

What if I don't know what I want to do after Year 11?

Don't worry – there will be lots of people and information around to help you. If you're not sure what you want to do then the best thing is to:

- ◆ talk to your parents or carers, or to your careers teacher, teachers or tutors – there are lots of people who can advise you about the right path for you
- ◆ keep your options open in your subjects and work as hard as you can to get the highest grades you can achieve
- ◆ attend open days, or open evenings at Sixth Form Centres and FE Colleges to find out what options are available to you
- ◆ speak to employers about the types of skills/qualities and qualifications they are looking for.

What advice is available and where can I find out more?

- ◆ Your school careers co-ordinator can provide further advice on the options available.
- ◆ Youthoria is Cambridgeshire's Youth Support Service website and is the central point of information and advice covering work/learning and 'life' issues, as well as a 'vacancy service'. www.youthoria.org
- ◆ The National Apprenticeship Service website will tell you all you want to know about apprenticeships and how they work. www.apprenticeships.org.uk
- ◆ The National Careers Service provides information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities. The service offers confidential, helpful and impartial advice, supported by qualified careers advisers. <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>
- ◆ Cambridgeshire County Council - Information about Post 16 transport and bursary. www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies/education/furthereducation/

If you need this information in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact us on **01480 373774** and we will do our best to help.



Cambridgeshire
County Council



Your Choices at 16

By 2015 you will be required to stay in education or training until at least your 18th birthday.

After Year 11 you will be able to choose one of the following options:

- ◆ Full-time education, such as school, school sixth form or FE college
- ◆ Work-based learning, such as an Apprenticeship
- ◆ Part-time education or training for about one day a week (280 hours of learning per year) if you are employed, self-employed or volunteering full-time (defined as 20 hours or more a week).



Do I have to continue at school or college?

No it's not just about continuing at school or college (although lots of people will choose to do so). There will be other routes available offered by employers, colleges and other training providers. These include apprenticeships, foundation learning and vocational training, or in addition to some accredited training you could do voluntary work, a job or be self-employed.

Why is it important to stay in education or find a job with training?

The law is changing because the world of work is changing. New jobs are being created and many will be more complicated and demanding. Therefore, employers will be looking for people with more skills, training and qualifications.

The more training and qualifications you have, the better your chances of getting and keeping a good job that you enjoy in the future. You are more likely to gain higher levels of qualifications, increasing your earning potential. In fact, many young people don't stop learning at 18 and carry on into higher education at university or college or in employment with training to improve their chances even further.

Where can I learn?

There are many ways to access learning and training:

- ◆ a further education college
- ◆ a school 6th form
- ◆ a sixth form college
- ◆ a training provider.

They all offer different types of qualification:

- ◆ vocational courses
- ◆ life and work skills
- ◆ foundation learning
- ◆ International Baccalaureate
- ◆ AS and A levels.

To find out about all post 16 courses and training opportunities in Cambridgeshire go onto our area wide prospectus www.ucasprogress.com

You may prefer to gain qualifications while training with an employer. This could be on the job training or day release to attend a work related course.

Who's going to pay for my course?

If you are under 19 when you start the course most training is free. However it is best to check with the provider as this does not apply to private institutions.

What help is there with travel costs?

Transport assistance may be available where you continue in full-time education or training, receiving a minimum of 15 taught hours per week. Please check Cambridgeshire County Council website for Post 16 Education Transport information and the eligibility requirements.

Transport assistance is not available to apprentices.

What other financial support is available?

If you're aged between 16 and 19 years, schools, colleges and training providers have funds to help you if you're studying or starting a full-time course and think you might struggle with the costs for your studies. To find out more about the 16-19 Bursary in Cambridgeshire please refer to the County Council website.

Can I just get a job?

No. You can only get a job if you are also doing some accredited learning alongside it. This may be through an apprenticeship scheme, work based learning or you may work part-time or be self-employed and attend college outside of your working hours.

What if I can't find a job?

How about volunteering in an area of interest to you and undertake some accredited learning of your choice? You must volunteer for at least 20 hours per week and in addition undertake some learning totaling at least 280 hours guided learning hours a year.

What do I need to do now?

You should start thinking about the career you want in the future – what type of learning or training you need to do in Years 10, 11 and post-16, to get you where you want to be in the future.

