

Are you in Years 11 or 10 at school?

If so, you need to stay in learning longer.

If you are in Year 11 you will stay in learning until the end of Year 12.
Students in Year 10 will stay in learning until their 18th birthday.

What has changed?

A new law requires everyone to stay in education or training until 18. These changes are sometimes called 'raising the participation age'. You can learn in school or college or at work.



Why is this happening?

The government wants to make sure all young people start their careers on an equal footing and with the best training and education. Staying in learning longer gives you more time to achieve the skills or qualifications you need to succeed, develop the knowledge and practical skills that employers are looking for and find it easier to get a better job with better pay and career prospects.

Do I have to stay at school?

No. You can continue learning at a college, through an Apprenticeship, by training at work, alongside voluntary work or in another recognised programme.

What if I don't know what to do?

Ask for help. There are advisers at your school, at all the local FE Colleges and online at www.oxme.info. There are lots of different options and you will be able to find a programme to suit you.

What can I learn?

You can learn alongside working but the learning should be substantial, and lead to a recognised qualification, like GCSEs, AS or A Levels, a Diploma an Apprenticeship, Traineeship, NVQ or other recognised vocational qualification.

Can I train to do a job?

Yes. If you know what job you want to do, you can study for it at college or with a specialist training provider. They may offer on-the-job training or work experience alongside vocational learning.

Who can help me decide what to do?

- Check out OXME, the Oxfordshire young people's website, for lots of help and ideas: www.oxme.info/rpa
- Talk to an adviser at your school, or get in touch with your local Early Intervention Hub: www.oxme.info/hubs
- The National Careers Service helpline for young people is available from 8am – 10pm seven days a week on 0800 100 900, or text 07766 413219
- Find out about apprenticeships and traineeships from the National Apprenticeship Service: www.apprenticeships.org.uk
- Get more information from Gov.uk: www.gov.uk/browse/education

