



**The Edge Academy
An Alternative Provision
Free School**

Headteachers in South West Birmingham are today delighted with the news that their application set up an Alternative Provision Free School, The Edge Academy, has been approved by the Department for Education.

The Edge Academy will cater for up to 140 full time, part time or dual registered young people aged between 11 and 16 who are struggling to cope with mainstream education. These will include some of the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and disenfranchised young people and young adults in society.

The Edge Academy will sit within the wider network of Edge schools which have formed a charitable trust to oversee the academy. This includes a wide range of supporters including Birmingham City Football Club Community Director Dean Holtham and Local Councillor Jess Phillips.

The project is a collaboration of five mainstream secondary schools and one academy which currently operate a highly effective Sharing Panel, rated by HMI as one of the best nationally. These schools include:

- Colmers School
- Four Dwellings Academy
- Lordswood Girls' School
- Turves Green Boys' School
- Turves Green Girls' School
- Shenley Academy

Richard Crookes, Headteacher at Turves Green Girls' School said: "The Edge Academy will support young people who are struggling with education to take control of their lives, develop the range of academic, vocational and life skills required in today's complex world and help them to make the most of the opportunities available to them."

Mrs. Ruth Harker, Principal of Shenley Academy and Chair of The Sharing Panel, said: "The Edge Academy will have the freedom to design an innovative curriculum with personalised arrangements to meet the needs of vulnerable students. It will provide a high quality learning experience to engage learners at risk of exclusion from schools to improve their academic success and life chances. This is an opportunity to combine academic rigor with emotional and social support for young people."

In an environment where there are only 120 full time equivalent places The Edge Academy will be able to offer class sizes with no more than ten young people so we will be able to help young people to take increasing responsibility for their activities, their learning, themselves and each other; thus developing the skills needed to succeed. As well as a core curriculum, which will include Maths, English, Science and IT, the academy will offer a range of vocational subjects. Students will benefit from the academy's partnership with high quality providers such as Southside and Bournville College.

Work will now begin to get the ready for its opening in September 2015

Further Information

The Edge Group of schools includes:

- Colmers School
- Four Dwellings Academy
- King Edwards Five Ways
- Lordswood Girls' School
- Shenley Academy
- Turves green Boys' School
- Turves Green Girls' School
- The Elmhurst School for Dance
- Baskerville Special School
- Hunters Hill School
- Victoria Special School

Richard Crooks Headteacher at Turves Green Girls' School is the Chair of The Edge; Ruth Harker, Principal at Shenley Academy is Chair of The Sharing Panel.