

Why co-operative schools must work

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The future challenges our students and communities will face

- Economic
- Technological
- Environmental
- Demographic
- www.beyondcurrenthorizons.org.uk

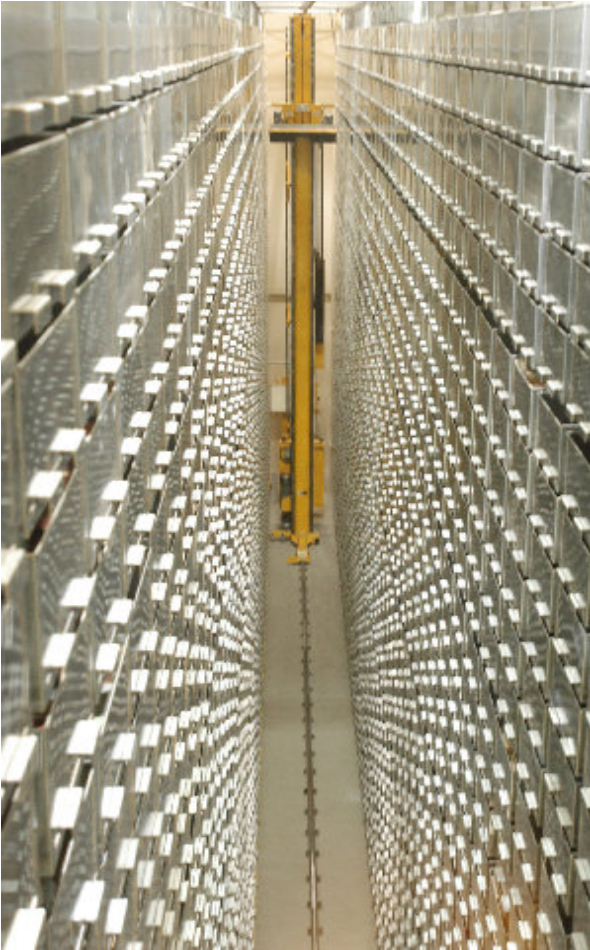
Economic



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- Decline in confidence in the 'knowledge economy'
 - 'Digital Taylorism' polarises employment
 - Casualisation of middle class & 'creative' roles
 - Disaggregation of institutions
 - Growth in caring and low paid roles
 - Rise in dispossessed/long term unemployed
- Radical polarisation

Technological



- Ubiquitous, pervasive computing
- Rich information landscape
- Constant connectivity to people and to networks
- Increasing integration with and dependence upon computing systems

Environmental



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- 2 degree rise 'built in' from historic carbon production
- Species loss
- Energy constraints and mineral constraints
- Adaptation of public services
- Political choices about immigration, aid and adaptation

Population Aging



By 2035 – 50% of population of Western Europe aged over 50, with a further 40 year life expectancy

Competition for public resources

Intergenerational conflict?

- It only rescues some individuals but leaves communities behind
- It fails to recognise the changing technological landscape
- It offers no resources for responding to environmental change
- It offers no strategy for building intergenerational solidarity

A model of education based around individualised models of success won't ensure secure futures for children and communities

Education for interdependence

- Co-operative Education is education for interdependent times
 - Governance – reconnecting educational futures with shared community futures
 - Pedagogy & Curriculum – building the capacity to co-operate
- Co-operative educators are not alone...
 - Democratic education
 - Small Schools
 - Inquiry & problem based pedagogy
 - School as centre of social change & parents movements
 - Sustainable schools building local resilience

Into the mainstream

- There are a lot of people watching to see whether co-operative education will be the new model for education for this century.
- There are many in the education research community who want to and will help.
- Capture everything, share lessons learned, build support across schools.
- Ensure we are greater together than the individual sum of our parts.

Thank you

- K.Facer@mmu.ac.uk
- Beyondcurrenthorizons.org.uk
- For further references see:
 - Philip Woods 'Alternative Education'
 - Michael Fielding & Peter Moss 'The Common School'
 - Keri Facer 'Learning Futures: Education, Technology and Social Change'