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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Friday January 29 2021**

**SCHOOLING AND HEALTH**  
Sir, In addition to the concerns from several of my paediatric colleagues that the lockdown is having a “calamitous impact” on a generation of young people (letter, Jan 26), there is good evidence that poor academic achievement — usually a result of limited school attendance — is generally associated with worse lifetime health outcomes and premature death. Further, growing up in a troubled or abusive household, both increasingly common situations, has been shown to increase the risk of death in early adulthood by two to five times the normal rate. There are no easy decisions but I echo the letter’s call to add these figures to the balance when considering when to allow children to return to school.

**Anthony Cohn**  
Consultant paediatrician, London