

# CASE STUDY 4



## IONE

Ione, 18  
UK



At the end of August 2020, the UK had reported almost 328,000 cases of COVID-19 and almost 41,500 deaths. Schools in England were closed to most children on Friday 20 March. There was a partial re-opening of schools from 1 June 2020 and a full re-opening planned for September 2020. At the height of the pandemic in May 2020, 97.5% of UK children were out of school

Ione (age 18) lives in Leicestershire and was preparing for her A-Level exams when schools were closed. She says

“ I should have been doing my A-Level exams this year, but they were cancelled. My teachers weren't sure what was happening. Some carried on teaching, but others decided to leave teaching and give us exam practice questions. Me and my friends found it really hard to complete practice papers once we knew we wouldn't be taking the exam.

My home WiFi signal can't support many devices using video and, as my mother has also been working from home, I couldn't use my webcam. Lots of students have had similar problems with networks and the like.

The whole experience has had a large impact on my mental health. I'm now faced with trying to find a job, along with a huge number of people. I read about a receptionist job that received nearly 1000 applicants in a day. This doesn't fill me with much hope for getting a job.

Since A Level results day, I have felt unexplainedly flat. I should be excited about my results, my university, and what's to come in the next year. Instead, I feel confused. Why did I deserve to get into my top university over other students? I'm unable to get excited for the next year, as it's impossible to know what will happen. ”