

# FoQus

## Review of Summer 2016



ACADEMY

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# A Message from the Chief Executive



As we start the new academic year I am privileged to be leading the newly formed Q3 Academies Trust. I am passionate about quality education and it is an honour to be

able to spread our work more widely across Sandwell with the opening of Q3 Academy Langley.

Both of our schools have one simple mission – to give our students the best education possible, enabling them to become men and women with integrity, a strong moral purpose, and high aspirations, who will live their lives to the full and play their part in making our society stronger.

The heart of our work is underpinned by traditional Christian values, supporting our students to learn and grow in an environment where honesty, character and fair play are valued. We expect the best of behaviour – respect to fellow students and staff, courtesy and good manners.

While there is much to celebrate in the Q3 Trust, we will always guard against any sense of complacency by ensuring excellence is spread across all aspects of our work. We all remember great teachers and no other

profession has the power to transform lives; Q3 is fortunate to have a team of teachers and associate staff who 'go the extra mile and more' to challenge for the best and open up opportunities for our young people.

I look forward to working with you as we take up the challenge of a growing Multi-Academy Trust ready to cement our place on the educational landscape.

Best wishes,

**Dr Caroline Badyal**  
Chief Executive  
Q3 Academies Trust



# Messages from our Heads of Schools



I am thrilled to begin the year as Head of School. Although a late starter to teaching I have worked in a wide range of schools in the West Midlands for over twenty years and I

am delighted to be leading Q3 Great Barr; it really is a very special community.

The new school year is an exciting time for all the school community. Shoes are polished, uniforms pressed and new exercise books are all neat and tidy as students embark on the next year of their academic life with some just starting and others entering their final year at secondary school. We wish them all very well.

Naturally it's an exciting time for students, families and staff alike and at Q3 and we are especially pleased to welcome 215 Year 7 students. We recognise that starting a new school can be an unsettling time for students and families and we understand that only when students feel safe and comfortable are they ready to learn. All schools should be committed to high standards and academic achievement. My challenge to my staff is that if only what we provide is good enough for their own children is it good enough for yours and I'm proud to say this commitment

to care, coupled with high academic ambition is helping all our young people to succeed. This year we had our highest number of A\* grades at GCSE and 'A' Level.

However, academic success is only part of what makes a good education. Our passion is helping young people to become confident capable adults ready for the world ahead.

We want our students to return home telling their families of the memorable exciting learning experiences they have enjoyed. Experiences that make it easier to recall the detail necessary for exam success and experiences that develop their character as much as their academic potential.

We all want the best outcomes for our children and families often ask me how they can support their child. For me the simplest, but sometimes most difficult advice is to get your child to talk about their learning. I know how hard this can be. When I ask my children about school it goes something like this, 'How was school?' 'Good thanks, Dad.' 'What did you do?' 'I can't remember'. But dig deeper and I get a real sense of what they've been learning and if they can explain to me I know it helps them to understand it better. As someone once said on an advert some years ago 'It's good to talk.' The next battle is to get both my children away from social media and games – it'll soon be time to turn the wi-fi off again!

Wherever your child is at school and whatever the range of subjects they study, confident successful learners and young adults begin with feeling happy and listened to and that's what we at Q3, in both our academies, are committed to as we help families watch their children flourish.

**Mr Mark Arnull**

Head of School  
Q3 Academy Great Barr



I am incredibly honoured to have been appointed the first Head of School at Q3 Langley and along with my dedicated and committed team of staff we will ensure that all students feel safe and excited as they embark on their secondary education with us.

Our transition curriculum ensures that all students achieve their potential and feel right at home at secondary school straight away. We have outstanding teachers and utilising the knowledge and skills from our experience at Q3 Great Barr, we are confident that we will deliver an outstanding learning experience.

Our innovative timetable including the bespoke Horizon curriculum, Family Breakfast and Lunch, Company system and our Wednesday afternoon enrichment offer is unique and sets us apart from other schools both locally and nationally. We are delighted that the close relationship with Q3 Great Barr will benefit our students and add strength to both organisations as we begin to grow to a fully functioning Academy by 2022.

**Mr Peter Lee**

Head of School  
Q3 Academy Langley



# SIXTH FORM

## Appointment of an Academic Ambassador

We are delighted to welcome Miss Ahmed to the Sixth Form team. This will allow us to support students as they make the transition from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5. In addition, Miss Ahmed will be able to assist students by giving support and guidance on all aspects of Sixth Form life. Miss Ahmed will also work closely with the Sixth Form team in the UCAS process. Students have already started to meet her to discuss their progress this year and plans for the year ahead.

