

PARENTS...

# GET TO KNOW YOUR

Further Education College



## TRUE OR FALSE



### MYTH

You can't progress from a FE College to University

FALSE



FALSE, there are clear progression pathways from NI FE Colleges. There are clear partnerships with validating Universities and clear progression pathways, and there are careers professionals to provide impartial careers education, information, advice and guidance.

### MYTH

A-Levels are the only route into University

FALSE



FALSE, there are many different qualifications that move you to University, e.g. BTEC, Access courses. 95% of UK Universities accept BTEC qualifications!

### MYTH

Level 3 BTECs don't attract UCAS pts

FALSE



FALSE: BTECs do attract UCAS points, and the grades for each unit dictate how many UCAS points a BTEC is worth, a Level 3 Extended Diploma with triple Distinction\* being typically worth 168 points (equivalent to three grade A\* at A levels)

### MYTH

You only enrol at an FE College if you fail your exams

FALSE



FALSE, FE Colleges attract students post GCSE and post A level with an excellent academic portfolio including 9-10 GCSEs at grade A\*-C and 3 A levels at grades A\*-C. Learners select FE Colleges as a first choice and continue their education at an FE College due to the clear progression pathways and multiple advantages to studying locally.

### MYTH

FE Colleges will only accept GCSE qualifications for entry into Level 2/3 courses

FALSE



FALSE: FE Colleges accept Level 1 & 2 qualifications including OCN, OCR, BTEC, Princes Trust, Occupational Studies, Essential Skills, COPE, and others. ROI qualifications (inc. Leaving Cert - Ordinary and Higher - and Leaving Cert Applied) are also accepted.

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## TRUE OR FALSE



### MYTH

You don't need Maths and English.

FALSE



FALSE: English and Maths qualifications are highly valued by employers and Universities. They are very important in order to succeed and progress in education, and employment. Learners who don't have English and Maths may have barriers in their progression. Students can undertake GCSE Maths and English or Essential Skills level 2 in Numeracy and Literacy at an FE College.

### MYTH

You must be a certain age to complete a course at an FE College

TRUE



TRUE: To apply for a full-time course you must be 16 years of age or over on or before 1st July in year of entry. You can return to education at any stage of life. It's never too late to do something you've always wanted to do!

### MYTH

The only support you get at an FE College is the support from lecturers to achieve/pass the qualification, there's no pastoral support

FALSE



FALSE: There's a wide range of support services within FE Colleges including finance support, safeguarding, widening access support, counselling & wellbeing and careers & employability. Students are supported with all aspects of life, supporting them to overcome any potential barriers, build resilience and achieve their qualification.

### MYTH

Apprenticeships are only available in the trade(s) sector

FALSE



FALSE: FE Colleges also offer apprenticeships in leisure and sport, and health & social care, as well as a range of Higher-Level Apprenticeships which enable participants to earn while they learn and gain a nationally recognised higher-level qualification. Successful candidates will be employed in a company relevant to their chosen profession to gain valuable experience over a 2 or 3 year period.

### MYTH

FE students cannot progress to Universities in N.I

FALSE



FALSE: Each year FE Colleges progress hundreds of students to Universities in N.I. and the UK, the top two choices of the students progressing to University are Ulster University & QUB – Queens University Belfast.