

Were you born on or after 1st September 1996?

If so, there are some changes coming that will affect you.

By 2015 all people under 18 will have to stay in education or training. You can start work, but you will also need to do training or learning that will lead to a real, valuable qualification. This is to make sure that all young people get the education they are entitled to. It also supports you to get the best start to your working life.

What does this mean for me?

If you started Year 12 in September 2013, you will need to continue in learning or training until at least the end of the school year in which you turn 17. If you are in Year 11 or below, you will need to continue until at least your 18th birthday.

Most young people chose to stay in school or college until they are 18. But there are lots of other options if school is not for you. You can study alongside a job, volunteering or an internship. You can get an Apprenticeship. You can continue being educated at home.

Here's what to do if...

You want to stay in school

- Get advice at school about qualifications and choices
- Tell your school you want to stay
- Think about what will help you get the job you want, not just which subjects you are good at

You want to go to college

- Contact local colleges early in the year, so you get the best choice of courses
- Tell your school you want to go to college
- Find a good summer scheme to help build skills

You want an Apprenticeship

- Sign up for the Apprenticeship vacancy matching service
- Sign up for alerts from companies so you can apply as soon as Apprenticeships are available
- Contact local colleges to ask about Apprenticeships

Do I have to decide right now?

There are enough places for everyone. But if you start deciding what to do early, you will have a better chance of finding the perfect option for you.

So don't put it off any longer. Find out more at www.oxme.info/rpa

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But what if...

I did badly (or am predicted low grades) in my GCSEs?

If you're struggling to find a post-16 place because of your grades, there is targeted help available. If you are aged 16 or 17 and have one or no GCSEs at grade C or above, you can be supported by Positive Directions. Find out more and register for support at <http://oxcentric.oxme.info/cms/content/if-you-didnt-do-well-gcses>

I want to apply for an apprenticeship while I'm still at school?

You cannot start an apprenticeship until you are 16. Some apprenticeship providers will not let you apply until you are over 16 or have left school, but others, including your local further education colleges and some employers, will be happy to take expressions of interest. You can register with the apprentice vacancy matching service before you are 16. Apprenticeship vacancies often start very close to the date they are advertised - three weeks is common.

I am going straight from school into an apprenticeship?

Congratulations! You should let Oxfordshire County Council know your plans by filling in the form at www.oxme.info/register. After you start your apprenticeship, the National Apprenticeship Service will confirm to the local authority that you are in training.

I get to the end of the summer and I'm still looking for training or work?

Your local Further Education colleges will take applicants right up to the beginning of term, offer a broad variety of qualifications and also work with employers to deliver apprenticeships. This flexible set of options suits many people. If college is not right for you, there are other opportunities. Contact your local Early Intervention Hub to ask about support available for young people not in employment education or training at www.oxme.info/hubs

I'm in work without training?

Young people aged under 18 can usually access fully funded training, and you and your employer should both take advantage of this. Your employer can contact your Oxfordshire Apprenticeships at or the National Apprentice Service at to find out about the flexible options available, including 100% work-based options. www.apprenticeships.org.uk www.oxfordshireskillsboard.org/apprenticeships

I know I want to leave school but don't know what I do want to do?

We know it takes some young people longer to find the right option for them. If you don't know what you are doing post-16, Oxfordshire County Council Early Intervention Service or another support service will contact you regularly to let you know about options, and put you in touch with local jobs, apprenticeships, opportunities, and training for young people.

We will continue to contact you regularly until you are 19 (up to 24 for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities).

You can also request support at:

www.oxme.info/register