Help and advice on the UCAS process can be found on the website [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com).

## Leavers' Tea Party

Students attended the leavers' Tea Party in June, which is our annual event to say goodbye and to share memories.



The students had an opportunity to chat together over refreshments of scones, cream and strawberry jam. This was then followed by an assembly in which students were presented with awards and slides of photographs of their time spent at the Academy. It was a very memorable occasion not only for the students, but the staff as well.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students who have left us this year all the best for their future studies.

*Sixth Form article by Mrs V Noakes*

# JETs Update *by Chloe (Year 13)*



The Junior Executive Team (JETs) are responsible for improving student welfare inside the Academy, introducing new ideas to help Q3 become an even more accessible and fun environment, through our charity fundraising days. We also help run events outside of the Academy day as hosts and student representatives. Since September, our time as a team in this capacity has helped us develop new skills including event managing and has also brought with it many fun memories.

"As the environment JET my role is to make sure the general Q3 environment works well and to find new ways to improve it for the student body. Recently I have been designing and running a whole Academy garden competition to gain the students input into the new Q3 memorial/ reflection garden we are in the process of creating." - Simran, Environment.

"I helped Mr Mills to arrange the EU Referendum vote which took place in the Academy on Thursday 23rd June. This gave the students the opportunity to vote for or against leaving the EU. I have also been, with the other JETs, helping out with charity events throughout the Academy." - Luka, Enterprise.

The Charity and Leadership Development JETs at Q3 are Megann and Chloe. "We have been working together to fundraise for the peace garden, selling raffle tickets and organising the Sixth Form Charity Day in July."

"I have been working to coordinate the JETs with senior leadership and helped in fundraising efforts, in addition to efforts in rebooting the Diary Room for student use." - Lewis, Student Voice.





# Bright Stars *by Miss M Samuel*

On Wednesday 22nd June, Q3 hosted our annual Bright Stars Awards evening, highlighting the hard work and dedication demonstrated by our students across the academic year, along with our special guest, Mat Gibson.



The evening celebrated students' successes from different subjects as well as key stages, with students nominated by the teachers for their achievements and commitment to their studies. In addition, students were also nominated for the Special Awards for a range of noteworthy accomplishments. Well done to the individuals listed below who received the Bright Stars Special Awards:

**The Rotary Club Award for Services to the Community:** Jack

**The Robert Walsh Attendance Award:** Charlotte

**The Creative Writing Trophy:** Kimberleigh

**The Mike Hails Business & Enterprise Award:** Karan

**The Dr. Roy Award for Services to the Academy:** Lewis

**The Sponsor's Award:** Ché

**The Dave Lomax Award:** Emily



Between the presentation of the awards, we had musical performances from a variety of Y9 students as well as a guest speech from our special guest Mat Gibson – brother of our very own Mrs Noakes!



Mat is an ex student of St Margaret's School and Dartmouth High School and has continued to support Q3 Academy in careers lessons and at the Sponsor's dinner.

Upon starting his working career at Lloyds Bank in 1989, Mat quickly realised he had a flair for customer service and sales. In 1996, Mat started his recruitment career at Adecco. Two years later, he moved to a smaller independent agency as the Senior Permanent Consultant. He then moved on to Hunter Appointments in 2002 specialising in the fenestration sector.

In 2012 from a single roomed office, Mat started Chase Taylor with a vision to build one of the largest agencies in the fenestration industry. To date the business has grown rapidly and enjoyed

enormous success both in the UK and abroad, most notably successful for recruiting the Business Head of India's largest window fabricator. Mat is a great role model to our students and the perfect example of how hard work pays off.

Overall, the evening was a great success, with our students and families celebrating the amazing achievements of our remarkable Bright Stars.





**ARMY  
CADETS**   
**GOING FURTHER**

June and July is the busiest time of year for our cadets, with annual camp and competing in a variety of competitions the cadets at the detachment are working hard to progress through their star levels.

Our very own James (Year 11) was promoted to Cadet Corporal in June and represented the County in the "Brigade Skill At Arms Meet" where the team placed second in the "Falling Plates" shooting competition.

