The 6 Distinctive Features of the Leading Edge Curriculum
We are Leading Edge

- Conceptual
- Disciplinary
- Adventurous often outdoors
- Teaching for Mastery using SOLO
- Project based learning
- Quadmesterly/common learning cycles
Shared vision and mission

• A Leading Edge curriculum benchmarks against world class standards to set the highest goals (HPL Framework and Ofsted Outstanding)

• The curriculum encourages learners to think and act as responsible global and local citizens with great outcomes that are beyond normal expectations (top 10% nationally and UN Global Goals)

• Our shared cross-curricular skills and attitudes include creativity, collaboration and curiosity

• Leading Edge learners are encouraged to find their element by exploring their passions and develop talents so that they have a zest for life and learning (eg Ken Robinson Finding Your Element, Ted Talks)
1) We are conceptual, connected and creative curriculum designers
2) We value traditional subject disciplines

- **In mathematics and statistics**, students explore relationships in quantities, space, and data and learn to express these relationships in ways that help them to make sense of the world around them.

- **In science**, students explore how both the natural physical world and science itself work so that they can participate as critical, informed, and responsible citizens in a society in which science plays a significant role.

- **In the social sciences**, students explore how societies work and how they themselves can participate and take action as critical, informed, and responsible citizens.

- **In technology**, students learn to be innovative developers of products and systems and discerning consumers who will make a difference in the world.

- **In English**, students study, use, and enjoy language and literature communicated orally, visually, or in writing.

- **In the arts**, students explore, refine, and communicate ideas as they connect thinking, imagination, senses, and feelings to create works and respond to the works of others.

- **In health and physical education**, students learn about their own well-being, and that of others and society, in health-related and movement contexts.

- **In learning languages**, students learn to communicate in an additional language, develop their capacity to learn further languages, and explore different world views in relation to their own.
3) We plan adventurous learning often using outdoors.

The comfort zone is the great enemy to creativity; moving beyond it necessitates intuition, which in turn configures new perspectives and conquers fears.

- Dan Stevens

Diagram:

- Comfort Zone: Feel safe and in control, lack self-confidence, be affected by others' opinions
- Fear Zone: Fine excuses
- Learning Zone: Acquire new skills, extend your comfort zone
- Growth Zone: Set new goals, find purpose, deal with challenges and problems, live dreams, conquer objectives
4) We use “Mastery Learning” (no ability sets/teach to the top)
5) We are experts at Project Based Learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTS</th>
<th>VS</th>
<th>PROJECT-BASED LEARNING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can be done alone</td>
<td></td>
<td>Requires collaboration &amp; teacher guidance</td>
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<tr>
<td>About the product</td>
<td></td>
<td>About the process</td>
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<td>Teacher-directed</td>
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<td>Student-directed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack real-world context</td>
<td></td>
<td>Based on real world experiences/problems</td>
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<td>Occur after the “real” learning</td>
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<td>Real learning occurs through the project</td>
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<td>All projects have the same goal</td>
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<td>Student choices to determine the outcome</td>
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6) We plan using Quadmester/Termly Learning Cycles
The 6 Es/Values of Leading Edge Academies

• Equity - Social justice, no ability groups, multiple perspectives, Diversity Awards

• Excellence - Growth Mindset, High Performance Learning, “O” benchmarking

• Empathy - Restorative Practices, Trauma Informed Schools

• Endurance - Goal setting, outdoor and adventurous learning, positive learning mindsets

• Evolution - levels of school colours, badges, awards, Duke of Edinburgh, Arts Awards

• Ethical (including Ecological) - Values Based Education Award, John Muir Award

• All the values are explicitly infused in all the planned curriculum provision produced by Trust Academies and communicated in key documentation and postings online and in print