



Connect- The Official Launch!



Last week, at a meeting of the Birmingham Sharing Panels, The Edge Academy revealed that it is now officially launching its “Connect” programme and accepting referrals for September 2022. The school has been successfully running a pilot of the scheme for the OAKS Sharing Panel over the course of the past two terms and is now expanding the initiative across the Midlands at the beginning of 2022/23.

Connect is an innovative and short-term programme run by The Edge Academy, helping Key Stage 3 students in both Year 8 and Year 9 to connect and engage with positive learning experiences. The programme consists of a blended approach of on-site provision at The Edge Academy together with outreach work in mainstream schools at the beginning and end of each placement. The Connect curriculum focuses on upskilling students around the 8 “Essential Skills” of the Skills Builder Framework.

Principal Andrew Wakefield said “We are thrilled to be growing the Connect programme and are grateful to the OAKS Sharing Panel for working with us on getting the scheme up and running earlier this year. Furthermore, we are delighted to be developing our outreach work and to be focusing on early intervention at Key Stage 3, a key local priority. We have been so enthused by this pilot that we will now be moving away from accepting long-term placements at Key Stage 3 and will be focusing all of our energies in Year 8 and 9 on Connect.

For more information about the programme, see the dedicated section of the Edge’s website at: <https://www.theedgeacademy.co.uk/connect/> as well as the official “Connect” social media feeds at <https://twitter.com/connectedgeacad> and <https://www.instagram.com/connectedgeac/> For more detail on how to make a referral, contact Vice Principal Adam Smith at: adam.smith@theedgeacademy.co.uk