A pre-annual camp was held at Cannock Chase where the last of the weapon handling tests were performed. As the last of the tests were completed, it was very clear that the adult instructors had been secretly setting up their own test for the cadets...an inflatable obstacle course! This only became obvious when the company formed up on parade and the course was met with great enthusiasm by the Cadets.

If you are interested in joining you must be in at least Year 8 and under 18 years old, we parade on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7pm till 9pm. - *Mrs C Wilde*



# I'm a Scientist, get me out of here!

On Tuesday 21st June a class of Year 8 students had the exciting opportunity to speak with real scientists via a live web chat organised by 'I'm a Scientist, get me out of here!'.

Students spoke to scientists from as far away as Canada about their work with bacteria, viruses, and antibiotics; everything from how they were changing the world of science to their favourite meal. Some of the best questions asked were "Should I be concerned about antibiotic resistance?"; "What would the world be like if antibiotics didn't cure illnesses?" and "What advice do you have for future scientists?"

The whole experience provided the class with the opportunity to see that scientists are normal people, learn that science lessons relate to real life and inspire future careers in science.



After every event the scientists and moderators decide which student they think has engaged really well in each zone, I'm pleased to say that the student they selected was Cameron (Year 8), who is in Arts Company. This is a fantastic achievement, well done Cameron. - Miss H Perry





# Student Achievements



## Zara (Year 8)

Zara has been learning the piano for a number of years. She has recently passed both her level 2 practical and theory and is working towards her level 3.

"I have the passion for playing the piano as I like the challenge of playing new pieces"

With any musical instrument, it needs a great deal of commitment, time and effort to combine this with her academic studies which is even more of an achievement.

Well done, Zara.

## Sophie (Year 10)

Sophie has recently been selected to travel to Denmark to represent the UK Girl Guides. 40,000 participants will attend the Jamboree from all over the world and will be camping there for a whole week. In order to attend this special event Sophie needs to raise £2500 for travel and equipment so will be partaking in lots of fundraising in the coming months. It is such an honour to be chosen and we are so very proud of Sophie and all that she does.





### **Regan (Year 11)**

Regan is a keen archer and regularly attends an archery club where he trains and practises his skills. He has been participating in archery for over a year and developed his skills enough to be entered into an archery competition. Regan managed to come second in the competition and was extremely proud of his achievements. Well done Regan!

### **Georgia (Year 10) and Thomas (Year 8)**

Georgia and Thomas have achieved their Junior Black Belt in kick-boxing. This is a major achievement for both students who have been committed to the sport for over 6 years.

In order to achieve the belt Georgia and Thomas had to attend three all day courses where they were taught the requirements. This was then followed by a 4 hour grading.

Georgia said she felt 'over joyed' at her achievement but is glad the intense training is over.



### **Mitchell (Year 8)**

Recently as one of the tutor activities, entitled 'volunteering and giving back', Mitchell has already done some voluntary work when he worked for 2 days at the Beaudesert Camp Site in Cannock. "I enjoyed helping out and offering advice to visitors for example with any equipment they needed".

It is so nice to hear of one of our students giving some of their time freely for the benefit of others. Well done Mitchell.

### **Jessica (Year 8)**

Jessica has had a very successful year in her sporting activities, mainly in athletics. Her accolades keep on building, with her skills and abilities going from strength to strength. Jess was selected to represent Sandwell at the Black Country Games and managed to come second with a silver medal in the 800m.

Additionally, Jess has been selected for county and now represents Tipton at Tipton Leisure Centre, where she trains three times a week. She has now been selected for the 1200m event for a competition against other counties. I am sure that if Jess continues with her commitment and hard work, she will be extremely successful in the future!



### **Katie (Year 9)**

Katie is a talented young lady who is taking the Company by storm this year displaying Cheerleading skills. This year she took part in and went on to win the Welsh National Cheerleading Championship with her club Twist Xtreme thus making them National Champions, along with them impressively winning a bid to compete at an International Summit.



### **A very musical family!**

Members of the same family are making waves in music at Q3 Academy. Pictured left to right – Jamie (Year 9) and Katie (Year 7) are currently working towards Grade 4, whilst David (Year 8) is currently working towards Grade 3 having passed Grades 1 and 2 with Distinction. The young musicians all play regularly in the Sandwell Concert and Intermediate Brass Bands and collectively are an upcoming talent to be proud of.

This is a family who hit the right notes across the board, and not just when they have their instruments. You would be hard pressed to find a student or teacher in the Academy who can recollect a negative experience with these students. All three of them are hard-working, diligent and focused students, as well as being musically gifted. Both Jamie and David have chosen GCSE Music, and with the support of Ms Baines are continuing to work and play hard in their Pursuit of Excellence in one of their favourite subjects.



