

Staying in full-time education

Most young people choose to stay in education after Year 11. In 2010 about 88% of Year 11 leavers in Leicester and Leicestershire remained in full time learning.

Post-16 courses last for one or two years. They can be:

- general (academic) for example: A levels, AS levels, GCSEs
- work-related for example: BTEC
- include a mix of general learning and applied learning for example: applied A levels, The Diploma

You would normally be able to do a course at the level above the one you achieved in Year 11. See the chart on the back of this leaflet to compare levels.

Find out more

www.coursefinder-leics.org
Look up local post-16 courses

www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas
More about The Diploma

www.direct.gov.uk/en/educationandlearning/
More about your choices for education and learning

www.connexions-leics.org/yr11options
More on your options after Year 11

Qualification levels - how do they compare?

Level	GCSEs/ A levels	Apprenticeship	The Diploma	Vocational Qualifications such as BTEC	What they give you
3	3-3 ½ A Levels	Advanced Apprenticeship	Advanced Diploma	Level 3 Diploma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ability to gain or apply a range of knowledge skills and understanding at a detailed level • appropriate if you plan to go to university, work independently, or (in some cases) supervise and train others in your field of work
	2 A Levels		Progression Diploma		
	1 A Level		Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma		
	1 AS Level		Level 3 Certificate		
2	7 GCSEs (A*-C)	Intermediate Apprenticeship	Higher Diploma	Level 2 Diploma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good knowledge and understanding of a subject • ability to perform a variety of tasks with some supervision • appropriate for many job roles
	5 GCSEs (A*-C)				
	4 GCSEs (A*-C)		Level 2 Extended Certificate		
	2 GCSEs (A*-C)		Level 2 Certificate		
	1 GCSE (A*-C)				
1	5 GCSEs (D-G)		Foundation Diploma	Level 1 Awards Certificates and Diplomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic knowledge and skills • ability to apply learning with supervision • may be linked to specific jobs
	Up to 5 GCSEs (D-G)				
Entry	National Curriculum levels 1-3			Entry Level Awards Certificates and Diplomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic knowledge and skills • ability to apply learning in everyday situations • not geared towards specific occupations

The information in this leaflet was correct when it was printed, but details could change. Speak to an adviser for the most up-to-date information

You choose

16+

Your options
after Year 11

**After Year 11
you can:**

**START WORK
AND TRAINING**

You should try to find a job with training or an apprenticeship.

**STAY IN FULL-TIME
EDUCATION**

At school, sixth-form college or further education college.

Find out more inside...



connexions

LEICESTER SHIRE

Starting work and training

In 2010, about 7% of Year 11s who left school in Leicester and Leicestershire chose to go into employment or training. Locally, 16-17 year olds are most likely to find jobs in sales/retail, catering and hairdressing.

Getting an apprenticeship

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship means you start work and earn a wage, while training in work skills that will lead to level 2 or 3 qualifications. Advanced apprentices get qualified to at least level 3, which could help you to become one of tomorrow's managers or technicians.

Will I get paid?

Apprentices are employed and paid a wage. All apprentices must be paid at least £95 a week with a £2.60 minimum hourly rate (from October 2011), but most earn more.

Apprentices are also paid for the time they spend training at college.

How do I get an apprenticeship?

- Apply for apprenticeship vacancies advertised on www.connexions-leics.org/jobs and in local papers
- Send your CV to local employers and ask if they want an apprentice
- Register free with the Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service at www.apprenticeships.org.uk where you can search and apply for apprenticeship vacancies

Find out more

www.apprenticeships.org.uk
More about apprenticeships

www.coursefinder-leics.org
Look up local providers of apprenticeship qualifications

Who can do an apprenticeship?

You can do an apprenticeship if you are:

- ✓ 16
- ✓ not in full-time education
- ✓ able to achieve at least a level 2 qualification

Some apprenticeships may have other entry requirements, so check with the employer.

Did you know?

There are nearly 200 different apprenticeships in all sorts of occupations

Getting a job with training

Where do I look for a job?

- Your local Connexions centre and Connexions website: www.connexions-leics.org/jobs
- Notice boards in schools, colleges and youth centres
- Notice boards outside businesses
- Employment agencies
- Job websites
- Local newspapers
- Local shop windows
- Ask friends and family

When you start off you usually do the easiest jobs until you're more experienced.

You should get training on the job – some employers will put you on an apprenticeship when you've worked for them for a while.

By law, you can have a reasonable amount of paid time off to study for level 2 qualifications if you haven't already got them.

Your parents will not get Child Benefit when you start work.

Unless you are on an apprenticeship you should get at least the National Minimum Wage of £3.68 an hour for 16-17 year olds (from October 2011).

Proper training and qualifications help you to get better wages and career prospects later.

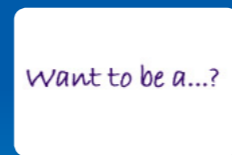
Find out more



Work It!

A step by step guide to looking for a job or apprenticeship, applying and starting work.

Get a copy from a Connexions adviser, or your school, or download it from: www.connexions-leics.org/library



Want to be a..?

Information about almost any job, and how you can train for it. <https://nextstep.direct.gov.uk>



WorkWise More information about job-hunting including useful lists of job websites and local employment agencies www.connexions-leics.org/library

Not yet ready for work, college or training?

If you are going to need support to get ready for work, college or training there are programmes you can do where the activities are planned to suit you.

You may be able to:

- Improve your reading, writing, maths and communication skills
- Improve your confidence and learn to work with others
- Do work experience in one or more jobs
- Do a qualification in a chosen job area
- Learn how to create a CV, fill in application forms and succeed in job interviews
- Get certificates to show what you can do

While you are on the programme your parents can carry on getting Child Benefit for you, and you might be able to get help with travel costs and other expenses.

To find out more speak to a Connexions adviser or look at the programmes on offer on the Connexions website www.connexions-leics.org/foundationlearning

Not sure which route to take?

We're here to help you make the right decisions:

- ✓ Speak to the Connexions adviser at your school
- ✓ Visit our website for more ideas www.connexions-leics.org
- ✓ www.yourfuture-eastmidlands.co.uk sets out the qualifications you can do at each level for lots of careers

Money and study

Don't think you can afford to stay on?

You might also get help with living expenses. Ask about bursaries when you apply for a place.

Find out more: www.connexions-leics.org/bursaries

Do you need extra help?

Do you have a learning difficulty or a disability? Do you think you may find it hard to find work or a course that suits you?

A Connexions adviser can talk to you about:

- College courses to meet your needs
- Special programmes to help you get ready for work, training or college
- Other people who can give you advice

www.skill.org.uk/youth/
Options information for young people with disabilities