

Letter to my 18 year old self by Kyla Kelly 1 A

Dear future me,

You are probably studying for your Leaving Cert and stressing about the material. You probably completely forgot about this letter and just found it. I'm here to remind you of these times and remind you of the goals you had.

While writing this it's currently our 20th day in isolation. It's so tedious, I'm going crazy! Remember the walks down the lane just to get away from Croia and Florrie screaming? I wake up at 8 every morning, or at least try to and I go by my timetable and get as much work done as possible. I'm getting a lot of work and it can be stressful sometimes, but I have my ways to calm down. I do go for a walk, call my friends or just sit down and read a book. You should try these if you're stressed, they really do help clear your mind. My work is dreadful but when it gets to the evening and I relax, that's the best part of my day.

Remember just staring out the bedroom window and watching the sunset every evening. The different colours just fusing together. Some nights they'd be orange and yellow almost apocalyptic and on special occasions you'd get a pink sky. It's beautiful, tranquil and gorgeous. The clouds leaving a clear or smoky sky. The silence of everyone calming down after a long day. The sun falling behind the mountains. I hope that you'll watch the sunset this evening. You won't regret it.

This virus is honestly scaring me, Nana had to stop working, Mum is working more now. I don't want to catch it. No one does, people are dying and the numbers of infected are just going up every day. We have more dead than recovered. I'm terrified I don't want Grannan or Papa to catch it, I don't want anyone to catch it. I just hope it goes away quickly. Are things still the same, did being in isolation change anything about schools, workplaces or even just the community in general?

Do you remember what it's like now? Are Jean and Clodagh still sticking by you every minute of our life?

I want you to think about when you were me and think about how hard I think life is, but you know how easy it was. To someone else your life seems easy, remember there's always someone out there who has it worse. What I want you to do is to be studying and enjoying your life at the same time. Don't go out partying every night or spend every minute with your friends, leave time to study, leave time to get a good mark in your Leaving Cert. You do want this, it's what you've wanted your whole life. You can do it.

Make sure you stick with your close friends the ones that won't leave you when you need them most. I hope you look after yourself and you pay attention to your family. Even in the toughest times they are going to be there for you. Don't stress too much over studying and school and always take a break. They're well deserved. I hope you are still dancing, it is the best part of my life right now and I'm so sad it's closed because of the virus. I also hope you stuck to our promise and never dyed your hair. !!!

Keep being you.

- Kyla, the Past You