



Sharing information about HTQs with your school/college community

Monday 17th March 2025

amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/sharing-information-about-htqs-with-your-school-college-community-webinar/

Helen Twomey:

Hi everyone. Thank you for joining us. I can see people, people joining from the waiting room. So yeah, everyone's coming in nicely. Brilliant.

Thank you so much for joining us for this webinar today on Higher Technical Qualifications and with a sort of overview of HTQs for everybody but also with a little bit more focus on how to share information with your school or college community. If you're not in a school or college community and you're here, still lots of valuable resources and still relevant because if you're a parent or carer or young person or potential HTQ student, then the resources are for you. So will be completely relevant whether you're in school or college community or not.

So we are going to move on now. We've got lots of people joining us. That's brilliant. So my name is Helen Twomey. I'm Schools and Resources Manager at Amazing Apprenticeships. So I'm just facilitating today. Christine, who's joining us is the one with all the expertise. So I'm just here to hopefully get things to work smoothly.

Today's session, a bit of housekeeping. There is a Q&A at the end, so you will see if you hover over the black bar that there's a Q&A box where you should be able to put any questions in. Because we're in webinar function, the chat is disabled. We can't see you, we can't hear you. So whatever you've got going on, don't worry, we won't be able to see or hear you or have any interruptions. So you just have to listen to us. So the webinar is being recorded. That means that we're able to send that out to you after the webinar. So probably tomorrow you'll get a mailing with the slides and also the recording, and we always like to try and put useful links. So if there's anything in here that we mention and you think you're not sure where to find it, we'll make sure that that webinar has, sorry, that mailing has got everything you need hopefully to find anything that we mentioned.

So moving on then I'd like to just do a two question poll if possible. So the first question is, how would you rate your knowledge of HTQs? So we know that they are not always fully understood so we'd love to know a little bit more about how you rate your knowledge of HTQs. Zero being not very knowledgeable and five being very knowledgeable. The second question, how confident do you feel in sharing information about HTQs? And again, zero being not very confident and 5 being very confident. So thank you. Lots of people participating. That's brilliant. So I will share the results in a second but mostly I'd say around 1, 2, 3, sort of evenly spread on the first question. I think I will launch those, I'm going to end the poll now and then launch them. So yeah, mostly I think hopefully you can see that okay. So most people sort of saying 1, 2, 3. So hopefully the first part of the webinar today will cover some of that knowledge building. And then the second question, how confident do you feel? Hopefully by the end of this you'll all be a bit more nearly the upper end of the scale and you'll have some things that you can share. So that's really helpful, thank you. Right, okay, let's move on.

So I'm going to introduce Christine now, Christine Morton who works in the Growth and Sector Skills Division in the Higher Technical Education Strategy and Growth. I think I missed a word out. Yeah, that's right. I've got your job right! At the Department for Education is what it doesn't say on there and it should Christine, apologies. So yeah, absolutely brilliant person to have today and super knowledgeable about HTQs. So Christine I'm going to hand straight over to you and stop waffling if that's okay.



Christine Morton:

Thanks Helen and thanks everyone for joining us today. I'm going to start off by giving you all an overview of HTQs. So let's start at the beginning. What are HTQs? Which, they're level four and five qualifications that are specialised and job focused. They're aimed at giving learners the skills and knowledge required for high quality jobs in industry. These are qualifications you'll already be familiar with like HNCs, HNDs and Foundation Degrees. But these particular qualifications have been through a rigorous approvals process and then given the HTQ quality mark. And what sets HTQ courses apart from the other level four and five courses is they've been developed with employers and they're delivered in education-based settings by industry experts. They're a really flexible choice with full and part-time options so students can fit their study around other commitments. And in some cases an HTQ is the mandatory qualification in an apprenticeship so the learner gains their HTQ whilst completing their apprenticeship.

And then on the right you can see where HTQs fit into the education landscape. So after students complete level three, which is usually A-levels, T Levels or BTECs, they can go on and study an HTQ at level 4 and 5. And after their course they can go straight into employment or use the credits gained to progress onto further study by topping up to a full degree or doing a degree apprenticeship. Next slide please.

