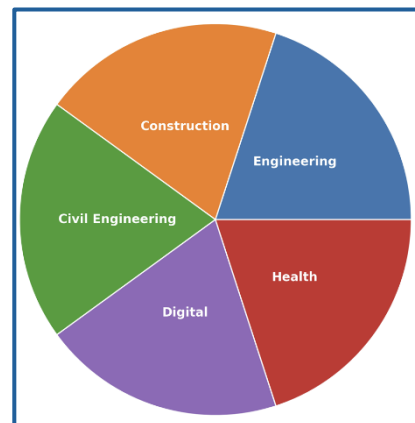


Case Study: The Chelmsford HTQ Journey So Far

Introduction

Chelmsford College has embarked on a transformative journey to implement Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) across priority sectors Engineering, Construction, Civil Engineering, Digital and Health. In collaboration with employers, **Anglia Ruskin University** and sector specialists, the College is aligning its provision with local, regional and national workforce priorities to address critical skills gaps and create clear progression pathways.

With strategic support from **MNB Connect Ltd**, this journey is underpinned by specialist expertise in employer engagement, digital innovation and curriculum design. MNB is working alongside the College to ensure HTQs are not only future-proofed and modular, but also industry-led and progression-focused providing learners with the technical skills, work-ready experiences and opportunities to thrive in an evolving economy.



Phase 1: Foundations

- **Employer Consultation** – Initial workshops held to identify priority skills gaps and sector needs.
- **Curriculum Blueprint** – Drafted across five pathways, designed with modularity to align with the Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) and flexible step-off points.
- **Strategic Partnerships** – Formal collaboration with ARU to strengthen progression routes and co-design blended delivery models.
- **Digital Integration** – Exploration of AI-driven tools, immersive XR learning and industry-standard software to enhance delivery.



Phase 2: Insights & Shaping the Future

Attendance at **WorldSkills UK** Technical Leadership Exchange (March 2025) provided key insights to inform HTQ development:

1. **Future-Proofing the Workforce** – Embedding industry projects, modular learning, and workforce foresighting.
2. **Digital Transformation** – Integrating AR/VR, AI and simulation to raise quality and engagement.
3. **Employer Partnerships** – Strengthening advisory boards, embedding placements and co-delivery.

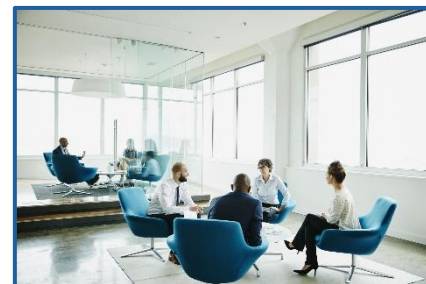


4. **Entrepreneurial Mindset** – Equipping learners with innovation, adaptability and commercial awareness.

These insights are now being embedded into the Chelmsford HTQ model, ensuring the programmes are responsive to evolving industry and learner needs.

Opportunities

- **Enhancing Learner Recruitment** – Strengthening outreach and engagement strategies will help raise awareness of HTQs and increase applications and enrolments.
- **Investing in Capacity** – Developing staff skills, expanding digital infrastructure and deepening employer collaboration will enhance the quality and sustainability of delivery.
- **Staying Future-Focused** – Continuous alignment with workforce needs and sectoral trends ensures HTQs remain relevant and provide strong progression pathways.



Progress to Date

- **Collaborative Curriculum Design** – Employer partners are actively contributing to shaping HTQs, embedding live projects and work-based learning into programmes.
- **Pathways and Progression** – Clearer routes are being established from HTQs into apprenticeships, degree-level study and employment, strengthening learner journeys.
- **Staff Development and Innovation** – Teams are building confidence in using digital and immersive tools, enriching teaching and learning approaches.
- **Regional Alignment** – HTQs are being positioned to support wider skills priorities, reinforcing the College's role in driving local and regional workforce growth.



Conclusion

The Chelmsford HTQ journey demonstrates how strategic partnerships, employer engagement and digital innovation can create flexible, future-ready qualifications. While this is still an evolving journey, strong foundations are in place to ensure HTQs become a key part of Essex's technical education landscape and workforce development strategy.



At **MNB Connect**, we are committed to innovating education, empowering industry and transforming futures ensuring every partnership delivers lasting impact.