

## Letters to a President

### **Winner Year 13 – Imogen Graham**

Dear President Joseph Biden Jr.,

Congratulations, Mr. President! You won the race for your candidacy and went on to win the race for your presidency, but have you found your destination?

Your country's political reputation has been marred by faux populism; "politicians" thirsting for power and glory and working to gain the vote of the majority for their own ends. They have abused and exploited the system supposedly created for the service of the population. We have watched as the focus of the coveted time in office has turned into a popularity contest reminiscent of high school more than modern politics, the health of the nation be damned. The deep scars that such politicians have left on the face of democracy and American government are still red today, twisting its visage into more than a grotesque, counterfeit imitation of democracy - twisting it into a mockery.

So my question is: have you already got what you wanted? Was the grandeur and fame of the Oval Office the finishing line you were dreaming of? Or was it the possibilities of what you can achieve from the esteemed Office? Are we going to see healing of the populist wound or are you going to cut deeper?

I say this as more than just a concerned onlooker, slowing on the motorway to see the collision on the other side; I say this as a person feeling the stings and following aches of populism in my own country. America is a world leader in many respects, and one of those, unfortunately, is in political trends. Across the Atlantic, many have felt the ripples of populism from America in our own government, and moreso felt its damaging effects in our nation. We need an end to remorseless governmental people-pleasing as much as America does.

Contrary to popular populist belief, things don't get better when you pretend they are or that they will. I hate to break the news, but you do not have power over reality itself. Show some understanding of reality and some kindness to your country. It is saddening that I even have to ask such things from a president, but the world needs all the help it can get to recover from this. The blood lost from these wounds will bleed America dry, and I fear you cannot survive another laceration.

I hope to the God that America treasures so deeply that your answer to my question is no. That you will dig the bandages out of the first aid kit, whether your campaign for re-election likes it or not. That you will tend to the injuries by doing the right thing, instead of the popular one. That you will nurse your country back to health, and we will watch as America is finally freed from the unforgiving grip of excused egotism.

With cautious hope,

An onlooker