



Next Steps after Leaving School

Information, advice and guidance on the next steps for post 16 and post 19 students.

Updated Sept 2022

Education:- NOW is the time to check out your options!

Young people in **9FG and 10FG** - It is really important that you find out about the GC as well as local colleges to decide what is the best choice for where you will move to next September. We are all unique and our choices should be as individual as ourselves. Oxfordshire County Council have a guide on their website which can be found within the local offer of Post 16 providers. If you have just started your second year in **GC** now is also the time to check out your options.

Schools and colleges will have whole college open days when you can go and take a look at what is on offer. These are usually open to everybody who may want to go to that college and so may be very busy. If you think that this will be difficult for you then you can book an individual visit. This is when somebody from the college will show just you and your family around. Booking an individual visit during a college day may also give you an opportunity to meet young people already studying at the college and see what happens during a typical day.

Ask lots of questions and make notes as to why each place you find out about may or may not be suitable for you. You will need this information in your EHCP meeting at school the year before you are planning to leave (which could be in 9FG or year 2 of GC). This is when the local authority are starting to decide on funding for your ongoing support. This information is *really* important if you think that you will need help with transport to get to college or if you want to go to residential college and live away from home.

School have an easy read information recording sheet that you can fill out on your visit with suggested questions to ask and space to record your feelings. Ask your teacher or Natalie Dayer for a copy.

Local School and College Information

Frank Wise School Griffiths Centre (6th Form)

Contact Lara Hughes
on 01295 263520 or email
lara.hughes@frankwise.oxon.sch.uk

Abingdon and Witney College, Witney Campus

For college open days go to
<http://www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk/info-centre/open-days/>

For information on the courses available
contact Michelle Edwards
on 01993 208047 or email
michelle.edwards@abingdon-witney.ac.uk

Banbury and Bicester College, Banbury Campus

For college open days go to
<http://www.banbury-bicester.ac.uk/events>

For information on the courses available
contact Lucy Donaghy or Samuel Maslen-Leese
on 01865 551725 or email
lucy.Donaghy@ActivateLearning.ac.uk or
sam.Maslen-Leese@ActivateLearning.ac.uk

Your child's Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is the key document to mapping their pathway from school into adult life.

During the year 13 annual review, the 'Outcomes' section will be checked to determine if it reflects the aspirations you have for your child when they move on from Frank Wise School. Ideally by the time of this review, **students and their families should have a clear idea of where they would like to move on to when they finish school.**

If your child is in year 13 and would like to talk the options through then please arrange a meeting with Natalie Dayer by the end of the autumn term.

The **LOCAL OFFER** gives children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families information about what support services are available in their local area.

Search Oxfordshire or Northamptonshire Local Offer on the internet or click the links.

OXFSN have a range of guides full of information to help families with children who are moving into adulthood. They are all available to download from the website oxfsn.org.uk and cover education, health, money, finding somewhere to live, getting a job, social care, finding support, social life and becoming an adult.

Thinking about moving out of home?

Residential College

You can join some residential colleges at 16 years old, although more usually this is an option once you reach 19. <https://natspec.org.uk/> gives information on the specialist colleges across the country. Colleges hold general open days or it may be possible to book a personal visit.

Supported Living

If you are considering moving out of home there are a number of options for where you might live. These range from living in shared housing with 24 hour support to buying or renting your own home. You may wish to share a rented house with a friend.

If you are considering leaving home then this is an important thing to talk about in your EHCP meeting. Staff in the GC will be working with the students daily on skills for independent living so keep them informed of your plans too. Some Frank Wise students have left home when they turn 18. This has meant that they continue at school for a year or so whilst living away from home. Moving away from home is a huge change in a young persons life and keeping the school routine and daily contact with friends and staff that you know may be helpful.

To enable you to live independently you will need appropriate financial support. You may be able to request a personal budget for this. To find out if you are entitled to a budget the first thing to do is to contact the Learning Disability Team. The Learning Disability teams are made up of social and health care professionals who work with adults who have a learning disability and their families and carers. They can also offer support to some individuals who will require personal care and help them to live as independently as possible.

You can request an assessment for support once you reach 17 1/2 years old - call 0345 050 7666 or you can apply online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/requesting-assessment Lara Hughes can also assist with referrals if you need a hand.

Want a Job?

You may decide that now is the time to start earning some money! The law says that all young people up to the age of 18 have to be taking part in some type of learning, but this doesn't mean that you have to stay in school or college.

Supported Internships are ways that young people aged 16 or over can continue to learn for a few hours each week whilst getting some work experience and learning the skills that will help you get a paid job. These are offered by local colleges in partnership with MENCAP and Oxfordshire Employment Services. You will spend up to three days per week working with support and one day a week in college. The expected outcome is that you will have a paid position in a local company.

The **National Careers Service** website (nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk) may help you to search for the best type of job for you. You can call 0800 100 900 or go to <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/webchat/chat> If you would like support with job hunting then the OXME team may be able to help. Visit <https://oxme.info/>

Jobcentre Plus provides a wide range of information and services, like benefits, grants and help with finding a job, telephone 0800 055 6688. Each office has a specialist Disability Employment Advisor who should be available to give you specialist support and advise you on the Access to Work Scheme which can provide practical and financial support to help you start and maintain paid work.

Support for moving into adulthood

The school website has a new year by year guide of the actions pupils and their families can take on the journey to adulthood. The guide can be found at <https://frankwise.oxon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Guide-for-Families-with-yearly-planner.pdf> and lists tasks to complete each school year with links to further information and sources of support.

Not sure what's for you or need more information?

If you would like to talk your options through or would like more information then Natalie Dayer is available to work with students and their families on a one to one basis. Natalie will also be available to talk to parents during the termly review meetings.