



The Friday Blog by Dr Francey
Friday 2nd September

Well done everyone!

It's been a tough few years for our children. Their lives have been turned upside down and it must have been so difficult for those young people, who were due to sit exams, which help determine their future plans, to have had them cancelled.

What a time of uncertainty for them!

For this recent cohort of children, there has of course, been more time spent in school, but still their learning has been interrupted significantly. This has been the first year of public exams (GCSE and A-level, as well as the new vocational T-Levels) since the start of the pandemic.

For anyone who has a vested interest in exams and results, it has made interesting reading.... And for anyone, like me, who is looking forward to their children sitting exams next year, my nerves are kicking in already!

Our children's wellbeing and mental health above all, needs looking after. Anxiety and uncertainty are rife in our young people these days, and hearing about the pressures of the job market, and financial strain, it must prey on their minds, as they begin to understand more.

As someone who was lucky enough to have known from a fairly early age what I wanted to do in life (after failing to become a mermaid or trapeze artist...), I followed a fairly traditional educational path, GCSEs, followed by standard 'medical' A-levels, then medical school and well, I'm delighted to say, I made it.

I genuinely feel lucky that I had that desire and the opportunity to do that.

For many children, the decision isn't so clear, having to choose at just 13 or 14, what subjects to take, and what effect that may have on their future possible studies, A-level choices, let alone options for colleges, apprenticeships, joining the workforce, is a minefield.

There are many career paths that simply didn't exist when I was growing up, so as parents, it seems difficult to know how to advise children today, as I simply have no clue about IT, media, or technology etc.

There are also many different ways to get there. Traditional exams have existed for so long, but are not the only thing we should be judged on. Some children simply cannot learn in a way that allows

them to pass these standard exams, not because of a lack of intelligence or effort, but because we all think, learn and work in a different way.

Sometimes we just need to look in a different direction.

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I suppose what we have to remember, is that we are all different, we are all going to achieve different goals, at different times, and for different reasons. We all develop at a different rate, and our goals may change, or we may not even realise we have goals until later in life. It's never too late to try.

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Our children have endured a massive challenge and have come through the other side.

I hope anyone whose family has had results these past 2 weeks, has found whatever success they wished for, and if not, that you can find success on another occasion, or by finding a different path.... There will be a way.