So we've been rolling out the occupational routes for a few years. Digital HTQs were first in September 2022 and that was followed by Health and Science and Construction in September 2023 and then all of the routes in that top box in September 2024. And this September we'll complete the rollout with all the routes in the other box. And HTQs have now been approved for every occupational route and that means that from September 2025 a learner would be able to study an HTQ in any of those 13 routes.

And then on the right hand side there's a QR code that takes you to the occupational maps and they've got a wealth of information. So you find your route and then you click on the occupation you're interested in and then you'll find there's an awful lot of information under there. There's the knowledge, the skills and the behaviours, the duties, the occupational progression and even the employers involved in creating the standard. So definitely take some time to look at those. Next slide please.

In September 2024 we had 170 qualifications approved as HTQs. To date we've now got 263 HTQs approved for teaching from September 2025. The number of providers that can deliver HTQs has also risen. Last year there was around 140 and now there's more than 230 so HTQs are going to be available in a lot of locations and our providers include universities, Further Education colleges, Institutes of Technology and independent training providers. Next slide please.

So how do you find an HTQ? Well, a lot of providers advertise their courses on UCAS. Last week there were 429 courses from 95 providers advertised there. And you should also look at the websites of your local Further Education colleges and training providers because some offer HTQs but don't advertise on UCAS, especially if they're mainly offering part-time HTQs, because you can't apply for a part-time HTQ via UCAS. And there are some providers only just finalising their 2025 offer because they've been waiting for their HTQs to be approved. So it may be too late for them to advertise on UCAS this year, but their courses will be on their websites. And Amazing Apprenticeships have just produced a new resource to help you. It's a listing of all the currently available HTQs to help learners find where they are. And it's been produced in a format which will be really familiar to schools and colleges who share the Higher and Degree apprenticeship vacancy listing. Next slide please.

So how do you apply for your HTQ? Well, there's two ways. Via UCAS, you can only apply for full-time HTQs



on UCAS and the method you use to apply is identical to the journey for other courses. There are some providers who do advertise their part-time courses on UCAS, but the Apply Now link redirects you to the provider website so you can complete the process. And you can also apply directly through the training provider. If a provider doesn't advertise on UCAS, you're only going to be able to find their courses on their website. But if someone does start the journey on the website of a local provider and that provider wants you to apply via UCAS, there will be a link to help you do that. So whichever way you go, you're going to find your course. But I would suggest that learners look at both UCAS and provider websites to see exactly what's out there before making any decisions. Next slide. Thanks Helen.

So how do you fund your HTQ? Well, to study an HTQ you need to be 18 or over and there's student finance available. There's both tuition fees and maintenance loans for courses that are more than one year in length. Tuition fees are going to vary depending on the course and the provider, but costs are expected to be around £6,000 to £9,250 a year. And because a full-time level four course is one year and a full-time level five course is two years, HTQs will be both quicker and cheaper than a degree. And they can help students fast track into well paid jobs because there are huge skills gaps at level four and five. Next slide please.

So here we've got an example of two students who completed their Level 5 Digital HTQs last year and then made different choices based on their preferences and circumstances. We've got Chloe on the left and Chloe didn't want to go to university because she didn't want to relocate. She was going to get a job but was persuaded to do an HTQ locally. She really loved her course, she gained so many skills and then after graduating she quickly found a job as an IT technician in the schools sector and she's now helping to connect and protect primary schools. And then we've got Lucy on the right and Lucy was amazed by all the specialist equipment she had access to during her HTQ and the opportunities available to her, like working on projects with her local cybersecurity business. And Lucy decided that she wanted to progress further so she went on to top up her HTQ to a full degree. And if anyone's interested, there's more information on Lucy's story in the February Choices magazine and I think we've got a link to that on the slide. So now I'm going to hand over to Helen who's going to tell you what we've got to help you share these.

