

The Edge Academy

Safe, Ready, Respectful Newsletter



January 2024

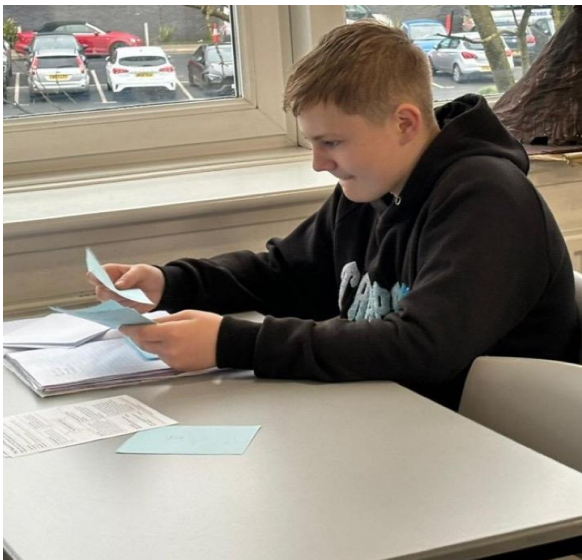
Principal's Introduction

I am extremely pleased to introduce our latest newsletter to begin the new year and reflect on the successful autumn school term.

I am both honoured and extremely proud to become the new Principal at The Edge from January 2024. The school is in a wonderfully strong and stable position as a result of the 7 years of outstanding leadership during the service of Andy Wakefield. I am sure that all our students, families and partner schools will join me in wishing Andy every success in his new role as Assistant Director of Education at The Yes Trust.

Congratulations also to Claire Fairburn and Charlotte Poynton who both take up new positions as Vice Principal at the start of the new Spring Term.

Whilst we warmly welcome back students into 2024, we do so as a heavily oversubscribed school. Even with the school growing this year to an official PAN of 70 student places compared to 64 places last academic year, we continue to see unprecedented demand for places from all areas of Birmingham, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Sandwell.



A big thank you and a heartfelt well done for last year, also, to our dedicated team of staff. The successful launch of our new staffing structure in September 2023 allowed for a huge expansion to our stable, existing staff team. This has already allowed us to reduce class sizes and broaden our curriculum offer compared to last year.

In 2024, we are committed to our core values by continuing to place children and families first. At The Edge, we are proud that our families get to know the teams who support their child well and that they are actively supported to work in partnership with professionals. We continually develop and adapt our support for each family, so that, whilst caring for their children, we also acknowledge our responsibility to listen to and understand the needs and priorities of parents and carers. We are incredibly grateful to our parents and carers for the fantastic support they continue to give us at school. It was brilliant to see so many families attending our "Fish and Chip" Parents' Evening last term: the close relationship we have with our families is so important to us and a crucial factor in the success our students achieve. This whole school community is what makes us the special place that we are.



Finally, we are happy to be able to share a variety of other news items and recent photos with you from 'Edge life'. Please feel free to contact me directly via email at adam.smith@theedgeacademy.co.uk for any questions I can assist you with personally.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Adam Smith'.

Adam Smith, Principal



National School Success

The Edge Academy is excited to announce that it has been awarded “When the Adults Change” Partner School status. This recognises the truly special culture at the school built on relational practice, emotional connections, and trauma and nurture-informed approaches to positive behaviour management.

The Edge Academy is the very first alternative provision school in the United Kingdom to achieve this distinction.



'When the Adults Change' is the brain child of the best-selling author, Paul Dix, and delivers exceptional behaviour training with leading edge thinking. Their aims are to help create significant improvements in behaviour. Their work is award-winning and used in more than 150,000 classrooms worldwide: it is based on behaviour advice that is trauma educated, attachment aware and nurture driven.

Curriculum Updates

The growth of staffing has allowed the Edge to rapidly expand its subject offer for 2023/2024. What was a GCSE/Level 2 curriculum offer of just three option subjects has now become an offer of seven option subjects, including: Sport and Fitness, Art, Media Studies, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Religious Studies, Health and Social Care and Public Services.

This offer will continue to develop and expand with each coming year. I am pleased to inform you that already we are currently in advanced plans to bring construction qualifications on site to learners at The Edge.

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

- Extended the variety of PE and “Well Being” opportunities for ALL students.

- Continued to improve our AQA Unit Award Scheme and have now presented close to 2500 certificates to students who achieved awards in “Essential Skills”. Areas that certificates have been achieved in so far include: Modern Foreign Languages, ICT, Physical Education, Health and Safety, Geography, Animal Care, Hair and Beauty, Personal Safety and Citizenship.
- Ran a successfully received “Community Cookery Masterclass” where all ingredients were provided free of charge to members of the local community. Watch out for the next one coming soon this term!
- Continued to offer a varied “Safe, Ready, Respectful” two-hour enrichment session every Friday for every student.
- Delivered full “Cultural Capital Weeks” at the end of each half-term to various and exciting places of interest harnessing new opportunities.



Communication

A further reminder that we put all letters on our website (www.theedgeacademy.co.uk) and text links to parents/carers 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 the website at www.facebook.com/edgeacademynorthfield).
- **Instagram** (address @theedgeacademynorthfield or go to the website at www.instagram.com/theedgeacademynorthfield).
- **Snapchat** (go to the website at www.snapchat.com/add/edgenorthfield).
- **LinkedIn** (go to the website at www.linkedin.com/company/the-edge-academy-northfield).
- **TikTok** (address @edgeacademynorthfield or go to the website at www.tiktok.com/@edgeacademynorthfield).
- **YouTube Channel** at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCecMYPWTNC-DYEbioHbBFvA>

Admissions

If you are a senior leader from a school in the Midlands interested in placing a student with us for the remainder of the 2023/2024 school year or booking ahead for 2024/2025, please email Adam Smith at adam.smith@theedgeacademy.co.uk



The CONNECT KS3 Short Stay Programme

The success and demand continues to increase for our innovative short-stay programme which helps Key Stage 3 students to connect and engage with positive learning experiences. The programme features a combination of on-site provision at The Edge together with outreach work from Edge staff in the mainstream school. If you are interested in further information about this area of our work, please visit the dedicated section of our website at: <https://www.theedgeacademy.co.uk/connect/>