### **Ellie and Tayla (Year 7)**

"Our names are Ellie and Tayla we are both in Year 7 Arts. We attend a group called Mini Shakerz managed by Cre-8 Dance at Yew Tree Community Centre. On Sunday 22nd of May we competed in a Street Dance International competition. Overall we came 1st in our groups and 5th in our pairs. In the future we are planning on opening our own dance groups and plan to choreograph the dances ourselves. Coming first made us feel wonderful, fantastic and very proud".

### Ellie (Year 9)

Ellie is proving to be a star performer not only in school while shining as a Bright Star winner but also on the running track. Ellie's fast feet have propelled her to a 200m victory in the Sandwell Valley Athletics Championship where she easily beat the competition. Ellie is certainly one to watch and we look forward to seeing her sporting achievements in the future.



### Lydia (Year 8)

Lydia is another one of our dancing success stories. She has been going to the Arabesque Dance Academy in Great Barr for 9 years. On the 7th February Lydia achieved a distinction in her Grade 3 Tap exam. She is now working towards her grade 4 and we wish her every success with this.

When asked what she enjoys most about dancing she says it is the sound of the shoes when she is performing. When she is older Lydia is hoping to be a Dance Teacher.





## Chloe (Year 13)

"On the 19th June, I completed a Sky Dive from 13,000 feet in order to raise money for Teens Unite, a teenage cancer charity. To date, I have raised over £670, with the help of friends and family. Charity work is very significant to me because I think it is important to remember that there is always someone worse off than yourself and to recognise that you can do something to help. Cancer touches many people's lives and I am humbled to be able to help those people that need it most".

From the next issue of FoQus onwards, Q3 Academy students will be given the opportunity to express their opinions and share their passions with the wider Q3 community in a new section of the magazine: Student Voice.

Whether you love language or literature, have a interest for ICT or illustration, a passion for politics or physics or a fascination for film or food, we want to hear from you!

Details will become available soon. For now though, here is a sample of what to expect from Ché in Year 8, who has a real enthusiasm for robotics.

"Hi my name is Ché and my friend Vigash and I have a passion for robotics.

We believe robotics can be a solution to many everyday problems - everything from household chores to changing the lives of those with disabilities. However, the formation of opinions based on the media and of what we find on the supermarket shelf could be hindering progress and the potential of these much misunderstood machines...."

**Watch this space!**





# Q3's Strictly Come Dancing *by Mrs S May*

Staff from Q3 Academy swapped whiteboards, books and pens for sequins and glitter balls when they took part in Q3's version of Strictly Come Dancing.

On 30th June, 8 couples took to the floor, showing off their talents for the Waltz and Cha Cha in front of a team of expert judges.

Staff had been practising for over 5 months in order to perfect their dances. Students provided support both behind the scenes helping with the production of the event, as

well as giving rousing musical performances on the night.

The winning couple, Mr Machin and Mrs Carrick, performed a very elegant Waltz and then an upbeat Cha Cha to the tune of Lunchmoney Lewis' track - Bills.

A great night was had by all with over 180 tickets sold. The event raised over £800 for the Zoe Shapiro Memorial Fund, the Grace Payne Centre for Student Development and PACT.







Photos by Mr I Garfield

# Transition Week *by Miss Callaghan*

Transition week took place between Monday 25th July and Thursday 28th July when students participated in a range of activities.

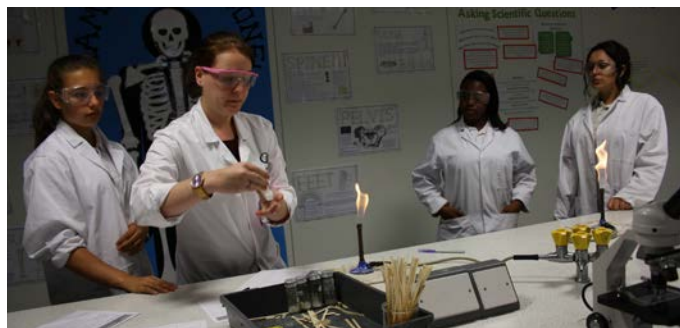
All of our Year 7 students were given the opportunity to spend a day at the seaside in Weston-Super-Mare which forms part of the Year 7 Passport scheme. Thankfully the sun shone and all students and staff had a fabulous time on the beach. Back in the Academy students enjoyed a rotation of design and PE activities.



