

Second Hand September: Small Choices, Big Difference

September is **Second Hand September**, Oxfam's annual campaign encouraging people to think differently about the clothes they buy, wear and donate.

At Step Into Learning, we're always looking for ways to encourage more sustainable choices and help our learners understand how everyday actions can make a difference. Second Hand September is a great opportunity to think about our wardrobes and the impact our choices can have on the environment.

Why does second-hand matter?

The fashion industry uses huge amounts of water, energy and raw materials to produce clothing, while the production and transportation of clothes also contribute to pollution and climate change. Oxfam's latest research highlights just how much clothing is sitting unworn in UK wardrobes, with **32% of British wardrobes going unworn last year**.

Choosing second-hand clothing gives items a longer life and helps reduce the demand for new clothes. It can also be a great way to find something unique, save money and discover your own personal style.

And second-hand isn't just about shopping. **Donating clothes you no longer wear, repairing items, swapping clothes with friends or getting creative with upcycling** are all ways we can make better use of the clothes we already have.

How can you take part?

There are lots of simple ways to get involved this September:

 **Shop second-hand** – Visit a charity shop or explore second-hand options before buying something new.

 **Have a wardrobe clear-out** – Look through your clothes and donate items that you no longer wear, rather than throwing them away.

 **Repair and reuse** – Could a missing button be replaced or a small tear repaired? Giving clothes a little care can help them last much longer.

 **Get creative** – Upcycling old clothing into something new can be a fun way to reduce waste and express your creativity.

 **Swap with friends** – If you have clothes that no longer suit you but are still in good condition, consider swapping them with friends or family.

Making a difference beyond September

Second Hand September is about more than simply changing our shopping habits for one month. It's an opportunity to think about how we can make more sustainable choices throughout the year.

Before buying something new, why not ask yourself: **Do I really need it? Could I buy it second-hand? Could I repair or reuse something I already have?**

Small changes can add up to make a big difference. By choosing to buy less, reuse more and give our clothes a longer life, we can help reduce waste and look after our planet.

Let's make September a month for second-hand choices, creativity and sustainability! 🌍 ♻️

Find out more about Oxfam's Second Hand September campaign:
<https://www.oxfam.org.uk/get-involved/second-hand-september/>