

Yinan Wang is a fourteen-year-old Chinese boy who is going to study science at Oxford University. He hardly spoke English when he arrived in the UK two years ago. Then he went to secondary school where it became obvious that he was an extremely talented pupil. At first, Yinan was unsure about going to Oxford University at such a young age, but now he has become accustomed to the idea, according to his teacher.

There are many people who feel that young people of this age cannot benefit from the university experience. In the UK, going to university is not just about studying for a degree; it is also about socializing and living away from home. On the other hand, bright youngsters need the stimulation and could lose their motivation if they have to wait until they are eighteen to start university.

The UK's best-known child genius was Ruth Lawrence. Tutored at home by her parents who had given up their jobs, Ruth passed A level maths (normally taken at sixteen) at the age of nine and went to Oxford at thirteen. Her three-year degree course took her two years to complete and she became the university's youngest ever graduate. She is now a professor of mathematics and lives in Israel.

Sufiah Yusuf equalled the record of Ruth Lawrence when she went to Oxford University at the age of thirteen. However, she disappeared at the age of fifteen, the day after her final exams. She was eventually found living in Bournemouth and working in a hotel. She refused to rejoin her family who, she claimed, had put too much pressure on her.

1 Read the text and write True or False

Yinan Wang always wanted to study at Oxford University.

Most university students in the UK live with their parents.

Ruth Lawrence is the only thirteen-year-old who has studied at Oxford University.

2 Choose the best answer: A, B or C.

1 When Yinan Wang arrived in England, he spoke ...

A fluent English. B no English.
C very little English. D None of the other answers are correct.

2 Ruth Lawrence was ...

- A the youngest person to teach at Oxford University.
- B the youngest person to get a degree at Oxford University.
- C the youngest mathematics professor in Israel.
- D the youngest person to start a degree at Oxford University.

3 Sufiah Yusuf went to Bournemouth ...

A because she wanted to celebrate the end of her exams. B to finish her degree.
C because her parents made her feel stressed. D We don't know.

3 Find words and phrases in the text that mean

- 1 with an excellent natural ability (p1)
- 2 children or teenagers (p2)
- 3 an exceptionally intelligent person (p3)
- 4 taught (p3)