Helen Twomey:

Thank you so much, Christine. I learn something every time. When I, when I hear someone from the DfE speak about HTQs. So, really helpful, thank you. I mentioned earlier, but if you've just joined us please do put any questions in the Q&A box so we can address those after this bit. So we just wanted to talk through a little bit about that with the ways of sharing this information. So hopefully you've got some of that knowledge now. But how can you get it out there to your school and college community or anyone else that you're working with?

So obviously you can raise awareness of HTQs much earlier than year 10 or 11 if you want to. But if you're starting at year 10 or 11 and going all the way through to when your students leave you, then we're kind of looking at a bit of these five points really. So in year 10 and 11, is there opportunities to raise awareness whenever you're talking to them about future options, whether it's apprenticeships a university, finding a job, whatever they're going on to, can HTQs be part of that information as well? So we'll share with you in a minute some ways that you can do that. So yeah, year 10 or 11, year 12, just giving that information and raising awareness. At the point of introducing, applying to university via UCAS or applying for apprenticeships, whatever step there, when they start taking that sort of official next step, is that a point then, when you can give them a bit more support and information about how to apply for HTQs or how that, you know, just considering that they are an option.



Ahead of Results Day, so we know that your students in year 13 will leave you around well, normally will leave you around May, mid-May time to go on study leave. But ahead of that or just before Results Day, if you're still in touch with them and there's ways to still get in touch with them, can you share some information then? So before they get their results, they've got as much information as possible about their next options, if things, if their first choice perhaps isn't available and then clearing as well.

So on Results Day itself, if you're supporting students, just some things that you can use around that time. So there's lots of things available. So across the two places that I'll mention where you can find all of these things. There are lesson plans and resources, there's quizzes and games that you could use perhaps in form times, there's guides that can be sent out. The example there is just the parent one, but there's loads of other guides that can be sent out. Posters that you can put up in classrooms or common areas, sixth form common room, something like that. There's lots of case studies, whether printed or filmed that you can show. The HTQs have their own YouTube channel and there's also some on the Amazing Apprenticeships website as well. Springpod worked with the HTQS team at DfE to create a brilliant online course that students can take just to kind of get a feel for whether they think HTQS are right for them. This is just a little sample of all the things that are out there that you could be doing to share information with just to raise awareness more than giving them anything super specific at this stage.

If we think to that next step I mentioned, searching and applying at UCAS introduction time, we have got one guide in particular called 'A guide to searching and applying for HTQs', which covers some really specific areas that might be really useful as you're introducing. So you might have used some of those other resources I mentioned on the last slide to raise awareness and get them thinking that HTQS could be an option for them. And then when they do come to searching and applying, if they're thinking, actually HTQS might be for me, this guide would be, this would be a really good point to give them this guide or signpost them to this guide, whether it was students, parents, carers, whoever you're reaching out to, and just say, you know, I've put in orange the things that are particularly relevant at this point. How to reach the point of searching and applying, how to search for HTQs, what to consider when searching and then the application process. So that's sort of a good point to introduce this we think. Also the HTQs course listing, which I am very excited about and I put on about four different slides because I'm so pleased that we've got this, we've got this to share with you. So I'll give you a tiny bit more information about that in a minute. Christine mentioned it already, but it really is a list very much like the Higher and Degree vacancy listing for apprenticeships. It's a list of all the courses and a really good way, I'll talk about it a bit more in a minute. Once you get to that, ahead of Results Day, there's two resources you could use. One kind of aimed for colleagues, parents, carers really, about some things that they could say. So here's some statements and information that you could say if you think there's a student who's interested in going on to a level four or five course and it's got a list of things that if you have students who want to continue studying in the classroom but want, you know, something that's a real technical job-focused qualification then it's some statements there that you can use. And so that's something that could go out to colleagues, parents, carers. So when they talk, having perhaps having those conversations with students after, well before Results Day, this could also be shared, you know, when they're looking at the point of searching and applying as well. And also a bit of a sort, I suppose a checklist really, or a to do list. The one on the right, students, parents, carers. If you're interested in technical, in an HTQ and a technical education course, just here's some things that you could be doing to get you onto that course. Again, all of these aren't stuck at the times that I've put them on. So this could, like I said, but both of these could be shared well in advance of Results Day. But if you were thinking about those key timelines, these could definitely, definitely be useful at this point. Clearing as well. Again very similar, all of the previous resources could be useful, but particularly that guide to searching and applying and if they're interested, some steps to take them through what might be coming next and what they could do to get going.