Our Year 8 students started the week either on the Paris trip or participating in a variety of SMSC sessions. One of these included a fantastic drama production which highlighted the dangers of social media and sexual exploitation. The students also received taster sessions of their chosen GCSE and

**19** BTEC courses.

Year 9 students experienced an Army style day where a variety of sessions, such as paint ball, were run by our local Army Cadets Force (ACF). Other activities included a murder mystery themed day which involved developing students' English, Maths and Science skills.



Sixth form students enjoyed a mixture of university sessions run by University of Birmingham, Birmingham City University and Coventry University and covered topics such as finance and student life. They also took part in a rotation of holistic and wellbeing workshops such as aromatherapy, yoga, dance, mindfulness and empowerment.



The week ended with a Holistic day where students spent the day in their tutor groups. This was an opportunity for our new Year 7





students to get to know their fellow tutees. All students took part in activities which were run by Albion Foundation, Sandwell Deaf Foundation, The Wellbeing Crew, Bezerkaz Circus and Trapped Stars. Many thanks to all these organisations for running some fantastic team building sessions.

## A peek into the future

This year we were privileged to have had one Year 6 student come to Q3 Academy for an early transition. Raphael, from Yew Tree Primary School, spent some time at his new Academy back in July while still in Year 6. He has now settled into Communications Company, but we took the opportunity to get an insight into what the transition to secondary is like for our new students.

### ***What is your favourite thing about your primary school?***

*"My favourite thing is working hard and having fun. I have learned a lot of things and I enjoy having fun and being with my friends."*

### **What are your hobbies?**

*"My hobbies are mainly sports, I really love sports. I like to go out and skateboard or play football with friends. I really like rapping as well; I like to write my own lyrics."*

### **How do you feel about the Company that you will be in next year?**

*"I am so happy about being in Communications. Mr Bailey is my PLD and he has really looked after me in my early transition week. He is fun, but he has very high expectations of me and all the students in Communications Company. Mr Price is my tutor and he has told me already that he expects me to do my best all the time."*

### **Is there anything else you would like to say?**

*"If any of the other new Year 7 students are reading this, I want you to know that Q3 is great, and I can't wait to meet you."*

### **How has your early transition been?**

*My early transition has been amazing! I have written poetry, done some maths, science and business work and been into Q3 Academy lessons. I even got to run in the Year 7 relay team for Communications at Sports Day."*





# Sport Sideline

## **Sandwell Schools Athletics Championship** *by Mr C Bailey*

Following the successes of Q3 Academy at the Sandwell Indoor Athletics Championships earlier this year, we took our Year 7, 8 and 9 athletes to compete in the Sandwell Summer Athletics Tournament at Tipton Sports Academy. Mr Bailey and Miss Burgess have taken a large number of students from Years 7 – 9, over a number of weeks to compete in wide range of athletics activities, with all of the secondary schools and academies in Sandwell invited to compete.

The students conducted themselves amazingly well, demonstrating perfect behaviour and a team ethos that the members of staff involved are very proud of. Along with this ongoing league, we have taken part in a Year 7 sports festival and been selected to represent the whole of Sandwell in the Black Country School Games.

In the Black Country School Games our team performed amazingly well, with our Year 8 girls winning the overall bronze medal. Some particularly good performances this year have come from some of our Year 7 students, 3 of whom have not only dominated their own age group, but also competed extremely well as part of the Year 8 team. Jessica, Tyler and Ché have shown themselves to be very talented athletes and we look forward to seeing them flourish.





## Girls Rounders by Miss L Ingall

Q3 Rounders teams have been extremely successful this year. The Year 7 and 8 teams have played and comfortably won all except one of their league fixtures.

The Year 9 team won the Sandwell Rounders tournament and as a result went through to represent Sandwell at the Black Country Games, where they finished fifth.

The Year 10 team also performed exceptionally, winning the Year 10 Sandwell tournament. A massive well done to all ladies involved in the Rounders this year.



## Sports Day by Mrs E Griffiths

There was a fantastic team atmosphere for Sports Day as the sun shone on Q3 Academy and the rain stayed at bay for a very successful day of sports and athletics.

For the first time in Q3 Academy Sports Day history, medals and a podium were introduced to celebrate the successes of the winning athletes and companies. The obstacle race was a particular highlight of the day as it provided wonderful entertainment

for the student body to enjoy.

