laugh], it’s just the way I’ve been brought up as well, obviously it’s em what they’ve decided that’s what’s best for me and if, if I don’t want to, if I really don’t want to do something then yeah I’ll tell them, but I think deep down I knew that it was, it would be better for me, and the fact that my brother was there already that kind of made it OK, but em yeah and having to do the twelve plus and all the practice papers, I hated it, em but my mum would sit me down every night on the kitchen table and make me do all practice papers and stuff [INT: OK]. Yeah it was all right I guess.

INT: And then how, how did you feel about the friendships that you were leaving behind, the friendships you had known throughout?

SHAZ: Em I, I didn’t really want to, cause that had em, like there were three of us that were quite close but in a way I didn’t, in some aspects I wasn’t really bothered cause I was always kind of the third wheel [INT: OK], and em those two, the, my other two friends, cause they always like, they were into dancing and they used to go to dance classes and stuff, like they did ballet and tap and all that so then they always had that thing in common, they lived right behind each other and stuff and em, yeah so in some ways I was bothered but then cause I thought well I’m gonna be living, I’ll still be living in Milton Keynes and I can still see them all the time [INT: yeah], but it didn’t really work like that cause you all grow apart anyway and I haven’t seen them since so, yeah.

INT: OK, so you described you being a third wheel in the friendship, can you tell me what, what you mean by that?

SHAZ: Em I’ve always found that it kind of happens, I don’t know if it’s me that pushes myself out or makes me think that, or makes myself think that I’m a third wheel but I’ve just found like with my two friends at uni like from my course last year as well cause they, they always seemed to like have all these jokes and things like that and I’d be like “I don’t find that funny” [INT: OK] and I wouldn’t be included in that part, well I would, I didn’t feel included in that part and I don’t know if that’s like my confidence or whatever or the way I see myself, but I just always felt a bit of Billy no mates when it came to things like that but you just get over it and just carry on.

INT: OK. So how does that make you feel when you, when you think of yourself as, as a kind of a third wheel in, in some of your friendships that you’ve had?

SHAZ: Em kind of a bit sad really, cause I think it’s not a nice feeling, but then I just think that well I have got other friends and I’ve got friends that I am really close to um in that where in those situations I’m not a third wheel but, and like with my cousins there’s three of us that are really close and we’re all similar, similar age, and it always seems to be me that the other two, the other two think that they’re third wheel but it’s, it’s really in that, in that situation I’m the one that’s kind of holding things together [INT: OK], but in other situations it’s like I’m the one that’s been pushed out.

INT: OK, so in, in different relationship groups you’ve got different dynamics which hold the group together?

SHAZ: Definitely, yeah.

INT: Yeah, OK, em and so how’s that make you feel, knowing you’re not, not the third wheel in some of your other friendships as well?

SHAZ: It feels good, but then I get a bit annoyed that I’m the one that has to hold it together because then I’ll get one coming to me and saying “You two are leaving me out”, then I’ll get the other one saying “Well you, you two are leaving me out”, and it’s like “What do you want me to do?” [laughs], there’s nothing I can do, I’m, I’d, cause they think that being left out it’s that the other people are doing it consciously, but I think that if you are close you’re not gonna consciously leave someone out of a group, you don’t always, you wouldn’t purposefully be mean to someone if you actually like cared about them and stuff, it’s a bit hard like explaining why they feel left out or finding out why they feel left out because all they say is “You leave me out, you leave me out” [INT: yeah], and it’s a bit hard answering that question.

INT: So there’s some, some pressure when you feel like you’re the glue that holds the group together?

SHAZ: Yeah, yeah.

INT: Yeah, OK, and then, but also like you said when you feel that your the third wheel, you’re not involved, that you feel like that puts a bit of pressure on your, on yourself as well, you feel like it’s

SHAZ: Yeah because I always feel like I have to make more of an effort and maybe do, like going out and say if I don’t wanna go out but then if I don’t go out then I’m gonna miss out on everything that happened that night so I have to go out, otherwise I’d just be pushed even further away.

INT: Do you, do you feel that there’s a balance between your group of friends where you have some balance with being a third wheel and some balance with holding the, the friendships together?

SHAZ: Ehm yeah I suppose like ehm, I don’t, well sometimes but then a lot of it would seem that if I wasn’t there, and if I wasn’t doing whatever with them it wouldn’t really matter [INT: yeah], so like say if ehm me and another one of the girls was there, if the third one wasn’t there then we’d, we’d notice that difference but it seems that if I wasn’t there, there wouldn’t be anything different about them.

