



Activity name	Tranche 7 Student Life & Budgeting
Date	September 2022 to July 2023
Total number of students	2,407
Total number of target students	600
Institutions involved <i>* Institutions that completed surveys</i>	Atlantic Academy, Bodmin College, Buckler’s Mead*, Cornwall College, Great Torrington School, Haygrove School, Millbay Academy*, Mounts Bay Academy, Paignton Academy, Plymstock School, Plympton Academy*, Pyrland School, Richard Lander School, Robert Blake Science College*, St James School*, St Peter’s Church of England School*, Teign School*, Teignmouth Community School, The Ilfracombe Church of England Academy, The Taunton Academy*, Tiverton High School, Uffculme School.

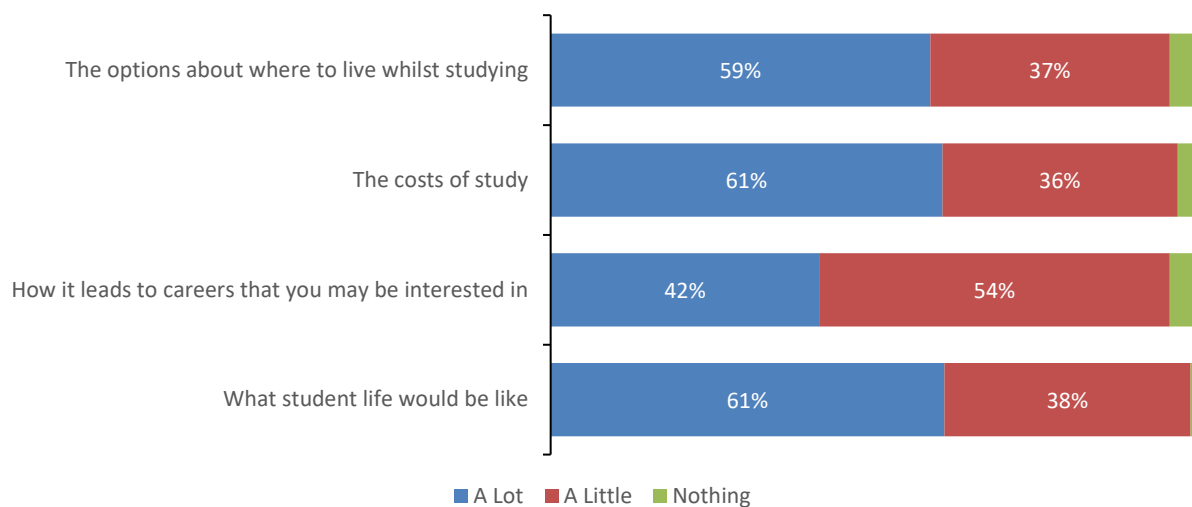
### Introduction

The Student Life & Budgeting sessions, aimed at pre-16 students, is an introduction to student life and includes an interactive budgeting activity. The sessions aim to address the barriers to HE progression of a lack of Knowledge of HE and Finance. The activity intends to help students better understand student life, explore the diversity and breadth of HE experiences and to consider how they would budget their money whilst studying at HE.

The targets of these workshops were ‘an increased understanding of the wider benefits of HE study for 70% or more of students’, ‘an increased understanding of student life and what to expect for 70% or more of students’ and ‘an increased awareness of the reality of financing student life for 70% or more of students’. The sessions were evaluated using post-activity evaluation surveys, including quantitative and qualitative questions.