So I've talked a lot about all these resources but where you can find them, there's two ways you can find a huge range of resources. The HTQs team have put together a brilliant Resource Hub. So you can see the link there, htqtoolkit.co.uk and a QR code and you'll find all the things I've mentioned and loads more on there. Same with the Amazing Apprenticeships HTQs page, which you can see there as well. Everything's got, lots is on there. We are updating it all the time. Same with the toolkit, new things going on regularly to kind of make sure that you've got everything that you could need hopefully. I'm talking very fast, I need to slow down, I've not got enough time. I'm always rushing through webinars thinking I haven't got enough time.

So the course listing, like I said it, and Christine mentioned as well, we have specifically designed this really because we know that the Higher and Degree vacancy listing for apprenticeships is very widely shared. It just gets thousands and thousands of downloads because it's all in one place. It's got everything you need to kind of start exploring what your options are. So we thought if we give this to schools, colleges, parents, carers, students in a familiar format, then hopefully that will be the most useful way. So it's got a bit of information about HTQs themselves and some explanatory notes at the start. And then it's pretty long, so I, please, you might want to print it out, but it's definitely, hopefully for digital sharing because it's a very long document. It's organised by occupational area or by occupational route or kind of subject area. So it'll have Construction, it'll have Healthcare, you know, all those different areas. And then within that, it's then got all the providers and the courses that they offer and a link to that provider page as well. So it's if nothing, even if they don't know exactly what they want to do, it's a really good way to say, well, look, you are looking at these degree courses. We know that you're interested in sort of something a bit more technical and job focused. Have a look at this. Have a look at pages 20 to 40 which have got all the construction, whatever that's probably totally wrong, all the construction courses on and just see if there's anything that sparks your interest. Click through, have a look, see what's out there so that we've done it, like I say, in this way, to make it hopefully familiar and accessible. It's on the Amazing Apprenticeship site. You can see the link there. And it will be going onto the toolkit as well. So it's available everywhere and we would just really love that if you could share that with your students as awareness raising and also to give them a really clear idea of what their next possible options could be. So if you're happy to share that in any way, we would absolutely love that.

Okay, questions. Christine, I have got some questions come through for you. So I realised I just spoke super fast. Apologies everybody that had to listen to me speeding through. So Christine, could you clarify costs around HTQs? This is quite a, I don't know, if this is really technical, then we will absolutely come back and answer these. But could you clarify the costs around HTQs? I thought that education was free up until a student's 19th birthday. Does that mean that the HNC could be free?

Christine Morton:

HTQs are definitely, you do have to fund them. And the costs are, as we said earlier, between £6,000 and £9,250 a year. It's because you're going into higher education. Further education would be free up to 19. But it's the fact that these are higher education, that's the reason why you do need to fund them and say like, we're seeing a lot of different costs, but the average is between £6,000 and £9,250 a year. We're seeing lower costs, but that's not a general thing. But it is definitely because it's higher as opposed to further education.

Helen Twomey:

That makes a lot of sense. Thank you. We've had a couple of questions around that, around finance, so hopefully that covers that. Let me have a quick look. So another one that we've had come through is, and I think this is a really good one actually, Christine, because it's a really good chance to sort of clarify and dispel a couple of myths about HTQs. So why would a student choose this, an HTQ, rather than an HND or a foundation degree?