Mr Turner said, "I am so proud of all the students supporting each other in competing companies during the day. Jessica (Year 7) dominated the 800m for both Year 7 and Year 8 and Monique (Year 9) spent the day on the podium as she excelled in every sprint race she competed in. Congratulations to the Communications Company who dominated from start to finish during the whole competition."





# Aspire

What do you Aspire to? The ASPIRE programme delivered to the Sixth Form has been designed to help develop skills that we will need throughout life.

“The ‘Leadership’ unit teaches what a leader is and helped me to see what I needed to do to be a good leader. In the very first lesson we were asked to compete against other teams to build tents in the fastest possible time. It initially just seemed like a fun activity, but it was only when we analysed our role within the teams, did it become clear that it showed how well we worked in a team and who the natural leaders were. I was able to effectively establish my strengths and weaknesses and could see which skills I would need to work on in order to work towards becoming a leader. This was very helpful because I learnt that it was not a race, but a challenge to see which skills I was able to incorporate in the task.

The major task in this unit was to create a lesson for a group of Year 7 students. We worked as a team to develop activities that would suit our allocated students. After the development stage, we worked as a team to lead the students through the lesson that we had put together for them. Throughout this process we were communicating with the students to ensure that they were motivating each other, also teaching them it doesn't matter if you get things wrong, as long as you learn from it and from this your confidence will also grow.

I would like to give a big thanks to Dr Badyal, Miss Callaghan, Mr Lee, Mrs Kinsella, Mr Arnall and Mr Slack for going out of their way to deliver this fantastic programme to Sixth Form.” - Tanika (Year 12)

“My favourite Aspire session was the ‘Are you ready?’ one, as it provided me with a CV to use when applying for jobs. I believe that this is the best section of Aspire as it really upholds the Q3 belief in that education should be holistic incorporating all aspects of life, rather than academic only.” - Gabrielle (Year 12)

“My favourite thing about Aspire was the ‘Presentation Skills’ unit. We learnt about how to present ourselves using body language and voice tone, whilst talking in front of a crowd and also during interviews. This helped me gain confidence when speaking to other people and I now know that I will come across well when I have interviews for university or jobs in the future. Another one of my favourite Aspire lessons was the ‘Are you ready?’ unit. During this section we had to produce a CV, a cover letter and complete an application form. All of this was then used to support me in a mock interview. I now feel I have the confidence to apply for jobs, knowing that my documents are of the standard required by employers.” - Sophie (Year 12)

If you would like to know more or would like to help, contact [enquiries@q3academy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@q3academy.co.uk)

# EU Referendum

On the 23rd June the students of Q3 Academy joined the rest of the United Kingdom in casting their vote in an 'In-out' Referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union. In what proved to be a wonderful expression of democracy, 91% of students took the opportunity to make their voice heard on what proved to be a passionately debated issue.



In a result that presciently mirrored the national picture, 55% of the Q3 electorate voted to leave the EU, just hours before the polls closed nationwide. Clearly, when the polling companies are looking for reliable data in the next election, they will know where to come!

In the run up to the big day, students were presented with some of the key arguments during assembly time and a display of useful information was on show in the Design Centre throughout the week. It was particularly heartening to see students from the Sixth Form take ownership of the campaigns and engage with other students from across the year groups.

As an Academy, we remain committed to providing our students with the chance to engage in a meaningful way in the democratic process, as we seek to provide them with the skills and experiences that will serve them well in the future. We do this in the belief that fostering an interest in political life and engagement is an integral part of educating the whole child and preparing them for taking active role in society.

A real sense of anticipation has developed regarding future opportunities for similar events, so watch out for further updates.  
- Mr J Mills



# Music Department

## Bright Stars

Bright Stars is one of the highlights of the Academy calendar; an evening to celebrate the success and hard work of the students. The Music department are always delighted to be invited to perform at the evening and this year was represented by: Benjamin, Libby, William, Nicholas, Ananya, Ryan and Alexander. We had a group performance and solo performances. Well done to all students involved for outstanding performances.

## Strictly Come Dancing

Q3 had its first ever 'Strictly Come Dancing' event this year which was a huge success. The evening not only showcased the dancing talents of our staff, but also the musical talents of some of our students. Our Year 9 band kicked off the show with their brilliant rendition of 'Times Like These' by the Foo Fighters. We then had Benjamin (Year 8) singing a moving performance of 'I Dreamed a Dream' from Les Miserables. Ben's performance was so wonderful that he was invited to perform at the July community lunch. Well done all students.





