

The Storm Won't Last Forever – The Sun Will Shine Again

By Shawna-kay Spence, Class of 2020 at Convent of Mercy Academy – Alpha in Kingston, Jamaica

I thought that my final year of high school was going to be the best one yet: Being a student leader at the Convent of Mercy Academy – Alpha, carrying out duties and having responsibilities, learning new content every day from the best teachers ever, having a jolly time with friends, going to clubs after school and inspiring students. I enjoyed each day like it was my last, but who could have known that those last few months at the academy would really be the last I spent there. School life was going great until the coronavirus arrived on our shores. I was unable to go to one of my favourite places due to the closure of schools caused by the pandemic. Of course I was devastated, but my health is more important.

Being at home all day, every day, is not something that I am used to. I am used to waking up early for school five days a week, taking the bus, being on time, going through the rest of the day, etc. It took a toll on me mentally. Being a student during a time like this is not easy, especially not being able to see friends, schoolmates and the rest of my Alpha family. But I am managing to pull through since communication is still viable among my friends and me. Also, I met with my teachers thrice per week via Zoom. However, there are days when I want to just watch my favourite series on Netflix for the entire day; but then I remind myself of my mantra – “Work now, play later.” Also, the unclear situation regarding our exams, CAPE (Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination), has made me very frustrated about whether I should study or not. But being the type of student that I am, I am definitely going to study until there is an official statement given by the ministry that exams will be postponed/cancelled.



As I move into the next chapter of my life after high school, I hope to remain the resilient individual that I am, and even in the midst of any storm, I will press on for the greater good. I know that the storm won't last forever; the sun will shine again. This pandemic has made my faith stronger, and I am even closer to God. I say this to mean that everything happens for a reason; you may not notice it now, but you will soon enough. I truly hope that I will still possess these attributes as well as having God in my corner when I start university in the upcoming school year. My senior year did not end as was expected, but I have to press on nonetheless.

Shawna-kay is the president of the Interact Club at Alpha Academy and is a member of the Environmental Club, Junior Optimist Club, Inter-Schools Christian Fellowship and United Nations Club. She also serves as secretary for the Sixth Form Association. Shawna-kay will study medicine at the University of the West Indies.