Christine Morton:

Yeah, it is a good question. It's because the HTQ isn't actually the qualification, it's the quality mark on the underpinning qualification. So you can have an HND or a foundation degree that is an HTQ or that isn't. And the difference is if it has been approved as an HTQ, it's gone through an approvals process where it's checked to make sure it meets all the occupational standards so that learners are definitely gaining all the skills that employers are asking for. If it hasn't been approved as an HTQ, it hasn't been through that approval process. So it may or may not meet those standards. We don't know because it hasn't been checked. But the qualification is still an HNC/HND/Foundation Degree. It's the quality mark that makes it an HTQ.

Helen Twomey:

Brilliant. Thank you. Yeah, that is that, I think when you see that HTQ sort of acronym, it makes you feel like GCSE or A-level it's a brand new course, when actually it's that fantastic way of that they've been rigorously assessed, you say, this is a good one, or, you know, a good one. An employer, employer approved one of those courses that you are, lots of you are already familiar with HNDs, HNCs, Foundation Degrees are. Yeah, it's just they've had that quality mark. So I think that's, it's really good that we are able to see that there are still some misconceptions and hopefully deal with them. Another question we had put in was, can you expand on progression from HTQs to full-time degree programmes or apprenticeship routes?

Christine Morton:

So once you've done your HTQ, if you've done a level five HTQ, you've got credits like 200, you've gained 240 credits. And then you can use those credits to like top up to that last year because a degree is 360 like, so it's, you're just topping up your last year. So you can look on UCAS and you'll find that they quite often do one year top ups. You can also look around the Further Education colleges, see what they've got because there's many of the HTQ students have decided to stay on at the organisation that they've already been training with to top up to that level six. But if you've got credits you can change to another provider. So in most cases what I would say is find the course you want, speak to the provider and see what's possible. But you're only doing a one year course to actually top up to that level six because you've already done the level four and the level five.

Helen Twomey:

Brilliant. And someone has said if you complete an HTQ and move on to level six, do you go straight in at third year? How does that work? Do you kind of have to match up the parts you've already done with what they're offering? How would that work?

Christine Morton:

Yeah I suppose you could, but in most cases, like, providers are actually offering top up courses. If you look on UCAS, I actually looked earlier this afternoon, but I was looking for something else and there was a lot of one year top up courses. It's like if you've got up to level five, you can now do this because of course a lot of people, especially if they're in a technical field, don't do all the training at the same time. They may do a level four and work at that level and then go, oh, actually I'd rather do that. So now I'm going to get a level five. And this is the people that have like gone as far as they can go and suddenly go, actually I want a degree. So actually if you look on local provider websites and you even look like on universities website, look on UCAS, you will see a lot of people are doing that one year top up course, because a lot of people just want the one year.

Helen Twomey:

Brilliant, thank you. And then someone said, do you have any sort of experience of why a learner would choose

to do a level 5 HTQ rather than the full degree option?

Christine Morton:

In a lot of cases it's because the jobs that they're actually interested in only need level 5 skills. So they feel it's not worth their while paying for that full degree and spending three years to go and get a level six when they only ever want to work at level five. And of course if they've got level five at some time in the future, if they change their mind, they can top up. But I think a lot of people tend to think, why am I spending all this money and spending that extra year when I could spend two years and go into that job that I really want to do?

Helen Twomey:

Brilliant, thank you. That makes a lot of sense. So we have on that sort of top up, we said, would all providers allow you to top up or are there some that don't accept that HTQ option? And this is, yeah.

Christine Morton:

There are some providers that don't actually do level six courses, but most of the ones that do a level six, anybody that's that like does level six courses usually will do a top up. In fact a lot of them that do level 4 and level 5 courses specifically have level 6 top ups because they know that a lot of people are going to want them. If not as soon as they finish their course, they may want them at some time in the future. So yes, there are providers that don't offer higher than level five, but because you've got those credits, you can actually transfer them over to another provider that does.

Helen Twomey:

Brilliant, thank you. And then slightly different, back more onto the finance side. What, what finance is available for a part-time HTQ?

Christine Morton:

As long as your course is over a year in length, you are entitled to the same like tuition fees, maintenance fees. You get exactly the same funding. The rule is your course has always got to be over one year in length. But of course in part-time HTQs, they're always going to be, even a level four is going to be longer than a year in length.

