

16+

Options & Choices



STAYING ON AT SCHOOL

Staying on at school for a fifth, and often a sixth year, is becoming a more popular choice. Almost 80% of 16 year olds stay on at school beyond their official leaving date.



WHY?

One important reason is that, in general, the longer you stay on the better your chances are of getting into work, training or full time education. You are up to 20% more likely to enter a positive destination if you stay on at school beyond age 16.

SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF STAYING ON AT SCHOOL

- You have the chance to carry on with subjects you have developed a strong interest in (which should help you to get more qualifications)
- You'll have more time to think about what you want to do after school and find out about the careers and courses open to you.
- You might be able to get involved in your school's S5/S6 Vocational Programme and get the chance to study part time at Forth Valley College
- You may be able to undertake a job-related qualification while you are still at school
- You might also have the opportunity to take part in activities that will help to prepare you for further study or the world of work, including youth awards, flexible work experience placements, voluntary work or some units from the Falkirk Employability Award



£ FINANCE

Once you reach your 16th birthday you can apply for an Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) of £30 a week during term time if you are staying on at school, or college, and your family has a low income. Further information is available at www.emascotland.com.



TRAINING PROGRAMME


GOING INTO A TRAINING PROGRAMME

If you would benefit from additional support to help prepare you for employment, or you are not sure what it is you want to do, then you could take part in a personal development or employability programme to help build up your confidence and skills.

There are a wide range of employability programmes to suit a variety of individual needs. The particular programme suitable for you will depend on your qualifications, current skills, previous experience and personal circumstances.

Falkirk Council's Employment and Training Unit (ETU) works with a range of employers in a variety of occupational areas. It has a proven track record of helping young people gain the skills, work experience and qualifications they need to get a modern apprenticeship and/or compete in the job market.

Employability programmes are available in a wide range of areas, all designed to help you progress into sustainable, fair work. Examples of some of the programme areas are:

-  **Health and Social Care**
-  **Business Administration**
-  **Customer Services**
-  **Hairdressing**
-  **Hospitality and Catering**
-  **Retail Warehousing**
-  **Sport and Recreation**
-  **Recycling & Waste Management**
-  **Land-based activities –**
Ground Maintenance, Landscaping and Horticulture
... **and many more**

If you're not sure what you want to do, there is also a general employability programme designed to help you narrow down your options.

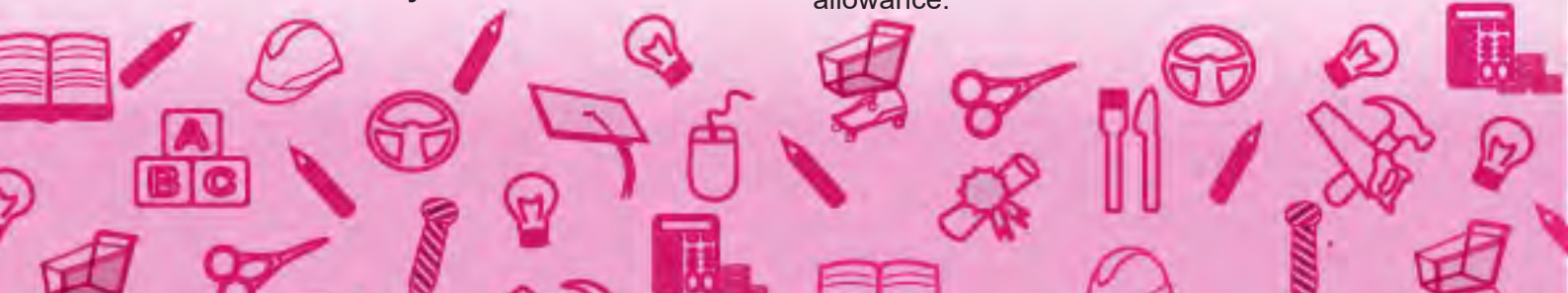
SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF A TRAINING PROGRAMME

- If you are not quite ready yet to undertake a Modern Apprenticeship programme, lack confidence or are unsure of what you want to do then a pre-employment programme may help to provide some direction.
- Training programmes enable you to gain new skills and qualifications and can provide a valuable period of work experience.
- Employability programmes delivered by Falkirk Council can provide you with SQA accredited units and certificates such as:
 - Health & Safety
 - First Aid
 - Manual Handling
- They also offer general employability skills support such as CV creation, interview skills, job searching etc.
- Most often, people move into a modern apprenticeship upon completing a training programme.



£ FINANCE

All trainees receive an allowance and help with travel costs so you are earning some money while you are learning and if your family are in receipt of benefits, in most cases, these will be unaffected by your allowance.



COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

GOING TO COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

Around two-thirds of school leavers go straight to college or university to continue with their studies, many combine college/university and part time work.



SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

- If attending College you can get the qualifications you need to take you into a more advanced course like a Higher National Diploma or a degree.
- If attending University you can gain a degree which will help in getting a job in your chosen profession - some jobs specify degrees as the only entry route.
- You can develop your interest, skills and knowledge in a specific career area. You may also choose to move away from home to study, depending on your academic focus.
- You'll have to get used to new ways of learning and thinking and the senior phase of School will have helped you to become more independent in your studies.
- On graduating, you are likely to enter a job at a higher starting salary than if you went into a job straight from school.
- With a higher level qualification you are likely to have higher earnings throughout your working life than people with no or low level qualifications

If you are interested in College remember to apply early, in January or February of the year you want to start the course. If you are applying for University, the school will advise you of UCAS deadlines, or you can go direct to their website if you have already left school.

www.forthvalley.ac.uk
www.ucas.com



£ FINANCE

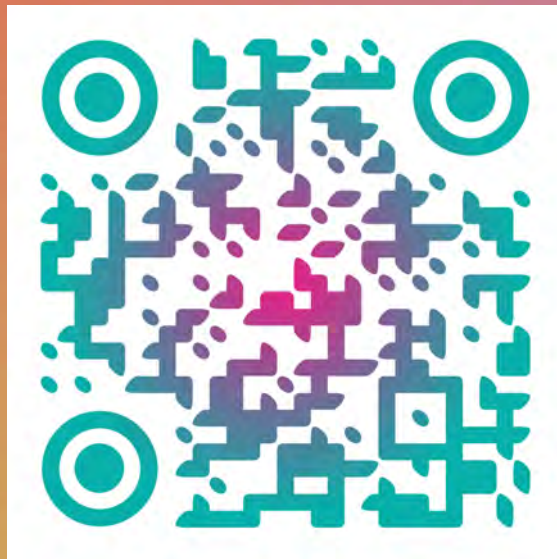
If you go to College to do a full time course you can apply for either an EMA or a College Bursary to finance your studies. If you are attending University you should be eligible to have your fees paid and may be entitled to other support. You can find out more at Student Awards Advisory Scotland (SAAS) www.saas.gov.uk

Check the financial allowances you are entitled to before you decide what to claim and you will find all the information you need via the link below:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/funding-rates-and-formula



Scan the QR code to visit us online!



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Employment and Training Unit

