



Activity name	Tranche 7 Higher & Degree Apprenticeships
Date	Sept 2022 – Aug 2023
Total number of students	~1570
Total number of target students	~ 428
Institutions involved <i>* Institutions that completed surveys</i>	Bideford College, Brannel School, Bridgwater & Taunton College*, Bridgwater College Academy*, City College Plymouth, Exeter College*, Holyrood Academy*, Petroc, Queen Elizabeth’s School*, Plympton Academy, Richard Huish College*, Sir John Hunt Community Sports College*, St Luke’s Church of England School*, Stoke Damerel Community College*, Teign School, Teignmouth Community School, The Blue School, The Cornwall College Group*, Tor Bridge High*, Truro & Penwith College, UTC Plymouth*, Whitstone School*, Yeovil College

Introduction

The Higher and Degree Apprenticeships sessions, aimed at post-16 students, aim to broaden students’ knowledge of HE, helping them identify the differences between studying a higher education course through a traditional route, and through a higher/degree apprenticeship, as well as the differences between higher and degree apprenticeships. The sessions aim to address the barriers to HE progression of a Lack of Knowledge of HE and Lack of Soft Skills.

The targets for these workshops were an ‘increased ability to choose a relevant HE pathway for 70% or more of students’ and ‘increased confidence in ability to make informed decisions about their future for 60% or more of students’. The sessions were evaluated using post-activity evaluation surveys, including quantitative and qualitative questions.

Results

The following figures and tables show the response rates for these surveys.

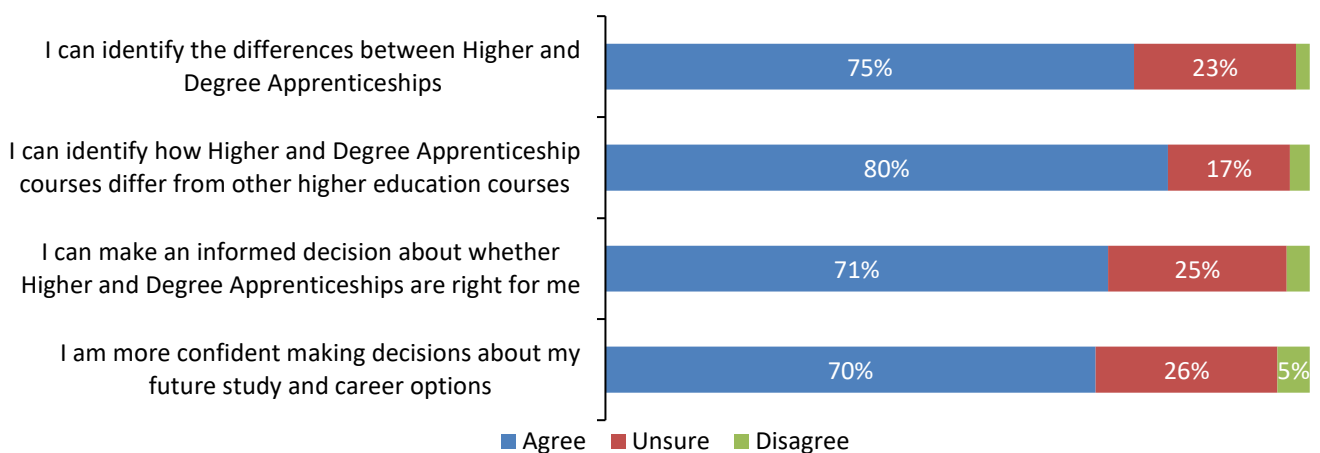


Figure 1. Students’ level of agreement to statements about the Higher & Degree Apprenticeships workshop



The Higher and Degree Apprenticeships workshops have enabled students to identify the differences between the two apprenticeship courses, and how they differ from other HE courses. Students have reflected on their personal choices and shown increased confidence in their decision making.