INT: OK. And then how does that impact on your friendship with those people?

SHAZ: Ehm well with one of them it was a bit strained for a while, but that was because like there were other things going on as well but, which didn’t help [INT: OK], but em yeah it’s, I just feel that, I don’t know I just like let them get on with it, mm yeah just kind of plod a long and see what happens [INT: yeah], cause I’m quite lazy like that, I’m quite [laughter] I just let things happen.

INT: Quite laid back, perhaps?

SHAZ: Yeah, yeah, sometimes a bit too laid back [laughs].

INT: OK and em, so the friends that you’ve had at school, that you had at school, so you had obviously friends at the, before you went to secondary school, so friends in primary school and some friends in secondary school

SHAZ: Yeah.

INT: Ehm so are you still in touch with the friends that you left at primary school? You still in touch with those friends?

SHAZ: Eh well because of Facebook I’ve added a few of them, but I’ve only sent like a couple of messages, it’s not really anything great it’s just “Hi, you alright? What you doing with your life” and that’s it really [INT: OK] but ehm

INT: Do you feel like, do you, how do you feel like Facebook has affected friendships?

SHAZ: It’s quite, well eh, it’s quite good in some ways but then in other ways it’s quite hard to hide stuff [laughs], like I’ve found out quite a lot just by like looking at someone’s profile and be like what! and some of the reactions aren’t the best but em [INT: yeah], in some, I think it’s good in some ways cause there’s some people that I just wouldn’t, I wouldn’t end up meeting up with them or talking to them unless I spoke to them on Facebook, so in that way it’s good I guess, and you can see their pictures and things like that, but yeah [laughs].

INT: It’s sometimes quite good for keeping a distance and other times just for checking up and seeing what people are doing, yeah I find that I waste lots of time on Facebook [laughs] looking at people’s photos that I don’t really know, I always think that I’ve wasted hours [laughs].

SHAZ: I’m a bit odd, yeah [laughs].

INT: So how long do you think that you’d be sort of friends with these people that you, that you were friends with at primary school, do you think, do you think? Can you see yourself sort of always staying in contact via Facebook or do you think you’d-

SHAZ: No I think that they’ll get to a point where they’ll just become like a memory really, bit sad but em, I think cause obviously like your, your circumstances and everything is always changing so it’s impossible to have something, well when the, I think if, if we were stronger friends, like if the friendship was stronger between us, if the relationship was strong, then it would be OK, then I can imagine like being friends with them like in years to come but I think because it’s such a weak thing and the fact that we’re friends on Facebook and not even meeting up and stuff when they live like round the corner from me, it’s, I don’t think, I’ll be seeing them any time soon [laughs].

INT: And then your friends at secondary school, so are you still in contact with those people?

SHAZ: Ehm

INT: Now?

SHAZ: Again Facebook and MSN, but I hardly talk to any, I can’t remember the last, last Easter I think was the last time I saw any of them [INT: OK], ehm but one of them, like John I kept in contact with him the best, but I’ve known him the least, well for like least amount of time compared to the other ones [INT: OK], so I don’t know why I ended up keeping in contact with him more, but I think it’s just because the kind of friendship we built up it was one of those like strong ones and that even if we don’t talk for like six months whenever we do call each other up it’s always gonna be like be really good, yeah.

INT: OK, and em does it take you by surprise sometimes then who you’ve stayed in contact with and who you haven’t?

SHAZ: Eh yeah, definitely, like the, right well there’s one of my friends ehm Emma and ehm from year nine to year eleven we never spoke, we never looked at each other cause she thought that I hated her I thought she hated me and I, I thought that for her not liking me for not, even though she doesn’t know me, I was like “Do you know what forget it, screw you, whatever, I don’t care” but then in sixth form we started becoming friends but then it was just, it was really bizarre how we went from hating each other’s guts to becoming like sisters cause we got really close and, then after like the first year of sixth form she left cause her family moved and ehm yeah it was just really weird how much she’d become part of my life and then second year of sixth form was really hard then because I’d already, I’d already started growing apart from my original group of friends that I’d met in year eight, ehm and yeah it’s just like, cause after she went I was, I was quite surprised actually like how much effort I made to go and meet her and go and see her and stuff and spend like I spent like a week with her in summer and all that [INT: OK] and we like write to each other and call every day and things like that, yeah.

