



March 2016

## **'The Edge' for year 7 students**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to inform you that St Edmund's School is offering your daughter the opportunity to embark on an innovative scheme called 'The Edge'.

The scheme is intended, over time, to develop and accredit the life skills and attributes that employers are telling us they need – leadership, organisation, initiative, resilience and communication. Students will gain a qualification that is supported by industry, which runs alongside their academic successes and recognises what they can do as well as what they know.

In order to gain the qualification at "Apprentice", "Graduate" or "Masters" level, students need to complete a range of activities from an approved list. The activities can be many and varied and can be undertaken in normal lessons, in extra-curricular clubs or outside of school. The qualification will recognise activities that students may have already completed as well as motivate students to seek other activities to further develop the key attributes. The qualification also requires students to reflect on what they have achieved and how each attribute can support success.

We conducted a pilot with a year 8 and year 11 tutor group and were immensely proud of their commitment and success. The year 11 students reported that they had increased confidence during college interviews because they were able to demonstrate real evidence of these attributes and articulate how they have helped them to develop. Year 8 students reported that they felt engaging with the scheme motivated them to seek new opportunities to develop the attributes and to work with a wider range of students.

Progress on the scheme will be managed by students themselves using a specially designed on-line application, with tutors and Heads of House providing an oversight and awarding credits towards achieving the qualification. Students have a dedicated fortnightly tutor time session for reflection and discussion on their progress. As students make progress they will have an opportunity to become ambassadors and mentor younger students on the scheme.

Your daughter is being introduced to 'The Edge' in her PSHE lessons. In these lessons they have been exploring the five key attributes and the benefits of developing them for future opportunities. We hope that you will support and encourage your daughter to gain this qualification. Further information can be found on the school website. I will also be leading an assembly with students currently completing the qualification early next term.

We believe that 'The Edge' provides a real opportunity for students at St Edmund's School to build their confidence through activities that focus on developing the attributes and seeking new opportunities to engage with their community. Of course this programme will be of benefit in the future as they apply to colleges, universities and for positions of employment.

Yours sincerely

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Raising Standards Leader for 'The Edge'.  
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