

Dear (quarantined) inmates,

By now you have probably noticed the grand prosperity of our neoliberal capitalist system in dealing with all real issues, be it a deadly outbreak or the progressive destruction of the planet. I personally have the privilege of working and studying in the healthcare system in Maastricht, where I get first hand experience with such flourishing success stories. Stories like the neglect towards lower-class citizens who cannot simply 'quarantine', towards those who live in shelters or homes, or towards those who live paycheck to paycheck.

Your highschool, much like my university, is part of this roaring system, they are connected to the bigger institution that uses humans as a source of capital with no consideration towards their needs. Hence why you have not seen your tuition fees go down despite the decrease in working hours and spendings. Also, suddenly online learning has become a valid way of getting an education even though it was not prior to February 2020 and your presence for exams has also become a benign extra, something you have been taught to believe is an absolute must. The relevance of this is magnified when thinking about those pupils in wheelchairs who have to think about accessibility before enrolling or those pupils who have crucial responsibilities or disabilities putting them at a disadvantage in our non-accommodating systems.

Maastricht University has also adapted to distant learning, everything has become online, student jobs were dismissed but no worries because rent and tuition fees are still expected to be paid. Since we are all stuck trying to scrape together whatever is left of our sanity and suppress all responsibilities that we have already fallen short of, I urge you to look on the bright side. Now you have some extra time to catch up on your hobbies and stray away from the capitalist lifestyle that measures your worth based on your productivity. Learn what you are really good at and practice that, go on a mind trip and paint it, read some philosophy because there is no better time to put yourself in an existential crisis than this very moment in history. If you do not know what to read or do not like reading and you want something that is not written by a dead guy, look up Slavoj Zizek and his take on postmodernism 'and so on *sniff, tucks on blouse*'. If you do want to read something by a dead guy, read some Kierkegaard, Foucault, or Sartre's *Existentialism is Humanism*.

Actively try to transform this holistic situation into an opportunity for you as an individual to grow, so that the collective consciousness within your community can grow too, grow in your skills and grow in your empathy and form a strong sense of solidarity.