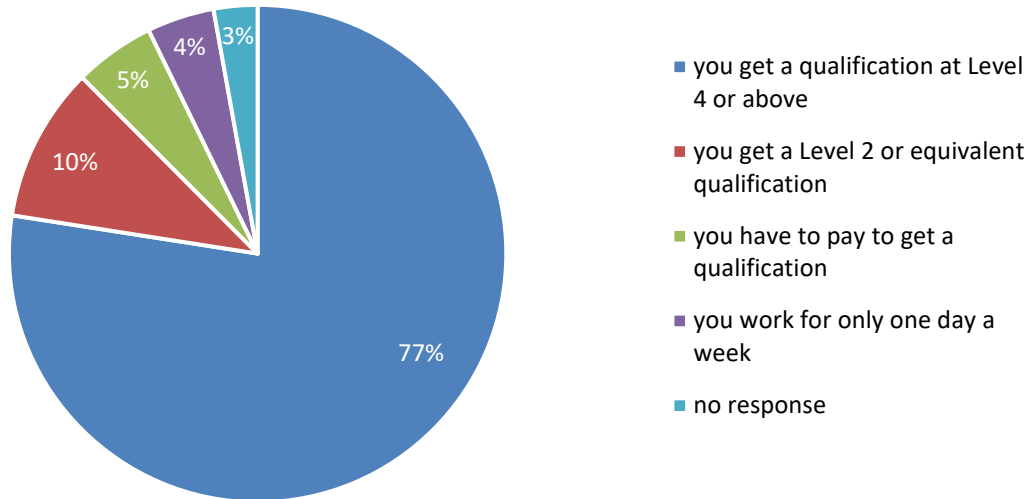


Figure 2. Student responses to ‘A Higher or Degree Apprenticeship is a work-based training programme where...’

The workshops have also helped to develop students’ understanding of the qualification levels related to higher and degree apprenticeships. Most students were able to correctly finish the statement.

Table 1. Students’ feedback on two key points that they had learnt about Higher & Degree Apprenticeships

Thematic category	Number of responses	Quotes from students
You get paid to study / The rate of pay	210	<i>“You get paid to learn and get work experience”</i> <i>“You get 4.81 minimum wage”</i>
The levels of qualifications for apprenticeships	90	<i>“Higher and degree apprenticeships can take you to the same level as university courses”</i>
The benefits of an apprenticeship	76	<i>“90% of apprenticeships lead to a job”</i> <i>“You can get an industry head start and have hands on experience”</i>
General information about Apprenticeships	74	<i>“Apprenticeships are available all year round”</i> <i>“Not just for manual work”</i>
Awareness of how they are delivered	65	<i>“You will spend 80% in a work place”</i>
Information about fees and funding	50	<i>“All training is paid by government/employer”</i> <i>“You don’t have access to student finance”</i>
The range of industries	27	<i>“There are 1,500 places from 150 employers”</i>
The negative aspects	21	<i>“They are competitive and hard to get”</i>



Variety of HE options / The different pathways	19	<i>"How many options there are in the future"</i>
Personal insight	18	<i>"Degree apprenticeships feel like the better option for me"</i>
How to search and apply for apprenticeships	9	<i>"You apply directly to an employer"</i>
Unsure / Nothing	14	<i>"I already knew the information that was provided"</i>

After the Higher and Degree Apprenticeships workshops, students were able to identify many key points from the sessions. They principally recalled facts concerning pay and qualification levels.

Table 2. Students' feedback on the most useful thing they had gained from attending the workshop

Thematic category	Number of responses	Quotes from students
General information about apprenticeships	91	<i>"Lots of information about apprenticeships that I was not aware of"</i>
Information about the different HE pathways / Qualifications	42	<i>"I learnt about the pros and cons for university degrees and apprenticeships"</i>
Information about earning potential / Finances	41	<i>"Knowing how much you get paid in an apprenticeship" "Steps to make apprenticeships affordable"</i>
Personal insight	35	<i>"It solidified my thoughts about a degree apprenticeship over a university degree"</i>
Information about searching and applying for apprenticeships	29	<i>"Knowing where to look for apprenticeships and companies that offer them"</i>
Strategies / Tips / Affirmations about the future	17	<i>"How to see the difference between opportunities and how to make an informed decision on that" "That it's okay to be scared but sometimes you just have to go for it"</i>
Difference between Higher and Degree Apprenticeships	11	<i>"The difference between higher + degree apprenticeships"</i>
Other	8	<i>"The learning"</i>
Websites / Resources	5	<i>"The links that were provided"</i>
Unsure / Nothing	7	<i>"Can't decide"</i>

After the Higher and Degree Apprenticeships workshops, students could also positively reflect on what they had gained the most from having taken part. Students largely indicated that they gained useful information about apprenticeships, the different higher education pathways available, and the knowledge that you get paid.