### Results

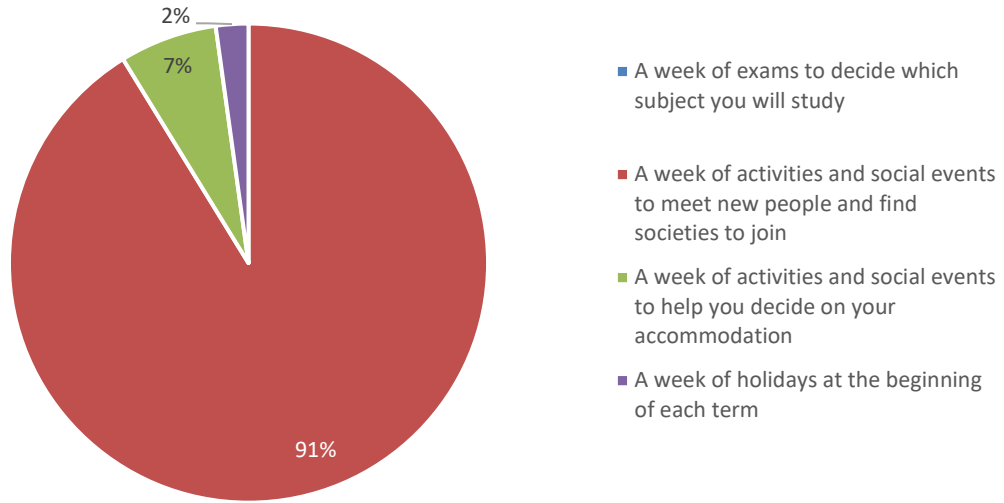
The following figures and tables show the response rates for these surveys.



**Figure 1.** Students’ understanding of various aspects of HE study

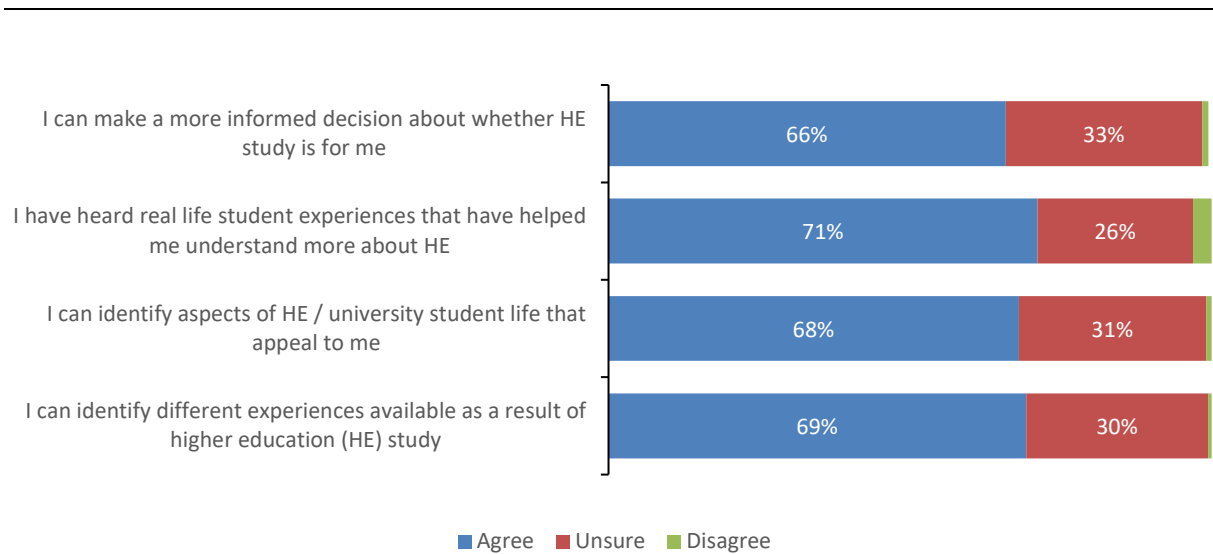


The workshops have increased students' understanding of what student life would be like, the costs involved, the accommodation options and how HE can lead to careers that they are interested in.



**Figure 2.** Students' responses to 'Which of the following is a definition of 'Freshers' Week'?

As a result of the workshop students were able to choose the correct definition of a Freshers' Week.



**Figure 3.** Students' level of agreement towards statements about student life and HE study

The majority of students were more able to make an informed decision about whether HE study was for them and could identify aspects of HE study that appealed to them.



