

The Edge Academy

Safe, Ready, Respectful Newsletter



April 2024

Principal's Introduction

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

Whilst we warmly welcome back students, we do so as a continually 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. We are extremely pleased to further share that we have been officially approved by the Department for Education to further increase our PAN to 72 student places for 2024/2025.



Our Year 11 students are now heading into the final phases of preparation for the rapidly approaching summer GCSE examinations. We are so proud of how students have worked consistently hard to get to this position and we will now collectively continue to work together in supporting them to achieve all that they truly deserve. We will be communicating clearly with families and students regarding the forthcoming Saturday revision school sessions, the extra support we can offer after the school day and which resources as best available for student use at home.

Limited Edition Place Release for 2024/2025

As we continue to see school requests for new student places on a weekly basis from new and existing schools

located across the Midlands, we expect all of our Year 10 placements for 2024/2025 to be filled before September 2024.

We are, therefore, now releasing limited edition Year 9 long-term placements to begin fulltime in the week commencing June 24th 2024. Partner schools will have the chance to sign up in advance so that their students do not miss out.

More importantly, this will also allow the current Year 9 students to complete the **final FIVE weeks** of the academic year with us (ending Friday 26th July 2024) so that they are fully inducted and settled ahead of the start of their Key Stage 4 provision in September 2024.

All students will start on site from Monday 24th June. This package will be limited to 20 student places.



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



The Edge Academy and Solid Skills Learning Create a New Working Partnership for Vocational Learning Opportunities

The Edge Academy is excited to announce its new formal partnership with Solid Skills Learning: a leading, vocational, alternative training provider in South Birmingham that specialises in construction. The two providers have operated on an informal basis on separate sites in Northfield and Longbridge for nearly 10 years.

The redevelopment of school space, along with the redeployment of resources, has allowed Solid Skills Learning to relocate from its previous Longbridge site to be part of the wider Edge Academy team. Whilst operating as its own independent provider, but utilising the shared facilities and training opportunities at the Edge Academy, this move will expand the opportunities for a greater number of the young people of South Birmingham and its secondary schools.



The construction-based provider offers learners tasters in four vocational areas: bricklaying, carpentry, plastering and rendering. Suitable progression routes for Year 11 learners are focused upon as Solid Skills continuously prepares Year 11 learners for their eventual exit into Post-16 learning and apprenticeships. This partnership will allow the students of the Edge to gain valuable vocational experiences and qualifications within their curriculum.

The school Principal, Adam Smith, said: "The opportunity to expand our curriculum offer for the young people we serve on roll at The Edge, whilst also increasing the opportunities for other students in the wider community, is exactly what the Edge exists for. The chance to work closely and in partnership with Dean and the team is a perfect match. We know we are stronger as a school for working with Solid Skills and recognise that Solid Skills can be even stronger for working with ourselves at The Edge."

Dean West, Manager, said: "For Solid Skills, the chance to 'co-exist' with The Edge Academy, will undoubtedly provide many young people with exciting new opportunities and enhanced Post-16 decisions. This will give learners the confidence and experience to progress smoothly. We, at Solid Skills, are highly confident that this partnership will grow to a school like none before. We share a common view that we will be stronger together."

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.

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

- Continued to improve our AQA Unit Award Scheme and have now presented over 1000 certificates this academic year 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.
- 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.theedgeacaemy.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/>