## **Leah (Year 11) by Clair Rogoff**

On Tuesday 11th July, grade V vocal student, Leah, produced a breath-taking solo performance to a completely sold out Movie Magic event at the West Bromwich Town Hall. The Sandwell Music and Arts Service event included a massed Primary School Choir, Intermediate and Advance Brass bands amongst others. Leah featured as one of just three solo vocal performances and received a very warm response from the crowd, who were keen to give great feedback after her performance.



## **Year 7 Rewards Concert**

As part of the Year 7 rewards celebration, students were treated to a special concert by our Year 9 GCSE music students. The concert involved every single Year 9 GCSE student and was planned, organised and directed by the students themselves. We had a range of music including classical pieces, duets, large ensembles and instrumental solos. The Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed the show and was a fitting start to the evening.

Following the concert we had a performance from the Year 7 choir. The students had been working during music lessons to prepare for the evening. They sang a piece called 'The Every Day Anthem' written and arranged by Clair Rogoff our vocal teacher and choir leader. They also sang an arrangement of 'Writing's on the Wall'. The choir were outstanding and it was brilliant to hear young voices.



# Learning outside of the classroom

There are plenty of opportunities to learn outside of the classroom, here are some of the interesting places we visited this year.

## Lichfield

As part of their Geographical studies, Year 7 were taken to Lichfield over two days to undertake fieldwork techniques. Tasks involved undertaking land use maps, environmental surveys and questionnaires to the general public. Luckily the weather held out on both days with the students working extremely hard and proving to be a credit to the Academy. - *Mrs S Carrick*

## Barcelona

What better way to spend the May half-term than by getting on a coach for 28 hours with 43 students?

It might have been a long journey, but Barcelona was undeniably wonderful!

We explored the vibrant city through a walking tour, evening strolls, taking the metro, tapas and restaurants, a flamenco evening, and a trip to the aquarium. The football enthusiasts were ecstatic to have the opportunity to visit Camp Nou and see 'behind the scenes'. Furthermore, we travelled north of the city to hike a real-life volcano, and to learn all about formation and lava flow.

The visit was rounded off nicely with a sunny day, screaming on the rollercoasters at Port Aventura – in Spanish, of course!





## Paris

After a late-night departure, and early morning ferry crossing to France, we arrived to glorious sunshine at the beautiful Château de Grande Romaine.

We spent the next few days 'playing tourist' in stunning Paris; climbing the Montparnasse tower, exploring below the streets through the winding tunnels of the sewers system, and exploring above ground (in fresher air) by way of a river cruise.

No trip to Paris would be complete without saying "bonjour" to Mickey Mouse, and our fantastic day in Walt Disney Studios was only made better by an epic evening of entertainment at the Buffalo Bill Wild West show.

Paris...we were sad to say "au revoir", à la prochaine! - *Mr L Price*



## Think Tank

On Tuesday 15th June, 7B had the opportunity to visit the Think Tank Birmingham to explore Science in practical ways. They were able to learn about the human body as well as how steam is created and how materials are recycled into new products.

They were able to explore how rockets get into space and what astronauts do in the International Space Centre.

Students were able to develop their Science knowledge in a fun, hands-on way which left them talking about their experiences for days!

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and students! - *Miss L Chamberlain*





# Leavers' Service *by Mr P Lee*

What a special occasion! Year 11 sign off in style!

Our annual Leavers' Service held at St Margaret's Church and led by Governor, Reverend Rutter was yet another highlight of the year for Q3 staff and students alike.

On Monday 27th June 2016 Year 11 students sat their final GCSE examination in Design and Technology before congregating in the Design Centre for the traditional photograph and leavers' lunch. The students were then led by their company PLD on the short walk to the church.

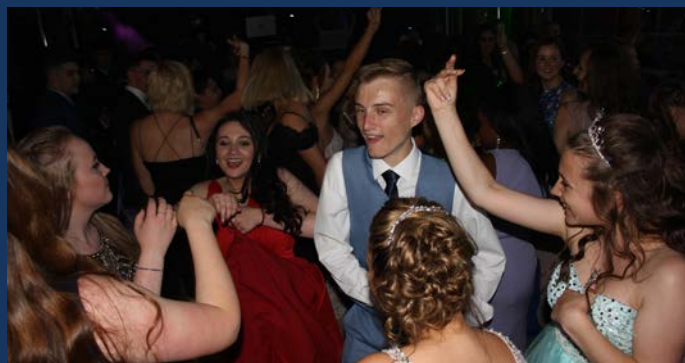
Inside we were treated to the full array of talents from so many of our wonderful students. From musical performances to self-penned reflection as well as hearing from Dr Badyal, Mr Arnall and Mr Lee, the service was a true celebration of the last five years.