Helen Twomey:

Brilliant, thank you. And then, really there's so many questions coming in. They're really interesting. I don't know which one to go to next! Could you go from an HND, for example into a degree apprenticeship?

Christine Morton:

You could. The issue always is that it's very competitive and there's not always enough to go around. It's not that you can't do it. It's the availability. Of the degree apprenticeships. you mean? Yes. That there really aren't as many as we would like them to be. Plus... sorry, yeah, there's not as many as we'd like them to be and what we're finding is they're very, very competitive and people like maybe are applying at the wrong time or not knowing the application process, which tends to mean that they're losing out to somebody that's maybe gone a higher apprentice straight to degree apprenticeship. Though I do know some people that have actually gone via an employer, they've sort of applied for a job and then suggested to an employer that I'm at level five, would you like to pay for that one year? And they've got it. So it's sometimes it's a case of being creative, but most people like are having to top up via level six. But in theory,.. In theory, if there were more, there is no reason why they can't do it.



Helen Twomey:

Brilliant. Thank you. When you come to applying for HTQs, someone said, would HTQ courses be part of the five choices on UCAS? And I think I know the answer to this, but I would like you to answer it, Christine, in case I'm wrong.

Christine Morton:

Yes they would actually be part of your five choices on UCAS.

Helen Twomey:

Yeah. So it isn't an extra. And I've had, that's what I hoped you'd say, because I've had, that's what I thought and I think, so it would be one of your choices. So if you wanted to apply for 2 HTQs, you would then only be able to apply for 3 full-time degree courses, for example. So it does, it does use up choices, it's not on top of. Is that right?

Christine Morton:

As far as I'm aware, that's what I was led to believe that yes, it's part of your, your actual choices.

Helen Twomey:

Brilliant, thank you. And then someone has said, actually which is an interesting question, if HTQs cost money, which they are, we know that they do, they are, you do need to finance them, but apprenticeships are free, what, what's the best, why is it a good idea to do an HTQ?

Christine Morton:

Because people have different learning styles. Apprenticeships are all in a workplace. I mean people do get sort of, you know, a day at college and that. But they're mainly in a workplace where HTQs are in a college environment and that means that those people are, there's some people that just aren't confident enough to go into a workplace yet. But because of the way that HTQs are set up, you know, we've got workshops, we've got hospital wards all these simulated workplace environments within the colleges. So you go and you learn it in exactly the same way as you would within a workplace, only it's in a safer environment. And I think it's for people with like less confident or different learning styles much prefer to be in that environment where they're being overseen by tutors all the time. They're not in a workplace, they're not having to like get to sort of interact with all those colleagues. And by the time they've done the training they're more confident because they can go into a workplace, they know what they're doing they're not having to be shown everything and it's better for them. And they've got those job-focused skills. They've got all those job-focused skills. They've learned in exactly the same way, only in a safe world for them.

Helen Twomey:

Yeah, not everyone is ready to go straight into the workplace like you say. Some people want to have that little bit of extra sort of classroom-based learning time for sure. One here, Christine, that I don't think you're able to answer yet. Do you feel that HTQs will come into the Skills and Growth Levy funding changes? That's quite a technical one.

Christine Morton:

I can't answer that because to be honest, I have no idea. I've not been involved in any discussions. I know there's been a lot of talk about a lot of things, I haven't been privy to any of those discussions. So I'll find out when the rest of the world does. And we all want to know. We all want to know.



Helen Twomey:

We do. Well, yeah, I definitely do. And then, so yeah, there's another question sort of saying, would the employer be allowed to use the levy to pay for the remainder of a qualification if that did happen? But we can't, we can't say. But someone just wants to acknowledge the question really, that actually if someone did an HTQ and went into a degree apprenticeship, would the levy be allowed to pay for it? But we don't, we don't know the answer yet. But great questions, this person, and we'd love to know the answers and as soon as we do, we'll, we'll be trying to get that information out there for you. So, another, we've got time. We've got loads of questions, but we've got time. So when considering university versus HTQs, is there more focus on work experience in an HTQ?

