



Crystal Tuition: Creative Writing

The letter below has been written by one of my students and is one of the homeworks that I set last term. Apart from the address and personal details, this piece of writing has not been edited by me or anyone else. All intellectual and creative rights belong to MW.

Task: Write a persuasive letter to ask PM (Boris Johnson) to permanently cancel Year 6 SATs exams. You can suggest that the government funds a fun or educational activity (or preferably both!) instead to celebrate the end of primary school.

123 Kingston Road
Kingston Upon Thames
Surrey
KT2 7NP

13th September 2020

Boris Johnson (Prime Minister)
10 Downing Street
London
LN1 9ON

Dear Mr Johnson,

I am writing to you to request that you permanently cancel the KS2 Year 6 SATs and replace them with a fun or educational activity.

Firstly, I am sure that you will agree with me that the nation's mental health is of paramount importance and is completely exacerbated by the stress of exams. I wholly understand that exams are part of life and are an essential part of growing up. However, a survey in 2010 shows that more than 50% of 10-15-year-olds had experienced anxiety due to exams. Therefore, the only reasonable solution to stop the future adults from detesting exams, would be to permanently cancel the Year 6 SATs.

Secondly, many students in Year 6 have previously gone through the Herculean amount of stress and hardship of 11+ preparation, so it would be completely unfair to force them to partake in another exam that is only a couple of months away. Do you really want children to become stressed and melancholy adults?

Furthermore, in comparison to crucial exams, such as GCSEs and A-Levels, the KS2 Year 6 SATs do not hold any key importance. On the one hand, you may argue that the end of year exams prepares students for secondary school. On the other hand, the arduous, onerous and gruelling 11+ exams prepare students better, as it tests at a higher level. Why not let hard-working students have a break?

Moreover, the majority of students address exams as tedious and gloomy, so starting their years starting secondary school with a dull and dreary event is completely unjust and unfair. What about letting pupils end their long, long path of primary school with a propitious event instead?

Consequently, it stands to reason that ending a school year with a joyful event, is going to provoke many cherished memories. Why not replace the KS2 SATs with a trip to Thorpe Park or Legoland? If funding money for a fun trip is out of reason, would an equally fun and educational trip be a better replacement? A trip to a farm would teach pupils in a more pleasurable way about animals.

A recent study conducted by Oxford University shows that students who were involved in active learning, were five times more likely to pass an exam than pupils who were constantly reading from textbooks. Thus, the Year 6 exams should be permanently cancelled to prevent stress and anxiety levels from rising, and to evoke joyful and cherished memories.

Thank you for taking your time to read my request and I hope that you take it seriously. I look forward to hearing your reply.

Yours sincerely,

MW