The historic and beautiful nature of the church was the perfect backdrop to look back and reflect on the students' time at Q3 Academy. We were very fortunate to say our goodbyes in such a fitting environment.

# Prom *by Mr P Lee*

Simply magnificent – the #1 Q3 Prom ever! On Friday 8th July the Year 11 Prom was held at the Academy. On an evening in baking sunshine the Year 11 students made their way to the Academy via a variety of means of transport. From Lamborghinis, Ferraris, Range Rovers, Bentleys and even a horse-drawn carriage – the students' entrance was impressive as the cars bringing them!

All the students made a significant effort with their appearance – they all looked so grown up! Mrs May and her team had turned the Quisine into a spectacular setting complete with red carpet as the students made their grand entrance.



A great evening of eating, dancing, magic, mocktails, socialising and then onto the awards for the evening hosted by Chief Executive, Dr Badyal.

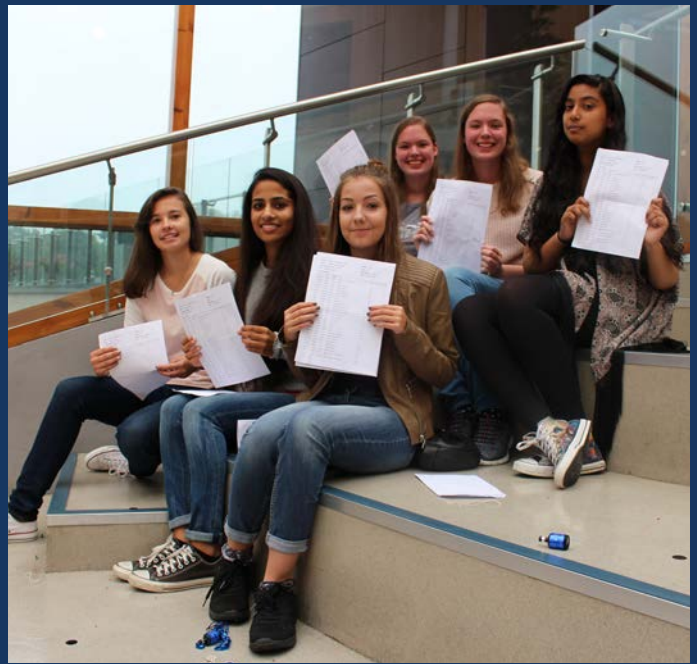
A great turnout from the staff made for a fantastic evening overall with many experienced observers recounting it was the best Prom there had been at the Academy!

# GCSE Results by Mrs E Griffiths

Q3 Academy Great Barr is celebrating another successful year with the largest ever proportion of A and A\* grades. Twins Charlotte and Lauren achieved outstanding results across the board with a total of 18 A\*s and we look forward to welcoming them back to our Sixth Form along with our other students.

Chief Executive, Dr Caroline Badyal congratulated all students and staff on their tremendous hard work, effort and commitment throughout the year.

We wish all our students the best of luck for the future.



## A Level Results

Q3 Academy Great Barr is celebrating another fantastic year of A-Level results with 100% pass rate, with one student securing 3 A\* and 1 A at A-Level in Fine Art Textiles, Fine Art, Psychology and EPQ.

Evie was 'shocked and overwhelmed' when she opened her results but wanted to thank her teachers and friends who have supported her throughout her studies. She is now studying Costume and Performance Design at Arts University Bournemouth.

We wish all of our students every success on the next stage of their journey. - Mrs E Griffiths





# Lettings & Events

**Q3 Academy can accommodate almost any event, including:**

- Weddings
- Conferences
- Theatre Productions
- Sporting Events
- Teaching Workshops
- Art Exhibitions and many more

**For more details contact:**

**Mrs Heather May**

Events Co-ordinator & Lettings Officer

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Email: [heather.may@q3academy.org.uk](mailto:heather.may@q3academy.org.uk)

**Gym membership is also available at a discounted rate.**

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