

Class of Covid

FREE HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

- **Grants for all**
- **End low pay and understaffing**
- **Spaces to study, live and socialise - protect our health**



Come to the Socialist Student / Young Socialist national rally over Zoom - Sunday 25 October
Scan QR code to register

*Young
Socialists*

youngsocialists.org.uk



socialiststudents.org.uk

The victory of A-Level and GCSE students over the downgrading of overwhelmingly working class students' grades, as well as the massive explosion of anger around the Black Lives Matter movement, are fresh in the minds of thousands of students. The burning question this term is how we can continue to fight against inequality, oppression and to organise for our futures.

The coronavirus pandemic has starkly revealed the class divisions which exist within capitalist society. While millions have lost their jobs and income, 45 billionaires in Britain have seen their wealth soar by £25 billion during the lockdown period.

It has also exposed the nature of education within capitalist society with the A-Level and GCSE results fiasco - demonstrating that exam results are as much based on your class background as they are on the hard work of individual students.

Covid and the campuses

For years universities have faced a crisis of overcrowding as vice chancellors and management have chased funding by cramming more and more students into campuses without increasing funding for learning resources, such as more teaching staff, support services for students, and study and communal spaces.

Without more funding for these things, implementing social distancing measures to keep students and staff safe will be impossible. Socialist Students demands investment in our campuses: more spaces for students to study, live and socialise safely, and an end to and a reversal of all cuts to jobs and wages on campus.

Unaccountable vice chancellors and management have proven that they cannot be trusted to prioritise the needs and wellbeing of students and staff on campuses. The only guarantee of an education system which meets our needs and can ensure our safety is to

fight for the democratic control and oversight of the universities, including by campus staff, trade unions, and students ourselves.

Tuition fees have to go - fight for free & quality education for all!

Reduced numbers of international students, combined with the Blairite and Tory backed tuition fee funding model, has led to a monumental funding crisis on campus.

More cuts are being threatened at a time when more resources and staff are needed on the campuses to tackle the increased workload which has come with the coronavirus. Caps on seminar sizes, without an increase in the number of available teachers, will mean a cut in contact time for students and an increase in workload for remaining teaching staff.

Socialist Students demands that no more cuts are carried through on campus to jobs, services, or courses. Management should open the books to democratic inspection by the campuses unions and to elected committees of students - if there is really a funding shortfall, then we need to fight the Tories for the funding that our universities need!

Tory splits

The government's double U-turn over the exam results prove that the Tories can be beaten. The bitter divisions which have gripped their party since the Brexit referendum are only set to deepen as the crisis of capitalism develops, representing a huge opportunity for our movement.

Students need to be organised, starting on the campuses, to democratically discuss out a fighting programme for our education and futures and to build a mass movement to take on the Tories.

Despite the desperate need for organisation, the NUS, which enjoys the affiliated membership of over 600 Students' Unions, has been silent. Locally on the

campuses, Students' Unions themselves have been silent for years as well.

And Sir Keir Starmer, leader of the Labour Party, has demonstrated time and time again that he's more interested in smashing the remnants of the left in the Labour Party than he is in fighting against Tory attacks on our education and our futures.

Join Socialist Students

Socialist Students is a national organisation for any and all students who want to fight for free, quality education, for affordable student housing, and for an end to cuts on campus. We fight for the scrapping of tuition fees, for student living grants, and for the cancellation of all outstanding student debt.

JOIN SOCIALIST STUDENTS

Text 'join' with your name & college/university to 07749 379 010

socialiststudents.org.uk/join

Email: socialiststudents@gmail.com

Instagram: [socialiststudents](https://www.instagram.com/socialiststudents)

Twitter: [@socialiststudents](https://twitter.com/socialiststudents)

Facebook: [Socialist Students](https://www.facebook.com/SocialistStudents)

But capitalism in crisis is unable to guarantee a free and quality education for all. That's why Socialist Students fights for socialism – to take the banks and the biggest businesses into democratic public ownership. This could lay the basis for a democratic plan of society's resources to provide all young people with access to a free education, a decent job, somewhere to live and a decent future. Join Socialist Students if you want to get organised on your campus or college to fight for our futures.