



There are many paths to success



Edge is an independent education foundation. It is dedicated to raising the status of practical and vocational learning, so that all young people have the opportunity to achieve their potential, and the UK's future workforce is equipped with the skills to be successful in the modern economy. Edge believes that 'learning by doing' should be valued equally with academic learning, and that there are many paths to success. To find out more and get involved visit www.edge.co.uk

Edge launched the Six Steps to Change Manifesto in January 2009, proposing a series of six policy steps to raise the status of practical and vocational learning in the UK. The Six Steps continue to be at the core of our message, projects and partnerships.

Step 1 – Ensure all young people learn the skills they need for life and work

Step 2 – Replace SATs with individual student profiles

Step 3 – At 14 let students choose a pathway which matches their aspirations

Step 4 – Ensure educational excellence in all vocational courses

Step 5 – Allow students to specialise or change pathways at 16

Step 6 – Vocational degrees endorsed by employers

We want young people to have experience of high quality practical learning to enable them to develop the skills needed for success at work in a wide range of careers.

That's why we're sponsoring this year's AoC Beacon Award for Practical Teaching and Practical Learning.

Further education - serving the needs of a better society and strong economy



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The Edge Award for Practical Teaching and Practical Learning

Edge wants to recognise, celebrate and promote examples of excellent practical teaching and learning. We believe that practical and vocational learning is vital to young people and the UK economy and that this pathway should be given equal status to academic routes.

We invite entries for this Award from Colleges which have developed practical teaching and learning approaches that enable learners to have experiences that are:

- **Real** – with opportunities for learners to tackle real life problems by learning from people in the know, using the tools of the trade
- **Meaningful** – the College can demonstrate that learners can explain why they are working on a particular task, and the benefits to themselves, and others, of completing it well
- **Challenging** – with opportunities for learners to work alongside experts and be challenged to perform at new levels of skill
- **Stretching** – the College can demonstrate that the learner can describe their new skills and insights and show the distance they have travelled
- **Life-changing** – the College can demonstrate the doors that are now open to learners and the way that their learning at the College has re-shaped their future.