



## 1. The Shrinking Workforce

A national labour shortage pushes 16–18-year-olds into part-time essential jobs. Students now juggle school, work, and long commutes. Arguments erupt about fairness and fatigue.

## 2. The Housing Squeeze

Rents rise so sharply that several students' families move into temporary accommodation far from school. Commuting becomes difficult. Some friends drift apart; others start arriving late or exhausted.

## SCENARIO CARDS

Additional themes

## 3. The Digital Reputation Economy

Universities and employers begin reviewing applicants' online presence as heavily as exam grades. Students grow anxious about old posts, misunderstandings, and the pressure to present a "perfect" self.

## 4. The Generational Divide

Adults blame teenagers for cultural shifts they don't like — from new slang to new fashion to new online humour. Young people feel increasingly misunderstood, while older generations seem increasingly frustrated.

## 5. The Community Breakdown

Local services (youth clubs, libraries, sports centres) close due to funding cuts. Students have fewer safe places to go after school. Crowded streets and packed buses lead to rising tension.

## 6. The Rise of Remote Everything

More lessons, meetings, and social events move online permanently as schools try to reduce costs. Students attend in-person less often. Some thrive, others become isolated, and friendship groups weaken.

## 7. The Lost Local Identity

The town rapidly transforms as new businesses replace old ones. Cultural landmarks close. Students feel their community is turning into "everywhere and nowhere," with nothing distinct left to connect to.

## 8. The Pressure to Perform

Competition for future education and apprenticeships intensifies. Students feel they must maintain perfect grades, impressive extracurriculars, and volunteer hours — all while dealing with normal teenage life.

## 9. The Family Role Shift

Many teens take on adult responsibilities at home because their families are overstretched — caring for siblings, managing household tasks, interpreting letters, or handling finances. School rarely acknowledges the burden.

## 10. The Information Overload

News, commentary, and constant updates flood students’ devices. It becomes impossible to tell what’s important, reliable, or even real. Some students disengage entirely; others become overwhelmed.