

# The Edge Academy

## Safe, Ready, Respectful Newsletter

### December 2021

#### I. Principal's Introduction

As always, I am delighted to introduce our latest newsletter, despite the continuing difficult times we are living through. As you know though, we have remained open at The Edge throughout all stages of the Coronavirus pandemic since 2020, and it has been a successful few months for us since our last newsletter!

First of all, I would once again like to thank parents, students and the wider community for your part in us securing an OFSTED "Good" judgement at the end of 2020/21 in our full inspection.



As well as our overall effectiveness being graded "good", we **were graded "good" in every single category**- namely Leadership and Management, Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development.

The report confirms that:

- "staff provide pupils with exceptional pastoral support....all staff go to great lengths to keep pupils as safe as possible"

- "leaders have worked extremely well together, using their various strengths, to drive significant improvements across the school"
- "the highly effective provision for pupils with SEND enables them to engage positively and successfully in their learning"
- "reading is a high priority and pupils receive intensive support to improve their reading skills"
- "teachers adapt and personalise the school's curriculum skilfully in response to pupils' needs"
- "personal development is supported extremely well by the life-skills and well-being curricula"
- "leaders have taken very effective action to improve pupils' overall attendance"

Perhaps even more importantly, the report opens with the observation that "All staff are committed to the Edge Pledge. It successfully helps pupils to make positive choices to keep themselves safe, encourages pupils to aspire to succeed, and develops pupils' respect for one another and others".



We are working quickly without delay on our plans to continue improving and it has been pleasing to see the school gain further recognition already since the beginning of 2021/2022. Firstly, we were delighted

to gain the Skills Builder “Bronze School Award” for our work in Essential Skills over the last year; these are the skills students need to succeed in education and employment. We are already working hard towards achieving silver!

Even more pleasingly, we were shortlisted for the National PrusAP “Staff Team of the Year Award” held in Kenilworth in September- further recognition of our hard work and dedication by colleagues from around the United Kingdom.



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

- Continued to expand our AQA Unit Award Scheme that we launched earlier in 2021 and have now presented over 550 certificates to students who have achieved awards in “Essential Skills” this year. Areas certificates 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.

Finally, we are happy to be able to share some other news items and recent photos with you from the Autumn Term 2021. 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.

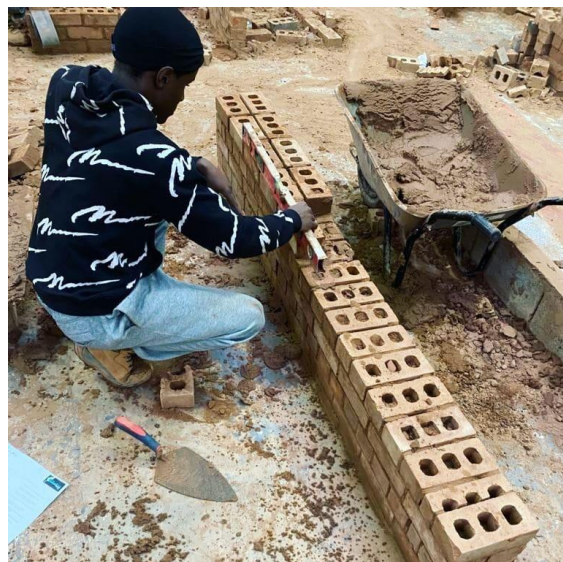
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. J. Wakefield".

Andrew Wakefield, Principal



## 2. Curriculum Experiences

As you will see from the pictures in this newsletter, we have again been able to provide students with a broad range of different educational experiences in recent months.



- Extended the variety of PE and “Well-being” opportunities on offer.
- Joined up with the Careers and Enterprise Company who have helped us to run a Year 9 Careers programme. This has already included visits to the site of the Commonwealth Games, Villa Park and the NEC.



- Continued to run a varied “Feelgood Friday” two-hour enrichment session every single Friday for every single student in the Autumn Term.
- Run a full “Cultural Capital Week” in October 2021 which featured a variety of physical and teambuilding activities as well as visits to

Central Birmingham and venues such as the Sea Life Centre and Legoland.

### 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 recently launched YouTube channel which is available at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCecMYPWTNC-DYEbioHbBfVvA> and has had over 7,300 views already!

### 4. Admissions



We 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 for the remainder of 2021/2022, please e-mail Vice Principal Adam Smith at [adam.smith@theedgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:adam.smith@theedgeacademy.co.uk).

