**13/11/2023: Jean D’Arc – ‘student postcards to my future self’**

1. ‘Well, I just wish that you’re living your life fully, without having any regret that you know who you are, what you’re worth, and that you’re never, and will never, stop fighting for the life you deserve’
2. ‘I hope you are happy and that you accomplished things you aimed at because you do these with passion. You should be guided by your nature and who you really are. Don’t be a product formatted by society who doesn’t do what [he?] really likes. Don’t be like people who come to the dark edge of the world and went over. Life has to be savoured, and your emotional side should be leading your actions. Don’t build fences to this liberty’
3. ‘Dear future me, sometimes, I wander in the street, and wonder how I will be in ten year’s time. Will I still be the same as I am today? Are my parents and sister happy and healthy? Do I still have the same friendships as I do today? Will I be able to discover the world? So, when you will read it, dear future me, I hope you can answer these questions’
4. ‘Don’t believe in appearance. The theme was not enchanting, but finally everything was very interesting. Apparently, English are not only good as rugby but also at teaching’
5. ‘Dear me, I don’t know where you will be next year, but I hope you haven’t forgotten the main point of this lecture: don’t let yourself be dragged into the craziness of our world. Sometimes it’s a bit too much. Just like the child from *The Story of an African Farm*, sometimes the idea of not being able to control or know what will happen in the future is frightening, but it doesn’t matter: just enjoy!’
6. ‘The lecture was interesting, and it gave us an example of what and how things are done at college, which in the case of literature is not too different from what I do at school’
7. ‘Analysing texts can be very interesting when it is connected to political and social issues. Linking social activism and literature is very interesting to me. I would like to find a way to continue to study similar things, and perhaps orientate myself in that direction. Journalism? Writing? Thank you!’
8. ‘Dear me, I hope you don’t think back to your days as a teenager and think: “I wish I could go back in time to the good old days”. Why? Because life is a journey. Don’t be another victim of the oppressive government of time. I know you have dreams and goals. You want so many things to happen to you. Right now at least, you are worried about time. You used to always feel chased by time, hunted even. But what is it really? Something someone invented to become richer. So please, enjoy your gap year, and don’t worry about what will happen next. Everyone before you has done it. You can too’
9. ‘Dear me, don’t forget to compare/confront your European point of view to allow people’s POV (foreign people). The impact of some things in your life is different from the impact in others’ lives with a different culture. Experiment!’
10. ‘South Africans are not only good at rugby! Very interesting even with a clear focus on sleep. [illegible writing]. They can separate classrooms very differently; we barely heard the other group ☺’
11. ‘Whether time is mechanised or not, it is something we have during our [periodically?] fleeting life. In that moment, time is ours; throughout life it is ours as well, and I wish for you to be grateful for this individual chance you have been granted. I want you to be as alive as you can, and embrace time rather than be afraid of its passing. Hope you’re fulfilled and happy and healthy’
12. ‘I hope you finally understand what modernism is. I also hope that you found some place where you do not feel the need to justify your presence nor understand what led you there. Maybe letting go from our past and future self could help us feeling less like that. But for now, this is not the case, and I look forward to meeting you soon. I also hope you managed to become a doctor ☺’
13. ‘Watch = colonialism. I was right. [illegible writing]. Focus on colonialism; the context is really important. Great English Literature analysis ☺’
14. ‘Dear future self, I hope that these memories of your trip to Manchester in 2023 have taught you to be this “free-thinker” that you talked about. I hope that your own definition and analysis of the world allowed you to take a step back on the academic pressure and gave you the courage to accomplish everything you have dreamed of. Easy to say, I know, but I hope that you did it. You discovered the world, learnt many things by yourself, and left everything that held you back. I won’t be mad at you if you didn’t find the courage to do it all. You are still brave and have done your best. Take care’
15. ‘The extract studied struck me because it seemed to look back at the pain of change evolution, especially when it is forced and rapid like with colonialism. This seemed relatable on some scale because everything seems to be forced to change. This has always been uncomfortable for you, but it is the only thing that keeps you from boredom: change is not all that bad, and you must learn to use it’
16. ‘I hope you enjoyed your youth. I hope you learnt many things and are still learning every day. I hope you take some time to reflect on things and did not only take opinions from others without trying yourself. I am sure someday you will look back on this moment and think about the lecture and about the effects of modernism on literature. But more importantly that you will remember every moment of this trip. Keep a memory of the people you met and the experiences you tried’
17. ‘Focus on colonialism: it’s important to have the context to understand the text. Fragmentation in a text is interesting – it can be visual and metaphorical. Plaatje = 1st Black South African novelist to write in English. Good luck with your project’
18. ‘“If you can’t amaze them with your brilliance, dazzle them with nonsense”. You can (maybe) do it’
19. ‘Dear future self, how are you? I hope you still remember this trip you did back in 2023. But truly, I thin you will! On the 13th November, you visited the University of Salford, and we discovered the way of studying for a British university student. It has been a very inspiring experience. Discovering a different way of working, as well as studying, a very hard subject has encouraged you to always make your own interpretation, analysis, [and] opinion of things. Always try although it is quite hard. But mostly, enjoy discovering new things’
20. ‘Dear future self, I would like to ask you for a moment to look back on the moment I was writing this letter. Think of all the things you’ve been through, and I am about to go through. I would like to tell you that I am excited because I know we are going to live amazing moments. Please enjoy everything you do. I am in my last years of High School, and I am trying to enjoy fully the end of this chapter. I hope the new chapter you are living is exciting, and I hope you keep enjoying it’
21. ‘The lecture/class made me realise that literature is something I hugely enjoy in my life, and that I still have a lot of reflection to do about my life and future studies. Maybe if I am only studying science and medicine etc I will miss the English studies of High School and regret the studying I could’ve done. Anyway, this is just something I enjoyed and have difficulty seeing myself with English studies and literature. Would you please take that into consideration otherwise you might be miserable… good luck!’
22. ‘Dear future self, I hope that you are not afraid of giving your own opinion. Even when you are not sure, remember to always try and trust yourself ☺’
23. ‘Dear me, I hope everything is fine. I hope you are happy where you are and that you accomplish everything you wish to accomplish. I know our world is frightening, but don’t worry: we’ll do it!’
24. ‘Colonialism has been so practical for the white European to feel good about himself, but it should come to an end because it is founded on a huge pack of lies. Read South African literature’
25. [illegible writing]
26. ‘Take the time to read, take the time to learn, take the time to discover, take the time to question the world, but most importantly: take the time to be you because it is the best subject to grow from. You are the best version of yourself’
27. ‘The lecture was really pleasant and accessible. To work in groups brought out the best of us and allowed a new view of close reading. Also moral: time = colonialism obviously (joke). Overall, close learning is not that bad, put colours it makes it better, if you cry alone it doesn’t count, and don’t panic about calm because I hope you figured it out by now’
28. ‘Today I learnt a lot about modernism and colonialism, as we were given a text to analyse from an African point of view. This text really highlights the fragmentation and oppression of societies and helps us to understand the impact of colonialism on the world’