

Title: “The Commons in Secondary Education: Thresholds and Opportunities”

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Despite economically advanced countries having well-resourced and high-quality education systems, strong social inequalities persist. Several international studies show that young people’s SES remains the most powerful factor influencing their performance in education. The current educational discourse is influenced by neoliberalism, a human capital approach and strong education. We argue that a new perspective to adequately address educational shortcomings is necessary. ‘The commons’ are proposed as an alternative value and action system to help re-imagine schooling and help realise the potential of education in addressing inequalities and promoting wellbeing for all. We explore the potential of ‘the commons’ in regular secondary education through interviews and focus groups with school leaders, teachers, parents, and pupils, through which we identify different thresholds and opportunities for ‘the commons’ in secondary schools.