



# Parent FAQs

As your child journeys through school or college, they will have to make some important decisions about their future. Here's how you can help.



**Next Steps  
South West**

# **Parent FAQs Answered**

## **What is Higher Education?**

Higher education (HE) refers to study at level 4 and above. HE is voluntary and is an option for those who have completed a level 3 qualification, such as A-levels & BTECs

## **What are the benefits of Higher Education?**

There are numerous benefits to having an HE qualification. As well as increased earning potential, graduates have an advantage in the job market. Studies have also shown that they experience better health throughout their adult life with increased resilience.

## **How do students fund Higher Education?**

The most popular misconception is that HE is for the wealthy few, this is certainly not the case as HE is an option for anyone with capability and motivation. Tuition fees & maintenance loans are used to cover the cost of HE in England. Tuition fee loans are there to cover the cost of the course, while maintenance loans are available to help with the everyday costs of living

## **How do I support my child to make informed decisions?**

The more a parent or carer knows about HE, the more support they'll be able to offer. A simple, yet effective exercise you can do with your child is to research as many different careers as possible. Try having them think about the different factors, such as the required skills, the working environment, a typical working day, qualifications required and career progression.

We have a dedicated parents and carers section on our website:

**[nextstepssw.ac.uk/parents-area/](https://nextstepssw.ac.uk/parents-area/)**

**Scan the QR code to download our Parent and Carer Guide to HE**



**@NextStepsSW**



**[nextstepssw.ac.uk](https://nextstepssw.ac.uk)**

