



Activity name	Level 3 Options
Date	September 2022 to July 2023
Total number of students	2230
Total number of target students	539
Institutions involved <i>* Institutions that completed surveys</i>	Atlantic Academy, Brixham College, Bucklers Mead School, *Chilton Trinity School, Great Torrington School, *Haygrove School, Holsworthy Community College, Notre Dame RC School, Paignton Academy, Pilton Community College, Plymouth Academy, Plymstock School, Preston School Academy *Sir John Hunt Community Sports College, South Molton School, St Cuthbert Mayne School, Teign School, The Ilfracombe Academy, *Tor Bridge High, *Torpoint Community College, Torquay Academy, Truro and Penwith *Whitstone School

Introduction

The Level 3 Options session, aimed at pre-16 students, is designed to develop knowledge and understanding of different level 3 pathways and their linked opportunities. The session also assists students in making decisions about which level 3 pathway might be right for them based upon their plans, and on their learning styles and aspirations, thereby increasing their confidence and expertise in researching and planning for their future options. The sessions aim to address the barriers to HE progression of a Lack of Knowledge of HE and Lack of Soft Skills.

The target for these workshops was an ‘increased knowledge of HE-related level 3 options and pathways for 80% or more of students’ and ‘increased confidence and expertise in researching and planning future options for 50% 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.

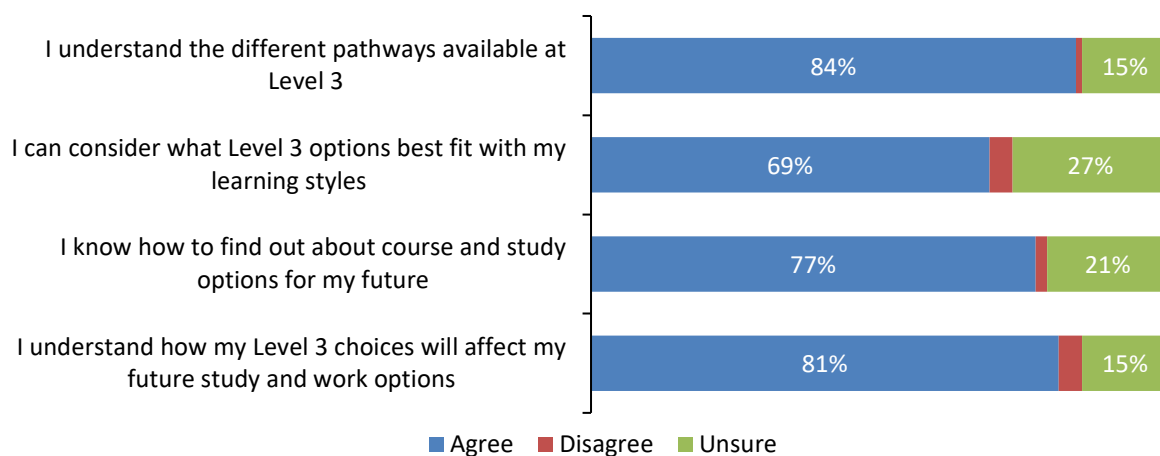


Figure 1. Students’ understanding of factors to be considered when making choices about level 3 options.



The data suggests that, following the workshop, between 69% and 84% of students agreed that they were aware of factors to be considered when making decisions about level 3 options.