Christine Morton:

That's a really good question. Perhaps not necessarily work experience, but perhaps more work-based skills, maybe. Would that? Oh, Indy's joined us.

Helen Twomey:

He has!

Christine Morton:

I wondered why there was two of us.

Helen Twomey:

It does, yeah, we can see it: Christine Morton and Christine Morton. I was like what's, how's Christine like you know, cloned herself! But it's Indy who's from the DfE HTQ's team as well. So Indy, if you want to, if you want to jump in, do let us know. Oh, we're considering university versus HTQs, is there more focus on work experience in an HTQ, do you think?

Christine Morton:

There's no actual work experience in a workplace but yes there is more sort of work-based learning as in, don't know if you've ever been in college where they're doing HTQs but for example they will have workshops and it's treated in exactly the same way as like a workshop within a workplace. You know, even down to like we have a locker room and you must put your safety equipment on here and you will not go through these doors without your safety equipment. So it's all based around how it would be in a workplace which is far more than like in a university, you know, like. But it is still within an education provider.

Indy Chanda:

I mean I'm, I'm happy to talk to a few of these things as well. So, so, so this is showing as Christine talking. but it's, my name's Indy, I work on the HTQ policy as well at Department for Education. So I think there's a few things, HTQs are classroom-based unlike apprenticeships but a lot of the occupational standards do require the student to show some practical skills. So nursing for example is the big one. So wherever there is an occupational requirement for, for a student who's shown that they can actually operate specifically in a workplace then that is in the HTQ even though it's not work-based learning as such. So there will be practical skills depending on the, you know, whatever the knowledge, skills and behaviours are that are required on there. I was gonna, I hope that covers that.

I was going to comment on a couple of the other earlier questions as well. So let me think. So the question of why someone might do an HTQ rather than apprenticeship and obviously an apprenticeship is a job and if you



are wanting to retrain so if you're already in a job and you're wanting to do a different job then you might not want to quit your job to put all your eggs in one basket somewhere else. So as a qualification that you can take while you're in employment elsewhere, HTQs are an option that apprenticeships would not be. And as Christine mentioned, we are probably struggling to expand apprenticeships as much as the demand might require because of that employment placing. So we're kind of limited to how many more people we can get on apprenticeships all the time just because yeah, we are reliant on employers having places for them.

What else? Progression to level six I think was another thing that came up. So HTQs are quality approved HNCs and HNDs. So it's up to the level six provider what their recognition of prior learning is. So there's no difference from like an HNC that's got an HTQ or not unless the level 6 provider says, yeah, we're only accepting HTQs because we know these have had their content quality assured. But it's still up to the individual provider how much they say you can skip to go onto your level six and top it up to a level six qualification.

And I think the final thing that I remember is the eligibility through the Growth and Skills Levy and what's happening with that. So we're aware that this was part of the incoming government's manifesto pledges to look at how they were going to expand that so it wasn't so tightly limited to apprenticeships and we have had a lot of feedback over the years that it would be a useful extension to be able to choose this alongside it. So we are kind of looking at exactly how an expansion of the levy would work and what it would apply to and HTQs are in that conversation. But our team is not directly involved in that and it's also quite a big treasury question. So it's not even necessarily something that we decide within our department. But there's definitely conversations being had and cases being made for that on the back of the feedback that we're getting from employers and, and yourselves as providers.

Helen Twomey:

Thank you. Can I cut in with one that, just before we run out of time, that I think is a really important one and both of you might be able to answer this. Can a student with an EHC plan qualify for free access to an HTQ, as far as you're aware? If that's not something, we can definitely do a bit of research for you on that Aaron?

Indy Chanda:

Yeah, I'm not fully up to speed on exactly what an EHC plan would entitle someone to over, over and above, over and above. I mean, there may be other funding available for them through that. So potentially yes, but I don't it's not, it wouldn't be an HTQ-specific thing, this. If there's EHC extra funding available for FE and HE then we'd be available under that. There isn't an extra requirement or an extra eligibility that we'd have.

