**Time:**
40-50 mins
(with extension)

# NE One For HE

## Lesson Plan: Introducing Higher Education

### Lesson 1 of 6:

**This programme is designed to raise aspirations, increase knowledge and understanding, and support progression to higher education (HE).**

### Learning Objective:

To help learners understand what is meant by the term higher education (HE) and the opportunities and benefits that HE can provide, whilst addressing some of the common misconceptions associated with HE.

### Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this session learners will be able to:

- Understand what is meant by the term 'higher education'
- Identify the different types of HE providers
- Recognise some of the common misconceptions associated with HE
- Understand the benefits of higher education

## Resources:

- Post-it notes
- What is Higher Education? poster (or you can use the whiteboard or flipchart instead)
- What is Higher Education? quiz **(Activity Sheet 1)**
- Benefits of Higher Education learner worksheet **(Activity Sheet 2)**
- Higher Education Courses **(Year 8 Extension Activity)**
- What is Higher Education? quiz answers and teacher notes (**Activity Sheet 1 - Teacher Notes**)
- Powerpoint presentation for 'Introducing Higher Education' – please note that each slide contains supplementary information in the 'notes' section of the slide to aid presentation

## Links to Frameworks:

- **NE Regional Progression Framework LO1:** To provide information about what Higher Education (HE) is and the range of opportunities available. To challenge common misconceptions around HE.
- **Gatsby Benchmark 2:** Learning from career and labour market information
- **Gatsby Benchmark 7:** Encounters with further and higher education
- **CDI:** Grow throughout life; Explore possibilities; Manage career
- **PSHE Association Framework**: KS3 Wider World

## Starter (5/10 minutes)

1. Introduce the lesson by explaining the learning outcomes to the learners.
2. Facilitate a classroom discussion to find out what learners think HE is.
3. Ask learners to write down one thing they know about HE on a Post-it note and attach it to the poster 'What is Higher Education?' displayed on the classroom wall or a flipchart.
4. Show slide 3 of the presentation to highlight some key messages about HE.

# Core (30 minutes)

1 **Activity 1:** Do the 'What is Higher Education?' quiz. Split the learners into groups of three or four. Ask them to work through the quiz sheet and record their answers. Allow 5/10 minutes then show slide 4 to reveal the answers. The aim of the quiz is to highlight some key facts about HE, but, most importantly, it should be used to address some common misconceptions about HE. The teacher's notes/answer sheet for the quiz contains supplementary information for many of the quiz answers which can be used to facilitate classroom discussion.

2 Use slides 6-8 to highlight some of the most common misconceptions about HE. For example, there is a common misconception amongst learners and parents that you need to be wealthy to go to university or college. This is particularly apparent in lower income families where debt is viewed as bad/unnecessary. It is important therefore that learners understand the following:

- An HE qualification is necessary for some careers, for example to be a doctor or a vet.
- An HE qualification should be viewed as an investment in their future.
- There is financial support to help to pay for higher education in the forms of loans for tuition fees and living costs. Finance for HE will be covered in a separate session. (See Activity 1 teacher's notes/answer sheet for supplementary information)

3 **Opportunity for live encounter**: show a video clip of an HE student talking about their experiences of HE. Ideally this should be a second or third year student from a relatable background (in relation to the participants/school). They should speak broadly about their experiences, sharing their most enjoyable moments as well as things that have been challenging. Alternatively show the following video:

https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/getting-ready-higher-education

4 Facilitate a classroom discussion about the benefits of HE e.g. meeting new people and making new friends, moving to another part of the country, being independent, gaining a higher level qualification.

5 **Activity 2:** Ask learners to use Activity Sheet 2 'Benefits of Higher Education' to record as many benefits of HE they can think of. Learners can do this task in their groups to make it easier. Allow up to 10 minutes for this task and then ask each group to feedback their answers.

6 Use slide 9 to summarise the benefits of HE including any additional benefits that learners have come up with. Ask learners to record any benefits that they missed out using their worksheet.

7 Displaying slide 10, ask learners to find their post-it note from the starter activity. Ask for a few volunteers to read out what they wrote on their post-it note. Ask them if this is still what they think, or whether their ideas and perceptions of HE have changed.

## Year 8 Extension Activity:

Give each learner a copy of the year 8 extension activity sheet 'Higher Education Courses'. Ask them to tick Yes or No to each answer. Allow up to 5 minutes and then go through answers. Ask learners if some of these courses surprised them. This task demonstrates the range and diversity of courses available at UK institutions. **Note:** ALL of these subjects are real subjects.

## Year 9 Revisit and Extension Activity:

Ask learners to research the different types of HE providers, such as further education colleges which offer HE courses, campus universities, city universities, collegiate universities.

## Plenary

Revisit the learning outcomes. Use learner voice feedback to assess understanding.

## Extension Activity

Choose any HE provider (in your area, in the UK or an international provider) and find out more about the location, the courses they offer and their facilities such as the library or sports centre.

## Additional Optional Resources:

**Video: 'What is HE' available on YouTube, produced by Career Pilot:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3e1vGQ0fOg

**Video: 'Benefits of HE' available on YouTube, produced by National Networks for Collaborative Outreach:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Tz6njl4dcw