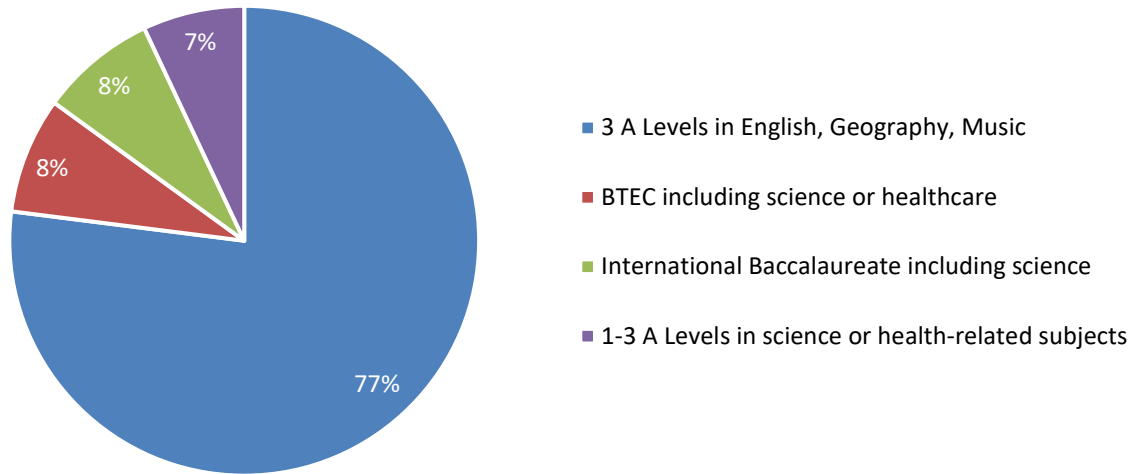


Figure 2. Student responses to ‘Which of the following are NOT level 3 options for someone wanting to study Paramedic Science at Higher Education?’

The data suggests that students were able to correctly differentiate between relevant level 3 options for a specified HE course.

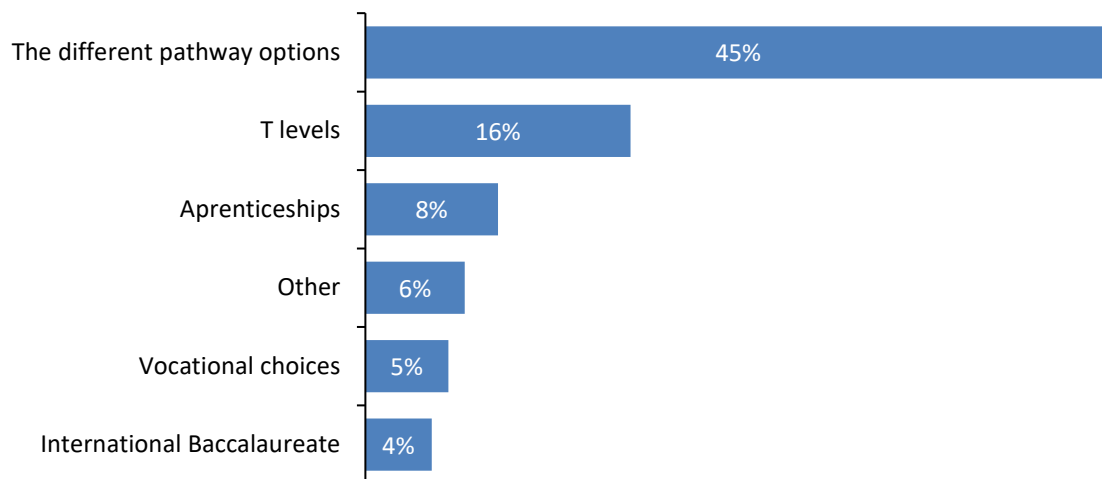


Figure 3. Topics students felt they had learnt about in the Level 3 Options session, (based on the percent of students who provided a response).

The data suggests that the workshop was effective in introducing students to a range of different options post-year 11 as well encouraging them to think about their personal options and factors which may help inform their choice.

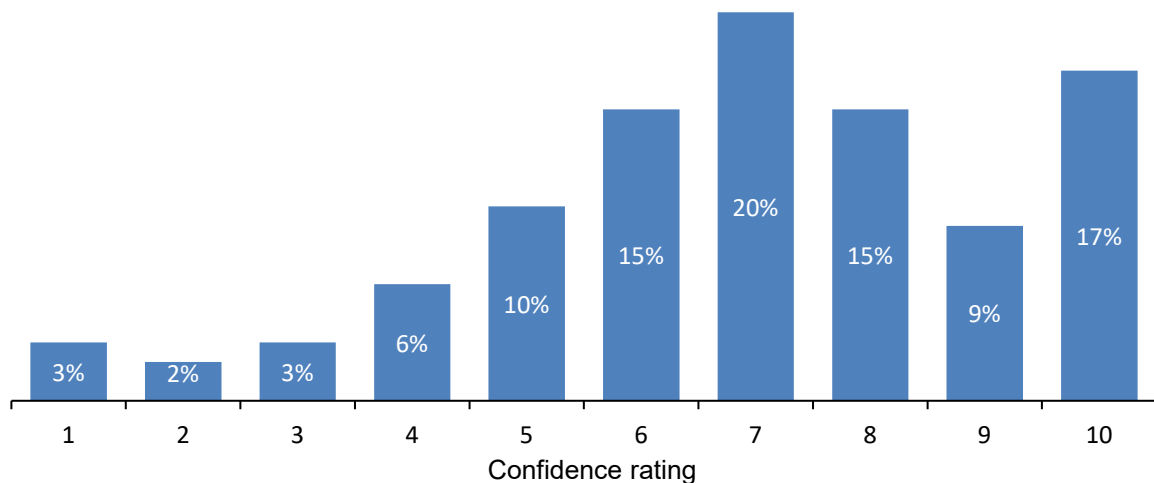


Figure 4. Student responses on a scale of 1 to 10 of how confident they feel in planning their next steps after year 11.