INT: OK, so do you feel like you’re as close to her as you are to your, your friend that you, your German friend?

SHAZ: My German friend yeah, em yeah, well nearly, I think, but I think like with my German friend there’s always gonna be that, that extra bit of friendship that I won’t have with anyone else because we’ve got all that history, we’ve got that, all the memories from when we were younger and stuff and cause we’ve literally been through everything together and she’s always been there, I’ve always been there for her and I think that whoever I am, whoever I do become friends with now and even my other two friends who I am close with I don’t think it will ever be as close, cause I think those memories do count, and it does make it difference [INT: yeah], and people can say “Oh you can still become like really good mates with them” and you can but there’s always gonna be that extra little bit missing I think.

INT: Yeah. Do you, how did you go from, so how did you go from hating [laughs], hating each other to actually becoming like you said like almost like sisters? Cause that’s a very close friendship isn’t it, to call someone sort of like your sister.

SHAZ: Yeah.

INT: So what, what, what was the shift that happened there?

SHAZ: Ehm well it started at, after the year eleven prom and there was one of, cause we all had a picture taken at the, while we were walking in and she saw my picture, I was considering whether to buy it or not and she went “Yeah buy it”, I went “Oh what [laughs] where did you come from then?” yeah I did, I don’t know why I just started talking and then ehm like after GCSE results we ended up taking two of the same subjects and so I think that common ground you always find that don’t you and then we started talking more and found out we had a lot more in common because then we were together every day for the whole year, ehm just, I don’t know it just grew really strong and stuff [INT: yeah], and even in the holidays we’d like meet up and she’d come to my house and stay over, I’d stay over at her house, and a lot can happen in a year [laughs]

INT: [Laughs]. Yeah, absolutely. So it was, it was quite a quick forming friendship?

SHAZ: Yeah, it was quick but strong, like a lot of friendships I think if you form it quickly you always miss out on a lot of things but with, with her it seemed to be quick and, like strong, yeah.

INT: And could you see, how long could you see yourself staying in contact with her for?

SHAZ: I think she’ll always be there I think cause like she always says “Oh when I get married you can be my bridesmaid, you’re gonna be up there with me” and I’ll be like “Yeah OK you can be there for me” [laughs]. Ehm yeah I think like to consider someone like that, I think, I think she will always be there. Yeah.

INT: And, and so how do you feel that, how do you feel, that your friendships now at University do you feel that they’re, they’re very different from your friends?

SHAZ: Yeah, I’ve-

INT: In what way would you say they’re different?

SHAZ: A lot of it’s, a lot of people that I see are always like “Oh hi” “Bye.” “Are you alright?” and “How are your exams?” and that’s it really, and “Are you going out tonight?” and that, that’s always a common question [INT: yeah], and there’s not really anyone apart from one person at uni that I actually sit round and really have like a full on heart-to-heart with them, but I think, I don’t know it’s just cause at uni I always think that people are always quite busy like doing their own thing and they always seem to be like a lot more self-involved I’ve found, but I don’t know if it’s just the people I’m meeting or trying to become friends with or what, but they always seem a bit ehm more flaky at uni.

INT: OK, OK, [both laugh]. Ehm so would you say then you prefer to have, like you were saying earlier on, it seems like the kind of close, a couple of really close friends rather than a big, a big group of friends?

SHAZ: Yeah I’d rather have some, a few people that mean a lot to me than hundreds of people that I know so little about, that doesn’t, it’s, it’s not, you can’t even call it a friendship it’s just like an acquaintance [INT: yeah], but I don’t, I’m not really bothered about people that I’m just acquainted with and like just fellow students and stuff like that, I kind of push those kind of, cause I don’t like people knowing exactly what I’m feeling and thinking all of the time, so I think if I’ve got those few people around me that are close to me I can confide with them and that’s it, I don’t have to, I don’t like other people knowing too much about me [INT: OK, OK], I don’t know if it’s because I don’t really like them or because I keep them away for a reason, but yeah, so having a few people close to me.

INT: And you prefer to have that, that, probably that private space maybe a bit more as well?

SHAZ: Yeah. Like I, I like being able to talk to people like most, my, my, the people I live with at uni I can talk to them but then there’s a lot that I think, that I have to like glaze over it and not give all the details because then I don’t know I’m scared they’ll judge me I think [INT: OK], but then I think like with my good friends I know that they won’t judge me so I’m happier talking to them and I feel a lot more comfortable, there is that comfort factor again but [INT: yeah] I think that’s important.

