

# The Edge Academy

## Safe, Ready, Respectful Newsletter



### September 2024

#### Principal's Introduction

I am extremely pleased to introduce our latest newsletter to begin the new school year and to reflect on the successful Year 11 summer examination performances.



This year saw the first outcomes for students from our new expanded curriculum model that was launched in September 2023, offering students a much broader choice of option subjects and learning opportunities. Initial analysis of the results shows that we have continued what is a now a seven-year upward trend of sustained improvement and that:

> The exam results are once again the best the school has ever achieved in terms of attainment since it opened in 2015. This is particularly pleasing given that we were heavily oversubscribed in 2023/24, significantly expanding our number of Year 11 student places.

> Students had the widest range of Level 2/ GCSE options to choose from: Media Studies, Protective and Uniformed Services, Sport and Fitness, Art, Religious Studies, Biology, Construction, Food Preparation and Nutrition; core subjects: English Language, English Literature, Maths and Physics.

> Students achieved the highest number of level 5 - 8 qualifications ever in English Language, English Literature, Maths, Religious Studies and Media Studies.

> The majority of Year 11 students achieved at least 6 Level 2/ GCSE qualifications

> We saw 100% Level 2 pass rates in GCSEs Art, Media Studies, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Biology and Protective and Uniformed Services.

A special mention must also go to our Year 10 students. As part of our new curriculum model, students in Year 10 had the opportunity to complete three Level 2/ GCSE qualifications. This means that these students move forward in to Year 11 next year with a number of qualifications already secured.

#### Staffing Updates

At the end of the summer term, we sadly said farewell to Claire Fairburn and Karen O'Donovan as they left to take up fresh challenges in new roles. Claire Fairburn joined us in September 2018 as Senior Assistant Principal and has been instrumental in our Quality of Education growth and development. I would like to place on record my sincere and heartfelt gratitude for her unrelenting passion in these past 6 years. We all truly wish her the very best in her new position as Director of Alternative Provision and School Improvement Advisor with The Mercian Trust.

Karen O'Donovan started with us in September 2023 and brought a brand-new input and positivity to our science subject area.

I would like to introduce and warmly welcome three new additions to the Edge family for this academic year. We are excited that Stephanie Povey joins us as Assistant Principal and Lead Teacher for English.

Tracey Selvester also joins us as Teaching Assistant to further enhance our strong intervention team.

Nicole Harper will be joining us as Lead Teacher of Science from October half-term to help further grow our flourishing Science department.

Lastly, students will already be familiar with current intervention staff member, Joey Harvey. However, this year Joey will have a new role as Teacher of Science.

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](mailto:adam.smith@theedgeacademy.co.uk) for any questions I can assist you with p

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

Adam Smith, Principal



## Our First Ever Adventure Activity Residential

In June 2024, ten of our Year 10 students participated in our first ever adventure activity overnight residential trip.

Six male students and four female students travelled to Croft Farm Water Park near Tewkesbury, Worcestershire. All students took a full and active role participating in the activities, where many students experienced water sports for the very first time.



On day 1, kayaking and stand up paddleboarding were on the menu. Plenty of fun, laughter and capsizing were part of the session learning new skills and trying new activities.

The hard work of the day was then followed by a lovely evening meal on the lake edge before enjoying 'smores' around the camp fire into the night.



On day 2, students were split in to two groups to build their own rafts to carry then over the lake. Using only the supplied basic materials, some expert advice from the instructor and plenty of team work, problem solving and cooperation – all students were successful. Although

many did get very wet in the process.

All the young men and women on the trip were amazing and represented themselves and The Edge wonderfully.



## Curriculum Updates

The growth of staffing has allowed the Edge to expand its subject offer for the second consecutive year for 2024/2025. What was a GCSE/Level 2 curriculum offer of just three option subjects in 2023 has now become an offer of EIGHT different option subjects, including: Sport and Fitness, Art, Sociology, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Religious Studies, Hair and Beauty, Public Services and Construction.

Other curriculum highlights for 2024/2025 include:

- Continued growth to our AQA Unit Award Scheme and we presented over 2500 certificates during the 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 commitment to offer a varied "Safe, Ready, Respectful" two-hour enrichment session every Friday for every single student.
- Delivery of full "Cultural Capital Weeks" at the end of each half-term to varied and exciting places of interest harnessing new opportunities.
- Our new formal partnership with Solid Skills Learning: a leading, vocational, alternative training provider in South Birmingham that specialises in construction, utilising the shared facilities at The Edge Academy.

## Communication

A further reminder that we put all letters on our website ([www.theedgeacademy.co.uk](http://www.theedgeacademy.co.uk)) and text links to parents/carers each time this happens. We also post reminders on:

- **(X) (formerly Twitter)** (address @edgenorthfield or go to website at [www.twitter.com/edgenorthfield](http://www.twitter.com/edgenorthfield)).
- **Facebook** (address @edgeacademynorthfield or go to the website at [www.facebook.com/edgeacademynorthfield](http://www.facebook.com/edgeacademynorthfield)).
- **Instagram** (address @theedgeacademynorthfield or go to the website at [www.instagram.com/theedgeacademynorthfield](http://www.instagram.com/theedgeacademynorthfield)).
- **Snapchat** (go to the website at [www.snapchat.com/add/edgenorthfield](http://www.snapchat.com/add/edgenorthfield)).
- **Linkedin** (go to the website at [www.linkedin.com/company/the-edge-academy-northfield](http://www.linkedin.com/company/the-edge-academy-northfield)).
- **TikTok** (address @edgeacademynorthfield or go to the website at [www.tiktok.com/@edgeacademynorthfield](http://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](mailto: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/>







