A parent/carer guide to understanding University

*Why go to university?*

*Going to university can give learners the skills and experience they will need to take their future career in any direction they choose. University might not be the right path for everyone, and there are many different routes into studying a degree.*

*Going to university gives learners the opportunity t study a subject they love and experience student life.*

**How to guide…..**

What are the pros and cons of going to university?

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| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| 1. Leaners will gain a degree at the end of their studies, which could help them to get started in their careers | For most, going to university means taking out a ‘loan’ or multiple loans to cover tuition and living costs. Learners should find out all they can about student finance and how it works to decide whether this is the right choice for them |
| 1. Learners are taught by industry experts and well-respected academics, who help learners to understand their specialities and grow their passion for their chosen subject | It can be a big jump from A Levels/BTEC/T Level study to degree level – there is much more independent study and little contact with tutors or lecturers |
| 1. Uni isn’t just about learning academically. Learners grow as individuals, make new friends, enjoy a social life, live independently and learn how to look after themselves | Independence is great for some, whereas others may find it overwhelming and may become home sick. Most unis offer great support so research what support systems are available |
| 1. Learners can join clubs and societies, as well as accessing placement and work experience opportunities, which will enrich them as an individual and their CV | There is a lot of reading to do! Most courses will have a reading list, so if they do not like reading, Uni might not be the right place for them. Some courses are more hands on so check out open days to learn more before deciding |
| 1. Learners are in control of their time and learning, allowing them to focus on what interests them the most | There are lots of deadlines, which can fall at the same time, for different modules. Time management skills are key |

To study in England, Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland the cost of tuition is up to £9,250 per year. The amount your child will pay back on this ‘loan’ depends solely on what they earn once graduated and in employment. Once they earn above £27,295 per year, they will make repayments if they fall below this the payments will freeze until they reach this threshold/ after 30 years the repayments are stopped altogether if not fully repaid