INT: Do you think that’s a, do you, would you say that that’s a process that happens then that, that process of building up trust in a friendship?

SHAZ: Yeah, but then I think that once you become friends with someone and then you like hit it off basically that you’ll know if you feel, if you’re gonna feel comfortable with them and you won’t like have to like convince yourself and talk yourself in, it’ll just, it will naturally develop it won’t be you like making things happen or doing things like that, I think that if it’s gonna be there it’ll be there [INT: OK] if it’s not then don’t push it.

INT: OK, so you kinda feel that happens very much naturally?

SHAZ: Yeah, yeah.

INT: And would you say that that would be ehm an immediate, an immediate thing that would happen? That trust that then just develops, or do you feel more that it would take time to develop but once it’s there it’s reasonably stable the trust?

SHAZ: I think that like there’ll be little bits that you’d tell that, like little signs that tell you that you can trust that person and that they’re not gonna judge you and ehm yeah I think like that bit by bit I think that you em, it’s just like when things happen in different situations you like go through then like I think the reactions that you see, the reaction that you get from the people that are around you you can tell what they’re gonna be thinking and how much you can trust them and stuff, but then once it does happen then once it’s kind of proved itself then I think it’s stronger.

INT: And do you feel that you developed that level of trust with your, you talked about your two close friends at University, do you feel that you’ve developed that level of trust with both, with both of those friends at University?

SHAZ: Ehm I think with one of them I have but, I think with both of them I have developed it but then there’s always that doubt, but I don’t know if that’s because I’ve not really, I’ve not known them for as long or because with those two I’ve always been the third wheel so its harder to fully trust them, I know that, like I know that they wouldn’t like purposefully do anything to like hurt me or anything but ehm I think there’s always that doubt in the back of your head, until you, until, well with me until I’m completely comfortable with something [INT: yeah] and completely happy with it I’ll, I’ll always, there’ll always be that doubt like just to keep my distance so then if anything does happen its easier for me to get away and cut that off and [INT: OK], kind of like a security thing.

INT: It’s that safety, that comfort zone that you were talking about before.

SHAZ: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

INT: And then how, how does it feel when you’ve achieved that level of trust with, with a friend? How does that change your friendship?

SHAZ: It’s, I think it’s, it just makes it, makes you a lot happier and you just, you just enjoy just sitting about and doing nothing and being able to, knowing that whenever anything happens you’ve got someone to call and, someone that’ll help you through something, who’ll understand you and they won’t judge you and, but like if, if anything bad does happen you know that they will look after you and they will always be there.

INT: Yeah, OK. So how long do you see yourself being friends with the girls that you are friends with now at University, the two girls that you are particularly close to?

SHAZ: Ehm I can see us being good friends for a while, but I think eventually that circumstances will change and eventually we will start growing apart, and then they’ll be like the people that people that you call up and go “Oh hi, how are you? Haven’t spoken to you for ages, blah blah blah” and then that’s it, and then you won’t talk again for ages, and then, I think it’ll be that.

INT: Yeah, OK, ehm. OK, so can you think of an example from your own experience that demonstrates what your friends mean to you?

SHAZ: Ehm, I don’t know, ehm

INT: So it could be like a sort of particular act of kindness, or something a friend has done to you which makes you think

SHAZ: Yeah, ehm well there was one where ehm, I got upset over something and I was crying down the phone to my friend and she ended up crying as well and we were both just crying at each other and none of us could understand what the other was saying but, but the fact that I knew that she was there and crying with me it’s, I don’t know it just felt good, felt crap at the time cause of something, obviously I was crying but [INT: yeah], yeah no thinking about it afterwards I just thought “Yeah that’s pretty good”, yeah.

INT: And what, what do you think it was about that experience that made you feel good?

SHAZ: Because it felt that, this is gonna sound really sad but it was like she felt my pain kind of thing, that she, she understood what I was going through and like we don’t just cry at the drop of a hat, well some people can but I think that’s weird, but when you cry when your friends cry I think that just shows like how close you are and that you do mean a lot to each other, cause it’s not nice when there’s someone that you see when you c- someone that you care about crying, or that they’re sad, or there’s something wrong with them cause you always want to help, and just, I think her doing that just showed that she was there for me, yeah.

