

# The Edge Academy

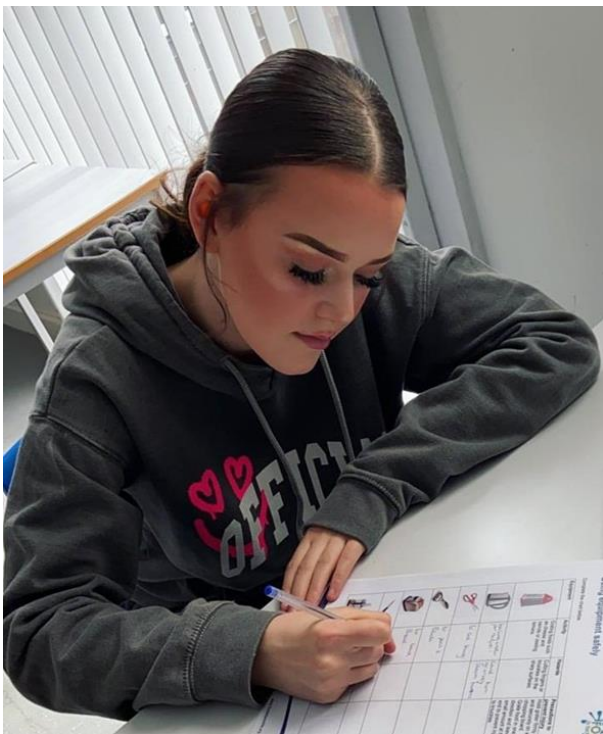
## Safe, Ready, Respectful Newsletter

### February 2021

#### I. Principal's Introduction

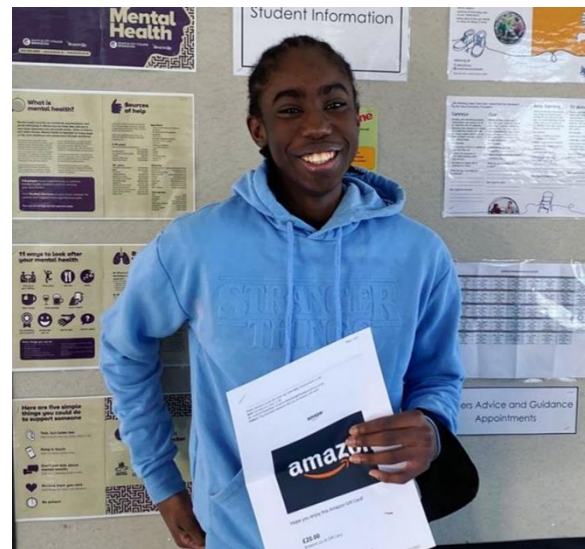
As always, I am delighted to introduce our latest newsletter, despite the continuing difficult times we are living through. Although the Spring Term was cut short before it started by the Coronavirus outbreak, we have remained open at The Edge throughout all periods of lockdown since 2020, and at the time of writing this, we are excited about the prospect of opening to more students in the not too distant future!

I would like to begin by thanking staff, students and parents/carers for the resilience and positivity they have continued to show since January. Whilst it has been pleasing to see almost all of our students accessing on-site learning in this time period, we have also been hugely impressed by the enthusiasm with which students working from home have embraced our "Remote Learning" programme.



We have quickly adapted our practice to deliver daily YouTube lessons, live "Virtual Tutor Time" sessions and online assemblies. In addition, we continue to signpost all students towards the "Home Learning" section of our website, which now contains a huge variety of electronic learning resources for every

subject, as well as links to resources developed by the Oak National Academy, the BBC and Seneca Learning.



Alongside the electronic resources we have created, staff have been out to homes of every single student to deliver (and collect when completed) physical work packs and we truly appreciate the positive feedback we have received on these.

We have continued to work hard at taking innovative approaches to learning and supporting our community in recent months and amongst other initiatives have:





- Run a “Cookery Masterclass” live on our YouTube channel where students were able to get ingredients delivered to their homes free of charge and then cook along live with the guidance of our SENCO Helen McClane. It was fantastic to see the videos and photos we received of students’ efforts at home.
- Sent out weekly staff VLOGs to the community since January which have contained updates on all aspects of “Edgelife”.
- Launched an arty “Skateboard Design” holiday challenge which runs until March 1<sup>st</sup> for any of you that would still like to submit an entry and give yourself a chance of winning a skateboard!



- Strengthened our links with the Northfield Food Service charity who now deliver hot meals to a number of our Pupil Premium students every single Thursday evening.
- Continued to run an extensive Literacy Reward programme.
- Held a “Virtual Parents’ Evening”.
- Offered a huge number of other bespoke individual interventions, such as online singing lessons, online Science tuition and access to online lessons provided by mainstream partner schools.

As you would expect, we have continued to prioritise the safety of all of our students and families, and have completed large numbers of home visits to students in addition to any contact we make by telephone. Please let us know if there are any further current issues that we could help and support with.

