

“Parents and teachers expect children to work far too hard at school and at home. Young people should still be able to have fun whilst they can.”

Write a broadsheet newspaper article explaining your point of view on this statement.

Depleted and Drained Students – Is There a Way Out for Them?

As a student myself, I understand the demands from pressuring parents and tyrannical teaching standards. I understand the culture of targets – ‘setting and getting’ – revision, boosters, after school one to ones. I know that these systems are in place to support and help me to develop. I recognize that my teachers only want to foster my good habits. So why is this all going so horribly wrong? Why are students rejecting the support that is so freely offered?

The fact is – this is not support. It is a demand. An instruction.

Importantly, we must first recognize that a student is also a human. More importantly, this human being has the same wants for their own success as the parents, teachers and mentors that encircle them like birds of prey. The reality is, that support is not always supportive and young people have lost the ability to ‘self-manage’. We are all working against one another and ultimately it is the student that misses out.

Almost a third of GCSE and A Level students find that constant pushing from both school and home leaves them feeling drained and less motivated to put in effort where their studies are concerned. The majority, 89% of students from a survey to be precise, wanted more independence when it comes to studying: studying because they want to, not because they are being overloaded with unrealistic expectations and predetermined careers. Students feel as though they are drowning in the pressure of study and education - and this is not motivating nor uplifting.

In recent years, the pressure and expectations have grown like an enormous snowball tumbling down a hill; the further it falls, the bigger it gets and the more of an impact it has at the end. But we must stop this snowball before it falls too far down that hill and crashes with irreversible damage on it’s victims. These victims are our sons, our daughters... our students. Does a duty of care not extend to trying to ease the heavy, weighty and damaging pressure off of our children? Why should we abuse the position of trust and use it to unintentionally degrade our students’ mentality? What right do we have to steer them down paths that we regret not taking?

The pressure and constant prodding is spreading around each school like an abnormal growth of cells , a malignant tumor invading neighbouring tissue, poisoning the minds of children and shoving them into a deep, bleak hole of incessant revision and study. Is this what we want for our future generation?

So: as a student myself, I’m afraid I cannot understand the expectations that are being placed upon us. I cannot understand the relentless study and ‘more work, less play’ ethic, but more importantly – I cannot withstand these constraints, compulsions and coercions on my mental wellbeing.