INT: And then did that, did that effect your friendship from then on, did that change your friendship at all?

SHAZ: Well with her it was always one of, always that she was always there and I was always there but we weren’t always around each other, but I think it kinda kept it the same but it, but I think as friendships go on there’s always like little things that’ll happen that’ll make it stronger but because they’re so like spread out it doesn’t really seem that it’s making any great impact [INT: OK] but it is, but it just kind of gradually makes it stronger.

INT: And then when, when, when do you think you notice that it’s actually had an impact on your friendship?

SHAZ: Em I think it’s when the next thing happens that like, cause you go through something else together and then you’re like “Oh wow we did this” and then you remember all the other things and then like whether, how you are with other people and what your other friendships are like and you think like “Well I can’t do this with that person”, and yeah I think that’s when you see that you’re actually quite good friends and your friendship is quite strong.

INT: Yeah, OK, ehm, so obviously like you mentioned that, that, that, that at that time it meant a lot to you cause it actually felt like someone, that your friend was experiencing your pain which having that level of empathy is, is like, as you say, is really powerful, what does that mean to you now, now that you think back on it?

SHAZ: Ehm it still means a lot because even though, well she’s married now and it’s, it’s different because when your married everything changes and stuff, but even when I do go home and we do, I do see her, I mean we don’t make like a conscious effort to meet up and stuff because it’s not like, our schedules are so, well hers is so busy being a married women and all that, but ehm I dunno I still, I still feel like grateful to her that she was there for me when I needed her, yeah.

INT: And, and you just mentioned there about marriage changing everything [laughs] how, how do you feel that marriage has changed your friendship then?

SHAZ: It’s made it, well I, ehm her husband is really annoying to be honest, I don’t like him [INT: right], a lot of people don’t like him and at first when she told me she was getting married I was, I was in shock and I just didn’t understand why she was getting married to him, then, cause they had such a rocky past and stuff and it just didn’t make sense to me but then I just thought I’ll just be there for her but then, so I was there for her throughout the whole wedding and I think then I was glad that I was there cause at first I was gonna go on holiday and be like yeah forget it, but then I actually was there and I’m glad I was because I noticed that there wasn’t any of our other friends there, I was the only one that was there [INT: right] so ehm but the, the rest of it was all family and like family friends but no one that was really that close to her [INT: OK], and, so I felt glad that I was there and it was like, I just, I just ignored the fact that she’s getting married to that guy and just made it about me and her [INT: yeah], cause like, I think sometimes in a friendship you have to do that, you have to forget all the other third parties and just try and like look at your actual friend and see what they’re feeling and what they’re feeling is more important than what you’re feeling and, but now I think it’s a bit, it is a bit odd because obviously when your married and she’s got her family life and stuff cause she lives with her in-laws as well so, and they’re quite like a strict family so she’s always got that thing holding her back still but other, and she never went to uni so I’ve always, my family has always been a lot more liberal than she, hers has, so I think in that way its different, its effect, its not, like I can’t meet up with her randomly now and she can’t stay out late and things like that, it’s, it’s kinda the same because going from her parents house to her in-laws’ house it’s not that much different but ehm yeah now but when we talk it’s just a lot of it is her complaining about her in-laws [INT: OK], so it’s, it’s limited on what we can talk about.

INT: Yeah, and do you feel that’s changed your friendship then quite?

SHAZ: Yeah it’s kinda like I’ve gone from being a friend to like an agony aunt [INT: OK], I suppose that’s kinda what friends are sometimes but then I think there’s a limit [laughs], cause normally you balance out the talking with doing stuff and sharing things and doing things together but then when it’s just talking and complaining that kind of puts a strain and just makes you think do I need to be around, but then I think I do need to be around because if she doesn’t tell me then who else will she tell so.

INT: So there’s a feeling of responsibility then for you but it’s more one-sided now since she’s been, since she’s been married?

SHAZ: Yeah like she seems that she’s, like she asks me about uni but it’s always like she’s not really bothered, like she’s got bigger problems, she’s more mature and she’s actually moving on in her life and things like that and like I’m still like the kid kind of thing [INT: OK], and like she can just bounce her problems off me and, yeah.

INT: And do you find yourself staying in contact with her just as often now?

SHAZ: We’ve never really stayed in contact to be honest, we’ve always been like um, like I won’t see her for ages then I’ll talk to her, won’t see her, talk to her, but ehm now I don’t, I don’t really like calling her now because most of the time she never answers cause she lives with her husband [INT: OK] and I just, I just don’t really bother calling any more [INT: OK], it’s when I see her I see her, if I don’t then I don’t.

