

The Edge Academy

Safe, Ready, Respectful Newsletter

June 2022

I. Principal's Introduction

As always, I am delighted to introduce our latest newsletter, especially as it has been another busy and successful few months for us since our last one. We continue to work hard as a team of staff to support our students and we continue to be incredibly proud of them!

Despite all of the continuing problems posed by the Coronavirus pandemic over the course of 2021/22, we continue to be a heavily oversubscribed school for the second year in a row, and it has been pleasing to see The Edge's work recognised in a number of ways locally and nationally as well as at a number of award ceremonies.



One of the key highlights for us in the Spring Term was to see two of our Year 11 students recognised for their individual progress at school at the Joshua Ribera Awards in Central Birmingham organised by Alison Cope. We were overjoyed for both students but in truth, could have nominated many more of our Year 11 students for their awards given the positive example all 27 of them set for the rest of the school!

Having been finalists in the national PRUsAP "Staff Team of the Year" Award earlier in 2021/22, we are very honoured to have now been nominated for the finals of the Midlands Education Awards "Outstanding

Support for Students" Award which takes place at Millennium Point in July. This is a prestigious ceremony and we are very humbled to have made the final as an Alternative Provision school in a category which includes all of the region's mainstream schools and Multi-Academy trusts.

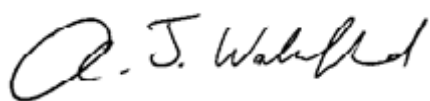


In addition to this, you may well have seen us featuring in the media talking about our "Safe, Ready, Respectful" curriculum over recent months. We made an appearance on BBC Midlands Today in February, and were also featured on Solihull Radio Station "On Your Radio" in April. Both appearances led to lots of kind words and positive feedback from our community, and we now regularly host visits to school from partner schools across the country interested in the work we do.

The hard work from us will now very much continue following the launch of our new three-year plan for "Unleashing Greatness" which we openly shared with our community at the end of the Spring Term. We have recently been awarded "Trauma Informed Attachment Aware School" status, we are working towards "Essential Skills Silver School" status, and are very proud of the fact that we consistently outperform other schools in the city in the "Gatsby Benchmark" framework based around careers and employment.

Finally, we are happy to be able to share a variety of other news items and recent photos with you from school life. Please feel free to contact me directly via e-

mail at andrew.wakefield@theedgeacademy.co.uk for any questions with which I can assist personally.



Andrew Wakefield, Principal



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 Solid Skills.

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.



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

- Continued to expand our AQA Unit Award Scheme that we launched in 2021 and have now presented over 700 certificates in that time to students who have achieved awards in “Essential Skills”. Areas certificates have been achieved in thus far include Modern Foreign Languages, ICT, Physical Education, Health and

- 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 10 Careers programme. This has already included projects at Kings Heath Park and Make UK.
- Run a writing project based on the theme of the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in partnership with Writing West Midlands and Kurly McGeachie.
- Welcomed in a variety of inspiring speakers to deliver some powerful and hard-hitting assemblies.
- Continued to run a varied “Safe, Ready, Respectful” two-hour enrichment session every single Friday for every single student.
- Run full “Cultural Capital Weeks” at the end of every single half-term since our last newsletter which featured a variety of physical and teambuilding activities as well as visits to venues such as Worcester and Habberley Valley.

3. Communication

A further reminder that we now put all letters on our website (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), Facebook (address @edgeacademynorthfield or go to website at www.facebook.com/edgeacademynorthfield), Instagram (address @theedgeacademynorthfield or go to website at 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-DYEbioHbBFvA> and has had over 8,800 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, Leamington, Sandwell and Worcestershire. If you are a senior leader

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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 .

5. Connect

In the Spring Term of 2022, we launched “Connect”, an innovative and short-term programme which helps Key Stage 3 students to connect and engage with positive learning experiences. At present, the programme is run exclusively for schools in the OAKS Network; if you are interested in more information about this strand of our work, please visit the dedicated section of our website at: <https://www.theedgeacademy.co.uk/connect/>



A “Connect” newsletter which shared some of the highlights of how our first ever cohort got on with us and then back at their mainstream schools can be found online at: <https://www.theedgeacademy.co.uk/connect-newsletter-may-2022/>. You can also keep up to date with the progress of our second cohort with our dedicated social media accounts on Twitter (address @connectedgeacad or go to website at <https://twitter.com/connectedgeacad>) and Instagram (address @connectedgeac or go to website at: <https://www.instagram.com/connectedgeac/>)





