

Focus

Spring 2018



ACADEMIES

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Back Cover: Offer from Four Ashes Adventure Golf for Q3 Academies' Students.

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FoQus Magazine is designed & produced by

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Articles and photographs are by the staff, students & community of the Q3 Academies Trust

A Message from the Chief Executive



The Q3 Academies Trust has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 2016 and benefits from even more opportunity through cross-Academy collaboration.

As you read through this latest edition of FoQus I am sure you will agree that it is a wonderful reminder of daily life in our Academies. From the overseas trips, to the cadet experiences, sporting activities and the exhilarating ethos and immersive weeks, all of which contribute to the rich opportunities supporting our students in their academic and personal development.

I continue to be impressed with our GCSE and A-Level students, who are currently preparing for their summer examinations. Our staff are giving generously of their time to provide additional support before and after the Academy day and during holiday

periods; I am extremely grateful for their commitment to the students.

Student voice is a powerful aspect of both Academies; our young people are confident, articulate and determined to make a difference, not only to their own destiny but also to the lives of those who may be less fortunate.

Aspiration flows through our Academies in abundance. I am fortunate to be able to share in the ambitions of our students, every day I hear their plans for life beyond Q3 and their drive to be the very best.

I would like to thank our PACT groups who work tirelessly to raise funds for our children at both sites, providing extra resources to support the curriculum and enrichment activities.

In the words of Winston Churchill:

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Every day I see my colleagues going the extra mile for our children and giving all that they can to support their progress; I am privileged to work with a talented team of Staff, Governors, Sponsor and Trustees who continue to inspire and change lives. Thank you team, for all that you do for our young people.

Dr Caroline Badyal
Chief Executive

Head of School, Q3 Academy Great Barr



I am delighted that this latest issue of FoQus magazine includes so many new activities that are available to students at

the Academy as well as the on-going success of firm favourites such as sporting fixtures and visits abroad.

What's certain is that the dedication of students and staff across both Academies is bringing wonderful opportunities for students to experience exciting new activities, learn new skills and develop new friendships.

What's not included in the magazine is all the extra support we provide, especially in preparation for this summer's exams. In addition to extra out of hours revision and support, we also consider the students' wellbeing too.

This term a specialist instructor is teaching all Year 11 students about mindfulness. I know for some students that it seemed like a bit of gimmick, but after learning how to empty their minds of everyday distractions by regulating

their breathing and focussing on stillness and quiet, many students felt a deep sense of relaxation and wellbeing. For some it was a bit of fun and for others I'm sure it provided an effective strategy to help them switch off and relax.

Whilst we are rightly proud of our strong academic record at the Academy, secondary education should be so much more than passing exams. At both Academies we are committed to educating the 'whole child' and I hope the following pages show that there really is something for every student to enjoy and I'm sure parents and carers will quiz their children to find out more.

Mr Mark Arnall
Head of School
Q3 Academy Great Barr

Head of School, Q3 Academy Langley



I write this piece for FoQus in the middle of our second ever eWeek! We've had a wonderful time inside and outside of the Academy.

Activities including a 'Wellbeing Day', a visiting Theatre Company, a trip to Birmingham City Centre and the Black Country Living Museum have engaged and holistically developed all students in this important part of the curriculum. It has been great to read and hear all about Q3 Academy Great Barr's i-Week too – Grease in a week! How fantastic was that?

Our building work for Phase 2 has started in earnest – we hope to be able to share more information in the next issue of FoQus.

It's been a busy few months on the recruitment front for September 2018 here at Q3 Academy Langley. I can't thank our wonderful HR team enough - Ms Yourell, Ms Blake and Ms Baker. They diligently arrange and organise everything. I'm thrilled to report that, pending any issues with clearances, we are fully staffed for the next academic

year. I am also excited by the quality of the new staff joining the team.

Preparations are fully advanced for our second Summer Fête in June this year, you can read more about this from our wonderful PACT in the pages of FoQus.

We are pleased to report that we have secured SSAT Student Leadership Accreditation for each of our Year 8 students. Head Girl, Nathania (8D1) explains more:

"Here, at Q3 Academy Langley, we always seek for that which is good, right and true, through our high aspirations and also as we develop within the phenomenal curriculum prepared by our wonderful staff.

The journey Year 8 are on makes us all extremely proud, with every student in the year group taking part in the SSAT Student Leadership Accreditation. They gave us the chance to embrace our inner qualities through leadership, teamwork and contributions to Academy life; we are delighted that every single student in the year group achieved either a Bronze, Silver or Gold award.

As a grateful recipient myself, I would like to pass on my thanks to Miss Smith for organising the programme and congratulate the Year 8 students on this fantastic accolade!"

Lastly, just a huge thank you to all of the staff members at both Academies, who offer their ongoing effort and commitment. I really appreciate everyone who gives so much each day at our Academy.

Mr Peter Lee
Head of School
Q3 Academy Langley

Q3 Academy Sixth Form



All university applications were successfully submitted well before the deadline of 15th January.

Students are now in the process of accepting offers from universities and attending interview days.

In June, Year 12 students will be visiting the annual UCAS conference at the NEC. Every year, over a quarter of a million students, parents, guardians, and advisers visit UCAS exhibitions across the country. The conference provides a chance for students to get an insight into life after exams – whether that means university, volunteer work, a gap year or other career opportunities.

We were delighted to welcome Dr Nira Chamberlain to the Academy in February to speak with our Sixth Form and 'Aspire2Innovate' group. Nira is the 5th most influential black person in the UK (Powerlist 2018) and is listed by the Science Council as "one of the UK's top 100 Scientists".

Nira has over 20 years of experience at writing mathematical models, simulations and algorithms to solve complex industrial problems.