INT: OK, so how-

SHAZ: But if she really needs me then she’ll call me, I know that.

INT: Yeah, OK, ehm, so you mentioned just before when you said about going to the wedding that you kinda had to have a big shift really in your mind as well so rather than thinking about ehm the fact that she was getting married to someone you disliked ehm you thought about how she would feel about you know, about having you there and how much that, that, that would mean to her.

SHAZ: Yeah.

INT: Ehm how important do you think that is in a friendship, that you try and ehm, that you try and do, that you try and think solely of that person?

SHAZ: Quite important cause well people always think differently so you’re never gonna have someone that will fully understand what you’re doing and why you’re making certain decisions, but they’ll understand up to a point but I think there’s always gonna be that, like eh me making a decision, no one else will completely understand why I made it cause there might be, there’ll be reasons that I give, but then there might be other reasons that I can’t explain so then I think that you need to, I don’t know give them that support cause making any decision like, say like making a decision about marriage is quite a big one so I think just being there for her was better in the end.

INT: It sounds like it goes back to the judgement thing that you were saying before?

SHAZ: Yeah, definitely.

INT: Ehm that that really kind of core part of the friendship for you and that’s one thing you managed to suspend with that, with that friendship. Do you think you could em, do you think you’d be able to do it quite, how, how easy is it to do that, to suspend that judgement?

SHAZ: Em I think once, I don’t know like I think I’d, I always thought “Oh I don’t know why she’s marrying him, I don’t know why she’s marrying him”, and then when it actually came closer to her, the time for her to get married, like the wedding day got closer then it clicked, I thought she’s getting married, it’s a really big thing, it’s not even, it’s not like a, it can’t have been a simple decision for her, and then just, how much, like seeing how much she wanted me there and how her family were like “Yeah come and stay with us the whole time during the wedding” and that feeling that they really wanted you there just makes everything else seem really fickle, like who cares if I don’t like him, I’m not marrying him, and yeah like the thing that got me was like a lot of her family didn’t like him as well [INT: OK], even her mum, her mum didn’t even like him, none of her aunts liked him, and we’d all like kind of, I think this sounds really bad, but we’d all rip him when she wasn’t there, but ehm the, but then like the main thing was that we were all thinking about her at the end of it and even though we didn’t like him, and no one, the amount of people that didn’t like him was shocking to me for them, I just thought it was really like amazing how they all kind of still came together for her, but I think that if you really do care about someone then you can do that, and so the more you care about them it is easier to do it, obviously it depends on the situation as well and what’s happening but I think that if you do really care then you can get past all that extra stuff.

INT: And what, what do you think it meant to her to have these people coming together in that way?

SHAZ: I think it’s really important because ehm when like they were having a few, when she was having a few problems with him she called me and she told me about it saying, cause they nearly called the wedding off and she was really upset about it and I think that once they got past all those problems and everyone did come together and it all went ahead and it all went smoothly and everything, that just like seeing her and her husband after together kind of made it all like seem like worthwhile to like forget all that rubbish and just be there for her really, yeah.

INT: Yeah, em and how does it make you feel that that friendship’s changed as a result of her marriage?

SHAZ: Kind of sad, but I think because, the thing is we’re not really, I wouldn’t call her a best friend I’d just call her a friend but one of those friends that was always there for each other [INT: yeah] so, ehm, like with my other friends I wouldn’t even consider not being there for their weddings I’d always make a point that “Yes I’m gonna be there, I’m gonna do this, gonna do that” but with her it was like “Yeah, OK I might come along, see what happens” [INT: yeah], but ehm I’m not really that bothered that we’re not that, well that she just, that I can’t talk to her as much any more because I’ve still got those other people, I think if I didn’t have those then I’d be a bit more bothered, but, I suppose then it’s me being flaky [laughs], em yeah I think it’s just, just one of those things I think.

INT: It sounds like you’re quite accepting of the kind of, the fact that friendships do ehm, you know they do change, like you say they change with circumstances?

