

Safeguarding/ Attendance Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move further into the first half-term of 2019/20, I would again like to thank all parents/ carers for the continuing dramatic improvements in our attendance over recent months. Attendance for 2019/20 so far is **5% higher** than it was in 2018/9 and **23% higher** than it was in 2017/8, meaning that students are safer, attending lessons more often and therefore maximising their possibilities of achieving highly.

Pleasingly, average attendance of students since joining The Edge is now also **18% higher** than their previous school baseline prior to joining us. In addition, it has been fantastic to see students improve their levels of punctuality in 2019/20, punctuality to tutor time is now **21% higher** than it was over the course of 2018/9.

On average so far in 2019/20, 67% of all students are **now arriving early** before the start of school to attend our free breakfast club (where toast, cereal, fruit juices and hot drinks are all provided between 8.45am and 9.15am); we would encourage all students to join the growing numbers of students who are already enjoying this! In recent weeks and months, senior staff on duty have noticed that a small minority of students arriving early are going to the shops close to The Edge before coming to school- we would advise parents/carers not to give their child any spending money on weekday mornings as we provide nutritious breakfast, break and lunch food completely free of charge. All of the latest research also clearly shows that consumption of confectionery, fizzy and energy drinks in the morning hampers students' focus in lessons as well as contributing to poor health generally.

Please remember that we will automatically issue detentions at the end of the day to any students who miss lesson time by not being in school before 9.35am. A reminder too that we have regretfully had to take court action and fine a minority of parents/ carers over the course of recent months where student attendance has not been in line with our expectations. We continue to help and support all families as much as we possibly can, please feel free to contact our Attendance Officer Jas Greene at jas.greene@theedgeacademy.co.uk if you are experiencing any difficulties with which we can assist.

Finally, I wanted to inform you all that governors have agreed an additional training day on Friday October 25th in order for us to quickly address areas for development from our recent OFSTED monitoring visit- this will mean that Autumn Half-Term 1 finishes for students on Thursday October 24th at 3.15pm.

If you have any further questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at andrew.wakefield@theedgeacademy.co.uk

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Wakefield".

Andrew Wakefield

Principal