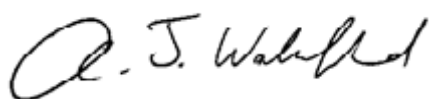
Further to this, I am pleased to report that our strict safety measures in school have helped us to avoid any positive staff or student Coronavirus cases being reported so far in 2021 at the time of writing. Our “lateral flow” testing programme is in full swing having been launched in January; if you have not yet completed a consent form for your child to be tested, I would be grateful if you could return this to us as soon as possible.



- Delivered rewards to the doorstep of students achieving the highest standards of “Excellence in Remote Learning” and presented rewards to students achieving the highest standards of “Excellence in In-School Learning”.
- Delivered food ingredients free of charge to the doorstep on a case-by-case basis to individual students to support Food teaching.



Finally, we are happy to be able to share some other news items and recent photos with you both from the current lockdown period and from the Autumn Term 2020. Although first and foremost, our thoughts are with all members of the community that have been affected by Coronavirus, we remain excited about the rapid improvements that we are making and the positive response to this that we are receiving from all of you. Please feel free to contact me directly via e-mail at [andrew.wakefield@theedgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:andrew.wakefield@theedgeacademy.co.uk) for any questions with which I can assist personally.



Andrew Wakefield, Principal



have been achieved in thus far include Modern Foreign Languages, ICT, Physical Education, Health and Safety, Geography, Animal Care, Hair and Beauty and Construction to name just a few!

- Continued to develop our work experience links with our friends at Envirohort and Southside.



- Received inspirational, motivational and educational talks from Mrs History, Michael's Mentors and Precious Lives.



Amongst other activities too numerous to list in a newsletter, we have:

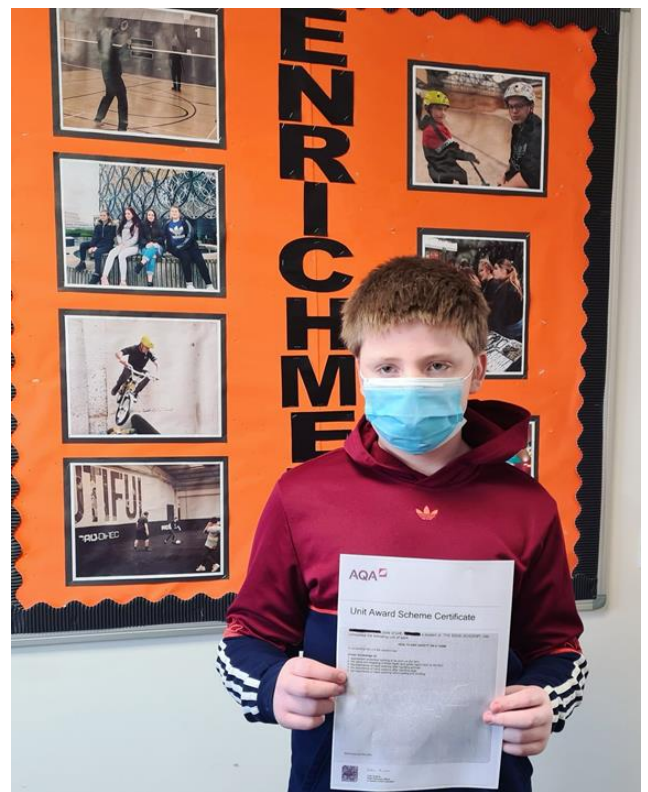
- Launched our AQA Unit Award Scheme at the end of 2020 and already presented almost 350 certificates to students who have achieved awards in "Essential Skills". Areas certificates



- Extended the variety of PE and “Well-being” opportunities on offer.



- Continued to run a varied “Feelgood Friday” two-hour enrichment session every single Friday for every single student in the Autumn Term.



We are now an oversubscribed school and continue to experience unprecedented demand for places at The Edge, taking students from all areas of Birmingham, but also from Coventry, Sandwell and Worcestershire. If you are a senior leader from a school in the Midlands interested in placing a Key Stage 3 or Key Stage 4 student with us this year or in 2021/2022, please e-mail Vice Principal Adam Smith at [adam.smith@theedgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:adam.smith@theedgeacademy.co.uk) .

### 3. Communication

A further reminder that we now put all letters on our website ([www.theedgeacademy.co.uk](http://www.theedgeacademy.co.uk)) and text links to you each time this happens. We also post reminders on Twitter (address @edgenorthfield or go to website at [www.twitter.com/edgenorthfield](https://www.twitter.com/edgenorthfield)), Facebook (address @edgeacademynorthfield or go to website at [www.facebook.com/edgeacademynorthfield](https://www.facebook.com/edgeacademynorthfield)), Instagram (address @theedgeacademynorthfield or go to website at [www.instagram.com/theedgeacademynorthfield](https://www.instagram.com/theedgeacademynorthfield)), Snapchat (go to website at: <https://www.snapchat.com/add/edgenorthfield>) and LinkedIn (go to website at: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-edge-academy-northfield/>) Don't forget our newly launched YouTube channel we mentioned at the beginning of the newsletter which is available at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCecMYPWTNC-DYEbioHbBFvA> and has had over 5,300 views already!

### 4. Admissions