SHAZ: Yeah, well I’ve had it quite a lot though cause since like, had my first school fr- my, yeah from nursery to like first school, middle school and then those lot went and then I had my friends in secondary school, my best friend in secondary after year eleven she got sent to boarding school in Belgium cause her dad’s in the RAF [INT: right], so then my best friend then went, and then I got my, the one that I hated, she came and after a year she went, and then at final year, A levels and stuff just kinda had to plod along really, I don’t really have much choice cause, there, there are other people and other friends there but I just didn’t feel that close with them, and I think if you don’t feel that close you keep yourself at a distance but you do stay friends so you’re not completely a loner [INT: yeah], so you just kind of go along with it until you do find someone, until you do have, like cause I had my friends that I could talk to so that was OK, so even though at school I wasn’t really that close to anyone, I think that’s probably why I didn’t like school that much, but yeah I think if you’re not that close it’s alright.

INT: So you feel like you didn’t like school because you didn’t have that, that one unique friend that you’ve always-

SHAZ: Not the one, ehm just having that consistency in friends cause there’d always be like people coming and going kinda thing [INT: OK] in my friendships, my core group, kind of throws you off a bit.

INT: Absolutely, yeah.

SHAZ: Especially at that age and stuff, but it, I wasn’t really bothered after a while, cause I was always expecting something else to happen [INT: OK], and then, yeah just thought forget it, can’t really do much about it, nothing I could do, can’t control it, just let it go.

INT: So how did that make you feel initially when, when, when you kept, the friends that you were getting really close to you were either, they were kinda going to the schools or you were going to different schools, I mean how do that make you feel initially, was it, was it, was it s-

SHAZ: I hated it at first, I used to cry my eyes out, but then like my dad always used to say, he was like “Don’t ever want something so much that it hurts when you don’t get it” [INT: OK], so then like I never used to accept that I’d always just be like that’s a stupid parents’ saying, but then when I do think about it now, I think maybe even, cause he’s always been saying that to me so I think subconsciously I’ve, I did accept it and I did get over it and stuff like that, just have to go on really, cause if I’d just moped around then I’d just feel like complete loser [both laugh] doing nothing so I just went along with it.

INT: So you feel you’ve had this real get up, get up and kind of get on with it attitude?

SHAZ: Yeah.

INT: And do you think that’s had an impact on how you’ve dealt with coming to University and going to different schools and those, those transitions that you’ve had to make cause you’ve had losses if you like and changes in friendships?

SHAZ: Yeah, ehm, yeah I suppose because like even like with like changing uni as well that was pretty, cause the thing is about that was because everyone that I sought out last year, everyone knew about them stupid things I’d done last year and they all end up going to these unis so I’d see them all there and I’d be like “Ah I don’t want to know, don’t wanna know, don’t even wanna talk to you” [laughs] so I just kept away and things, but again I just got on with it because, I changed course, I’m doing a course that I really wanna do now, and if I can I’ll just get on with it, if you let things hold you back then you’re just not gonna progress very far and you’re just gonna be upset all the time and crying and, and sad and you don’t need to be, you don’t need to be sad about it at all.

INT: Yeah. Let me just grab this a second. ((INTERVIEWER ADJUSTS CAMERA; BREAK IN RECORDING)) OK. So have you ever been let down by a friend?

SHAZ: Ehm, ehm, suppose but not, but then it was never really like, but oh I don’t know, not really let down I guess but just ehm, you get that doubt in your head about the trust and stuff like, what happened, something happened and one of my friends said something to another and then when I asked her about it she said “No, I didn’t say anything” and that’s kind of put in my head that well why would she say that if she didn’t, if you didn’t say anything and I think just that, it wasn’t let, it wasn’t, it wasn’t a let down, it wasn’t disappointment, it was just that doubt that gets put into your head then and then you always question what she says then because then you think well she’s not being honest and what else won’t she be honest about, I wouldn’t say it’s a let down, it’s just, for me because when I get little doubts in my head because I over think things, when I get those little doubts it just means a lot because then ha-ha my mind goes into overdrive and [INT: OK] I go a bit crazy [laughs], but yeah.

INT: So it was, so it wasn’t one big thing it was a couple of smaller things that made you feel …?

SHAZ: Yeah it was just like look, it wasn’t even a couple it was just one, it was one little thing and, but then I think that, I don’t know, I don’t know why I think, think like that but I just do, and yeah I just need to have something that I don’t have any doubt in people [INT: yeah], because then I just question them all the time then, and then I think when you question someone you just don’t really trust them cause you’re just constantly questioning and you just won’t have that you won’t feel that you can trust them at all so there’s no point talking to them on that level.