That data suggests that the workshops helped students feel more confident in planning their future.

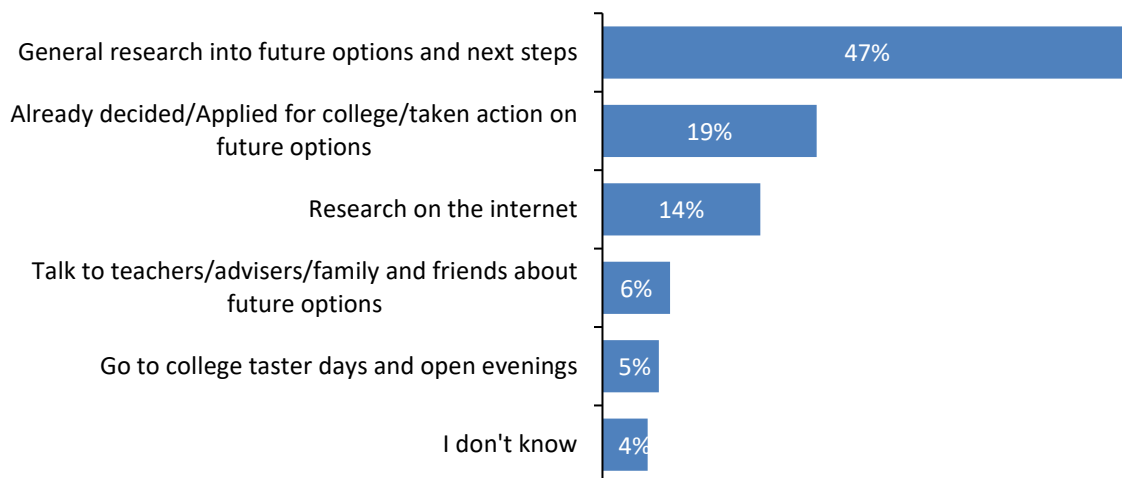


Figure 5. Student responses when asked what their steps for choosing their level 3 options will be, (based on the percent of students who provided a response).

The data suggests that the workshop helped students to identify different sources of information that could help them decide on what is best for their future and was effective in giving students the opportunity to reflect on the steps they could take.



Outcomes Achieved

Table 1. Level 3 Options – Outcomes achieved in T7.

Barriers to HE progression	Short-term outcomes and targets	Indicators	Evidence
<i>Knowledge of HE</i>	Increased knowledge of HE-related Level 3 options and pathways for ≥ 80% of students	Students can identify different HE options/routes. Students are able to describe the differences in Level 3 and HE routes.	84% of students agreed that they understood the different pathways available at Level 3. - Achieved 77% of students were able to identify the correct option when asked to select which was not a L3 option for a particular HE course – Almost achieved 86% of students were able to recall at least one piece of information that they had learnt about a L3 qualification/route. – Achieved
<i>Soft Skills</i>	Increased confidence and expertise in researching and planning future options for ≥ 50% of students	Students report an increase in confidence in making Level 3 choices	77% of students agreed they knew how to find out about course and study options for their future. – Achieved 61% of students rated their level of confidence as 7 or above in knowing how to plan their next steps after year 11. – Achieved 94% of students knew what they would do next to help them pick their Level 3 options. – Achieved

Conclusion

The target of students having increased knowledge of HE-related level 3 options and pathways exceeded the desired outcome of 80% or more in two evidence areas. Almost all were able to recall at least one piece of information that they had learnt about a level 3 option or route. The percentage of students who were able to correctly identify which qualification route was not a level 3 option for a particular HE course did not reach the target of threshold although, was very close (77%).

The target of 50% or more of students having increased confidence and expertise in researching and planning future options was exceeded in all three evidence areas. Over 60% of students rated their confidence as 7 or above in terms of knowing how to plan their next steps after year 11. Over 70% of students agreed that they knew how to find out about course and study options for their future. Over 90% of students said they knew what they would next do to help them pick their level 3 options.

The evidence shows a positive impact of the workshops, which helped to increase students’ knowledge, expertise, and soft skills (such as confidence) in planning for their future and selecting their level 3 options.