

## A letter to future me

Hello 28-year-old Anya!!

It's Anya from 10 years ago here and the world's gone crazy; there's a global pandemic going on which you'll definitely remember for the rest of your life as it's heavily impacted everyone and how the world works.

Coronavirus stopped absolutely everything, and things are only just starting to get back to normal, or as normal as things can possibly be. It's crazy how the thought hugging someone feels wrong but hopefully by the time you're reading this in 10 years the virus will be under control (hopefully even eradicated) so the world can become more connected again. We have to keep a 2-meter distance from people which feels very antisocial, but most people are adhering to this rule, slowing the spread of the virus which is the aim.

When lockdown started in the UK, everything stopped; there were barely any cars on the road, no shops open and minimal people coming out of their houses. It all felt so strange being locked in the house for months, but things have slowly started to reopen, it's all less boring now. We all have to wear masks if we're in an environment where we're close to other people or in closed spaces which has made my face break out with spots but it's all for the greater good.

I do hope by the time I'm 28 all the stress and anxiety I have about my A Level results feels like a blip because right now it is the biggest thing taking over my mind. I'm terrified but I have alternative routes in place just in case things don't go the way I had anticipated on results day. COVID-19 put an end to my school years very abruptly; I had my last day of school in March just before lockdown and soon after we got the news that summer exams were cancelled and our teachers will be giving grades to the exam boards. Soon I'll be getting grades for exams I haven't done so everything is so up in the air and very unpredictable so I've been planning for any possible scenario. Hopefully by the age of 28 I will be a qualified Physiotherapist working in the NHS after studying my degree in London; fingers crossed. Having a dog or two by my side would be great too.

One highlight of lockdown for me was signing up to a website called Borrow My Doggy where you connect with dog owners and walk their dogs for them; if I don't have a dog by 28 I still hope I'm spending time with dogs. We met a German Shepherd called Harvey whose owner has arthritis so she can't walk Harvey as much as she'd like to, so we've been helping her by taking Harvey out for her. It's very rewarding and we get a taste of what it's like to own a dog before we commit to one ourselves.

So lockdown has had its positives and negatives but I can't wait for the world to return to some normality again in 10 years, I'm very intrigued to see what the future has to hold for humanity. 2020 has been a crazy rollercoaster so far.

18-year-old Anya xxx