INT: So when, when you felt that you’d been let down by this friend how did that impact on your friendship with that person?

SHAZ: Mm just whenever I said anything like “don’t tell this person, don’t say that”, I’d just feel that I had to actually say “DON’T tell any one” [INT: right], so I’d still wanna talk to her, still wanna tell her stuff cause of like how much she understood and that, but I just didn’t, I just felt I always had to tell her “don’t” [INT: OK] whenever, when before it was just like a mutual understanding.

INT: Right, so you felt that mutual understanding had been broken and that’s why, why you felt let down?

SHAZ: Yeah.

INT: And how important is it for you, how important is it for you to have that mutual understanding in a friendship?

SHAZ: Ehm I think when you can both understand something without actually having to define it, I think that’s quite im- important but it’s just good I think cause then you get that feeling with someone that you, that you can say something and you don’t have to constantly like remind them not to tell people, and you don’t need to, you know that whatever you say is like, you can, you’ve got confidence in them I think.

INT: It sounds like it goes back to that trust thing again, feeling like you can tell somebody, and you can trust them, not to say anything.

SHAZ: Yeah.

INT: And that, and that, when that, when that’s broken, I mean it sounded like you still remain friends with that person even when-

SHAZ: Yeah we’re still really good friends but I still, I just wonder sometimes what she says to other people and whether she does actually say anything, but then I think if, if I do, if I don’t trust her when she was actually telling the truth then I’m gonna, I’m gonna lose out because then I won’t have that person there for me, but then I think by me saying to her you know “Don’t say this, don’t say that” then I can get my cake and eat it, cause then I get her [INT: yeah] and I can still be happy with the fact that I know she won’t say anything.

INT: Yeah, so it’s, it sounds like it’s obviously hugely important to you but, but, but also you are prepared to accept that perhaps you know some people

SHAZ: The benefit of the doubt.

INT: Yeah.

SHAZ: I think, I think you need to do that a lot, except if you do it to often then there’s something wrong [laughs], yeah I think sometimes you need to, cause otherwise you’re just gonna end up losing people for no reason, or for something petty [INT: yeah], I don’t think it’s something, like what happened I don’t think its anything that I’d cut someone out of my life for because I know that if I don’t stay close with her then I probably won’t, like she’ll just become an acquaintance than really a friend, I don’t really want that, when there’s no need for it.

INT: Do you feel that you’ve changed your behaviour around her then as a result of being let down?

SHAZ: No I don’t think it’s a change in behaviour, I think its just making sure that I can trust her [INT: Yeah], but I think when a thing like that does happen with trust you just need to rebuild it, but obviously when, if it’s got to a point where you can’t trust them at all then trying to rebuild it then and like forcing it, that won’t help anything cause you’re just gonna constantly doubt and constantly just go crazy [Laughs], I don’t think it’s worth it if it’s something like that, but I think then you just cut your losses and that’s it, just walk away from that, but then when it’s something small that you’ve argued over or something then just get on with it.

INT: Yeah, and how easy is it do you think to rebuild trust?

SHAZ: Ehm I think it depends what it is that you’ve lost the trust over. For something small then I think it’s quite easy then, but if it’s something big then if you really feel that you can’t trust them, if you’re going to constantly keep doubting them then it’s just not worth rebuilding it cause you’re just forcing it [INT: yeah], but I think gradually over time if it does get rebuilt and like I say if you do lose contact with that friend and then after a while you do get in contact again and you do become quite close again I think that’s OK, but I think forcing it, like forcing the trust again doesn’t work I don’t think.

INT: So against the natural progression that’s the, yeah.

SHAZ: Yeah.

INT: OK, em so can you sum up then what friendship means to you?

SHAZ: Right, [laughs] em I think friendship is something that you don’t, it’s like a situation where you can form like a relationship with someone where you can just be fully comfortable and know that no one’s gonna judge you, no one’s gonna pick at everything you, or if they do pick they’re not gonna like be nasty about it, and they’re always gonna be there, and they do care about you, and someone that you can trust and stuff, but it’s someone that you can have a laugh with and go out with and stuff, and probably that you’ve got common, a lot in common with as well, I think you need to have a lot in common cause otherwise you’re just gonna grow apart then, yeah I think that’s it [laughs].

INT: OK. So shall we finish it there?

SHAZ: Yeah.

INT: OK, brilliant, let me just get this.

1. Name of a club night in Liverpool [↑](#footnote-ref-1)