



11th January 2021

Dear Rehman Chishti MP,

We are writing to you as the elected Leadership Team of Christ Church Students' Union, on behalf of the student body of Canterbury Christ Church University, thousands of whom live and study in Medway, to highlight the repeated failures by the Office for Students, the Department of Education, and HM Government to adequately support students during the pandemic.

Students in the UK are facing a great deal of academic and financial uncertainty, which is contributing to significant anxiety for many of our members, as well as the general anxiety we all feel as a result of the impact of COVID-19 on ourselves and our loved ones. There is uncertainty surrounding assessments, there is uncertainty around grades and outcomes, there is uncertainty over finances due to accommodation contracts and the lack of opportunities in the part-time job market many students need to support their studies, and there is uncertainty around the graduate job market. Students need reassurance, and they need your help and that of HM Government to secure this.

We address you, as the Member of Parliament for Gillingham & Rainham, to join us and support our students in addressing the inequalities they are currently facing in light of the ongoing global pandemic. We request that, on behalf of our students, that you use your position of national influence to lobby for **government-funded tuition fee rebates** in recognition of the extreme disruption students have experienced this academic year. We also ask that you publicly support calls for students in private accommodation to be given **government-funded rent rebates or the ability to break their contracts without penalty**, as they are currently prevented by law from occupying this accommodation.

We urge you, as our Member of Parliament, to lobby the government on behalf of the students of your constituency to implement our proposals. We hope you give our request your full consideration and we look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Becky Thomson, Beth Elwood, Maddy Young, and Nathan Baker
Christ Church Students' Union Sabbatical Leadership Team 2020/21