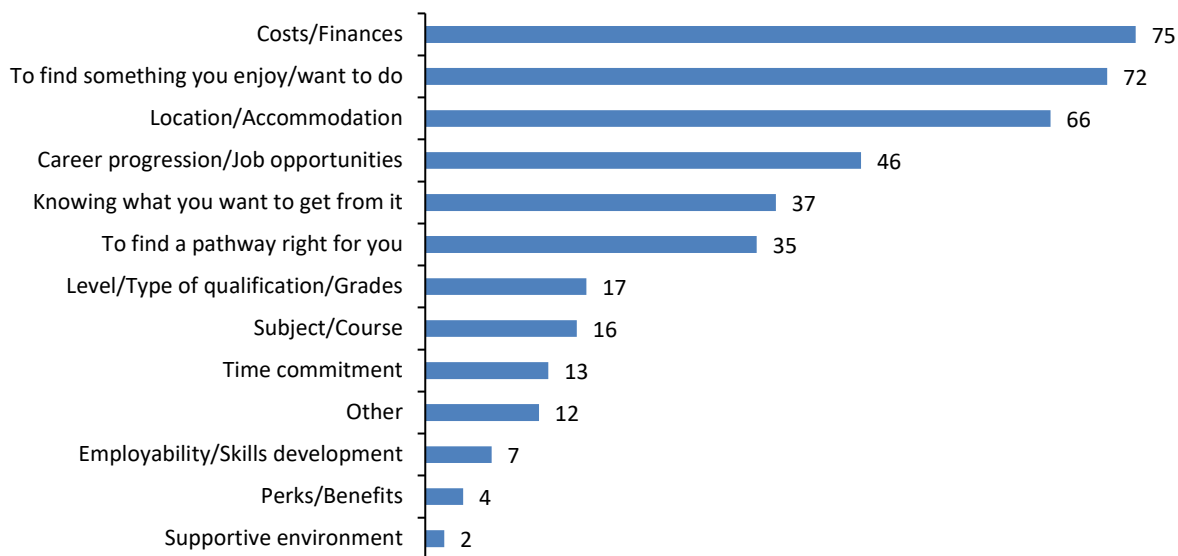


Figure 3. Topics which students considered to be important when choosing a higher education or future study/career pathway

The Higher and Degree Apprenticeships workshops further gave students the opportunity to consider what might be important to them when selecting a higher education course or charting a future study/career trajectory. Costs and finances, finding something enjoyable, and location were considered to be the most influential themes.

Outcomes Achieved

The Higher and Degree Apprenticeships workshops have successfully achieved all three targets:

Table 3. Higher & Degree Apprenticeships – Outcomes achieved in T7

Barriers to HE progression	Short-term outcomes and targets	Indicators	Evidence
<i>Knowledge of HE</i>	Increased understanding of HE pathways for ≥ 70% of students	Students are able to identify differences between Higher and Degree Apprenticeships	75% of students agreed that they could identify the differences between Higher and Degree Apprenticeships – Achieved
	Increased ability to choose relevant HE pathway for ≥ 70% of students	Students are able to outline key things to consider in choosing between different HE routes	80% of students agreed that they could identify how Higher and Degree Apprenticeship courses differed from other higher education courses - Achieved
<i>Soft Skills</i>	Increased confidence in ability to make informed decisions about their future for ≥ 60% of students	Students report an increase in their confidence to make informed decisions about their future	71% of students agreed that they could make an informed decision about whether Higher and Degree Apprenticeships were right for them – Achieved



			70% of students agreed that they were more confident about making decisions about their future study and career options – Achieved
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Conclusion

The target 'increase in understanding of HE pathways for $\geq 70\%$ of students' was met with 75% of students indicating this. Similarly, the target 'increase in ability to choose relevant HE pathway for $\geq 70\%$ of students' was also surpassed at 80%. The percentage of students who agreed that they had experienced an 'increase in confidence in ability to make an informed decision about their future' also reach the desired target level of $\geq 60\%$ (70% +). The data shows evidence of a positive impact of the Higher and Degree Apprenticeships workshops and that they have helped to address the barriers to HE relating to a lack of knowledge of HE or a lack of soft skills.