**Table 1.** Students' feedback on two key points that they had learnt about Student Life and Budgeting

Thematic category	Number of responses	Quote from students
How to manage money	104	<i>"You have to learn how to manage the amount you are given."</i>
Student loans / financial support	82	<i>"You start paying your loan once you achieve £25,000 a year."</i>
Accommodation	57	<i>"There are multiple types of accommodation."</i>
Societies and social life	32	<i>"Get involved in lots of clubs/societies." "Join societies as they can improve social life."</i>
Costs of HE	32	<i>"The actual and realistic cost of stuff in HE."</i>
Greater understanding of student life	27	<i>"A bit more about what student life is like." "How exams and modules work."</i>
Support and help available	19	<i>"You can get support from different facilities for students." "There is always help."</i>
Identifying personal preferences and factors to consider	17	<i>"To study what you are most interested in." "There are a lot of options to consider."</i>
Opportunities and new experiences	15	<i>"Different opportunities at university." "Travelling opportunities."</i>
Course options	14	<i>"That there are many courses and options available." "Placement year information and year abroad."</i>
Gap year	2	<i>"Take a year off if needed."</i>
Difference between school/college and uni	2	<i>"The jump from A-level to uni."</i>
How to apply	1	<i>"How to apply to universities."</i>

**Table 2.** Students' feedback about the most useful thing they had learnt from the day

Thematic category	Number of responses	Quote from students
Info about HE costs, loans and budgeting	75	<i>"The most useful thing was the budgeting worksheet." "Understanding the costs of university life." "Knowledge on payments for student loan."</i>
Better understanding of student life and how HE work	64	<i>"Understanding more about life as a student in university." "Societies and how many options there are for your social life." "The information about the way uni works and found out about the year abroad option which I'd love."</i>
Hearing from real-life students and the touring the campus	20	<i>"Having a uni student to speak to about their experience." "The chance to have a tour of a university campus."</i>
Accommodation	11	<i>"What the different accommodation options are."</i>
How to make the best choice for themselves and the benefits of HE	11	<i>"Understanding the benefits of uni and that I want to go." "Help on making a decision."</i>
A better understanding of the different options available	10	<i>"Different routes such as apprenticeships." "How broad the academic landscape is."</i>



Less nervous or more confident about HE	3	<i>"Less nervous about certain components." "I feel more confident now about joining university."</i>
Miscellaneous	2	<i>"UCAS website" "The vast amount of free stuff you get."</i>

Students were able to identify key points from the sessions as well as consider what they had gained most from the workshop.

### Outcomes Achieved

Student Life & Budgeting workshops have successfully achieved five out of seven targets:

**Table 3.** Student Life & Budgeting– Outcomes achieved in T7

<b>Barriers to HE progression</b>	<b>Short-term outcomes and targets</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
Knowledge of HE	Increased understanding of the wider benefits of HE study for $\geq 70\%$ of students	Student can identify the social, academic and career benefits of HE study	96% of students know about how HE study leads to careers they may be interested in – <b>Achieved</b>  68% of students could identify aspects of HE/university student life that appealed to them – <b>Not achieved</b>  66% of students agreed that they could make a more informed decision about whether HE study was for them – <b>Not achieved</b>
	Increased understanding of student life and what to expect for $\geq 70\%$ of students	Students can identify key elements of student life	96% of students know the options about where to live whilst studying – <b>Achieved</b>  99% of students know what student life would be like – <b>Achieved</b>  71% of students agreed that they had heard real life student experiences that had helped them understand more about HE – <b>Achieved</b>
Finance	Increased awareness of the reality of financing student life for $\geq 70\%$ of students	Students can recall key information relating to financing student life	97% of students said they knew about the costs of study – <b>Achieved</b>



## **Conclusion**

The targets - 'students know about how HE study leads to careers they may be interested in', 'know the options about where to live whilst studying', 'know what student life would be like', 'agreed that they had heard real life student experiences that had helped them understand more about HE' and 'said they knew about the costs of study' - were all exceeded. The percentage of students that 'could identify aspects of HE/university student life that appealed to them' and 'agreed that they could make a more informed decision about whether HE study was for them' did not reach our desired target. However, the evidence shows that the overall impact of the workshops has been positive and helped to address the students' lack of knowledge of HE and financial knowledge which may have been a barrier to HE progression.