

# Case Study:

## Student Finance Sessions



### Background

Early in February 2021 Shannen delivered Student Finance Sessions to Y13's at Cardinal Heenan Sixth Form. These sessions were delivered virtually via Microsoft Teams. Due to schools being closed and the flexibility that online delivery allows, the session was delivered in 2 parts on consecutive weeks during the learners form time. The model of delivery worked extremely well as the Student Finance Session is one which is typically quite overwhelming due to the vast amount of information being given. Splitting the session into two parts allowed students to digest information between the two sessions, taking time to do their own research and consider any questions that they might have. It was also beneficial as week 1 focused on information giving i.e. types of loan, repayments, budgeting and maximising student income (i.e. Scholarships, bursaries, part-time work etc). During this session Y12's who were considering applying to university were also invited to aid their decision making process. The second session was solely for Y13's and this focused on an in-depth overview of the application to Student Finance, and allowed time for questions also.

### Summary of Activity

As the session was via Microsoft Teams and students were learning from home it allowed plenty of interaction via the chat function. This session is one that benefited from that since it does include lots of information, so it was useful to know if I was going at the right pace for the learners. Students were well engaged, asking questions and interacting when appropriate. To ensure students were happy with the content and pace I regularly asked students to provide feedback. I would pose a question i.e. 'Is everyone understanding' and ask learners to respond with a thumbs up emoji if they did, or sad face if they didn't. This allowed me to get snapshot evaluation and tailor my delivery according to their responses. Some students do not feel comfortable interacting by speaking or writing directly into the chat, so this was a good way of gauging their feelings without too much engagement needed from them.

As a follow up to the 2 sessions I emailed all students when applications to Student Finance England opened. My email included the slides I had delivered, a link to further support and an offer to have 1-2-1 conversations with anyone who needed support. Only one target ward learner took up my offer for 1-2-1 guidance and we shared emails where I supported him to complete the application.

## Outcome

Teachers and students responded positively to these sessions. Students felt their knowledge of Student Finance had improved and they felt more confident to complete the application process. Teachers said that they appreciated the flexibility in the delivery to fit their teaching schedules and having Shaping Futures staff on hand to support learners with their applications.

If you would like to discuss this session, or the delivery of any of our programme within your school or college please contact your HEPA.