Helen Twomey:

Thank you. I'm going to just do one more which is, we have, this is a, this is another., this is a misconception about, about Amazing Apprenticeships. Someone said we have Amazing Apprenticeships come into school to explain apprenticeships to sixth form students. So that will be part of the ASK programme which we work, where Amazing Apprenticeships as an organisation, work really closely with ASK, the government Apprenticeships, Apprenticeships Support and Knowledge programme. But we, it probably wouldn't be us coming to school, but it would be ASK who come in to school.

Is there something similar for HTQs? So at the moment, as far as I know from our side, there aren't HTQ sessions as part of the ASK delivery. But we have got all those resources. I think it was Rachel that asked that question. We have got several slide decks and things like that that can be used with students by school staff to do that. As far as you know Indy, Christine, is that? Could that be part of the ASK offer in the future? I guess

we just don't know at the moment, do we?

Indy Chanda:

Yes we don't know. I mean, we wanted to be part of the mainstream portfolio of options. Because, like, like I say, I mean, we're not saying that we are a better option for everyone than apprenticeships. We're a different option. So for some people, for their I don't know, caring responsibilities or their current employment status, we might be a lot better or as Christine mentioned, your teaching style might be learning style, sorry, might be more suited to HTQs. So we want to kind of give the options to people so that they can pick what's best for them.

Helen Twomey:

Yeah. But thank you for that, for asking that question, Rachel, because we will, you know, we can take that to the ASK team and say, and say like, you know, we've had someone asking for this, is it coming? But have a look at, as I mentioned earlier, the, the toolkit, the HTQs Hub and the Amazing Apprenticeships page that I showed you a little while ago because that has got slide decks and lesson resources and all of those things that you could use in the meantime to sort of share this information with your students, parents, carers, colleagues. Right, I'm going to stop the questions now because...

Indy Chanda:

Could I? I was just gonna. Yeah, there was just one of the points, a question that was asked earlier about why would someone consider level five rather than a level six. Yeah. And I think, so, so a thing to understand as Christine mentioned, it's, it's obviously it's a year, it's a year shorter so it's cheaper and it's quicker which is kind of getting rid of some of the barriers. But I think something that isn't generally understood is that level five, a level four and five is where there's a lot of skills gaps. So that's where the employability is. So if your, if your student is looking for an outcome they want to get into a good job, then level six isn't the only answer. So it all sounds quite technical when you're talking about levels. But an example that I give is for example we are looking, the government is looking at doing a lot of building and construction and yeah, so we obviously need the people to do that. Now level six in construction is quite advanced. It's about kind of town planning. It's yeah, bordering on architect work. We haven't got a shortage of skills at that level. What we've got a shortage of is the amount of site managers, the amount of quantity surveyors. So the higher level mid-management delivery people and those are level five skills. So if you've got a student who is wanting to get into construction and they want a good job at the end of it, level five is where it's at and that applies across all sectors. It's the, the understanding of those higher level skills is, is where we need people and that's, that's what we want people to be kind of outcome focused so that once they do their two years they are ready to go into a good job with good prospects.

Helen Twomey:

Brilliant. That's a really, that's a really good example Indy. That's made it clear for me as well actually that difference. So thank you. Well, I'm going to move on to try and make sure we finish on time if that's okay with Christine and Indy, Thank you so much for your time. I said Q&A box here but I think we probably want to let you go on time. So my email is there and we'll put out a contact email as well in the post webinar mailing. But anything that you need, so we've talked through kind of resources and all sorts of different things that are available to raise awareness of HTQs. But if there's anything that you think I really want this, then let us know and we will, we will try our best to see if we can help out.

I can see a couple of people raising their hands. So if you could drop us an email, that would be amazing so we can finish on time.



Thank you so much, Christine, and Indy as well for jumping in, that was brilliant to have you for the last bit there. Thank you so much. So, again, thank you for your time and expertise and any questions, anything like that will come up in the contact details will come up in the post webinar mailing. So thank you so much, and bye everyone.