During the speech, Nira shared many lively examples of how he had applied his skills to problems and the students were actively involved in testing out some theories. Many students were surprised to discover that a flash mob

at a busy London train station was in fact one of his experiments. The students were left feeling motivated and inspired to follow their individual goals and dreams, and we look forward to working with Dr Chamberlain again in the future. A truly inspirational speaker!

Mrs Noakes
Head of Q3 Academy Sixth Form



JETs Update

The Junior Executive Team have quickly taken to their roles and are already making their mark on various aspects of Academy life. Alex (A3) - our JET for Charity, shares her experiences so far.

"This term has been our first taste of working independently after shadowing last year's JETs for the last few months. We have been working individually and as a team to fulfil goals and overcome challenges.

Keisha and Nicole have been working with Mr Bailey to help form a Confidence Building group. This will support many students in the Academy; improving their teamwork skills and boosting their confidence.

I have been coming up with ideas for a charity event which will help embody the Academy's ethos of being kind and thinking of others.

James and Ryan have been playing a keen role in running the CCF Cadets attending every Wednesday and supporting the Cadets at events.

As a team we have helped at various events such as Parents' Consultation Evenings and community lunches.

We are looking forward to the challenges of the role and supporting the Academy in events that are held."



Combined Cadet Force Update

The CCF at Q3 Academy Great Barr has been a huge success, with many new friendships created between students who may not have otherwise met; friendships that could last a life time. It also gives us a sense of community; like we belong at our Cadet Force.

All 53 cadets have acquired new skills which have helped in our daily lives. The cadets have learned about the history of flight, runways, and of course aeroplanes. This included a trip to RAF Cosford, where we learnt more about the history of the RAF and how it was formed.

We have also been taught about first aid and CPR, which can save lives and improve employability. Many employers look for candidates with these skills. Mr Price and Mr Walton have been giving up their spare time to help with the training, providing an entertaining and important life lesson to the cadets.

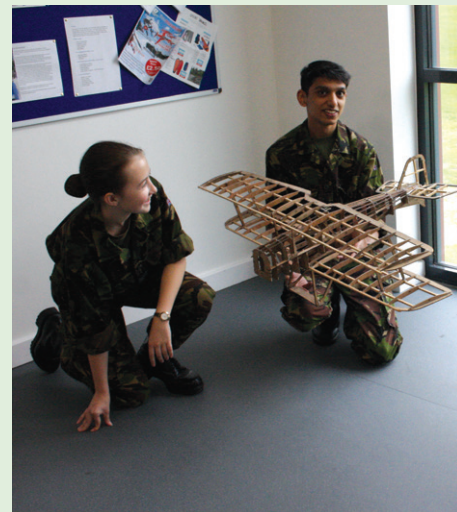
We practised drills for many weeks leading up to the opening of the Grace Payne Centre. When we first received our uniform, the other students thought it looked strange, but after a while they got used to it.

I feel that the cadets have embraced their challenges and have taken them on with pride and passion. Overall the Academy CCF has been a major success and will carry on for many years to come.

Sean (S1)

Cadet First Class

Over and out!



The Girls' Network

In January 2018, Q3 Academy Great Barr launched its first ever Girls' Network Mentoring Group. The Girls' Network was founded by two secondary school teachers in North West London, Charly and Becca, when they witnessed the multiple barriers facing girls in their classrooms:

- The pressure to conform to ideals;
- A lack of confidence or self-belief;
- A lack of professional female role models in their networks.

They established a one-to-one mentoring scheme for 30 girls in 2013, based on research showing that conversations and personal relationships could have a big impact on challenging stereotypes and expectations.

Their belief is that the girls not only needed greater access to opportunities, but also the confidence to seize those opportunities and the skills to thrive.

Ten of our Year 10 girls have been matched with an inspiring female professional from the local area, who will support them over the course of an academic year. Alongside this mentoring, we also provide access to high quality workshops, exclusive networking opportunities, and work experience that girls may otherwise never have had access to.

The group are supported by Miss Hamilton and have a very exciting year ahead of them. We are excited to see how they progress and what inspiration they can pass on.

Prince William Award

In September, we introduced the Prince William Award to selected Year 8 students. This Award helps young people build their character, resilience and confidence to empower them to "be their best".

At the heart of this programme are the brilliant instructors, the majority of whom have served their country in

the British Armed Forces. They embody the Service values and understand the importance of teamwork, resilience and self-discipline. They are the complementary role models that many children need working alongside their Learning Consultants.

The students work within five key themes: Personal Development; Relationships; Working Together; Community and Environment. They strive to consider, develop, and draw upon the 28 key guiding principles.

Our students are following the 'Trailblazer Award' which aims to integrate work on different aspects of character. This encourages students to identify the character behaviours that can guide them and inspire performance. The emphasis in Trailblazer is to encourage individuals to recognise that they possess the leadership capacity to make decisions and take responsibility, instead of being driven by emotional, kneejerk reactions. The work draws on the principles of 'Emotional Intelligence' and Kouzes and Posner's - 'The Leadership Challenge'.

Pastoral Updates



Ms J. Lones-Greaves
**PLD for Arts
Company**

Arts Company

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Arts Charity Day events on the 13th and 14th March. Our two chosen charities are Cancer Research and Birmingham Children's Hospital. The staff who agreed to be in the firing line of wet sponges and flying flans, courtesy of the dastardly flan flinger were real stars. The final amount raised is still being counted, but we are confident that we will exceed last year's total.

We would also like to congratulate the Arts Company for having so many Q-Points. A huge well done goes to Vinita (A5), James (A3), Toby (A3) and Isabelle (A1) as they are the top 4 performing students achieving over 150 Q-Points so far. We are really pleased with our current attendance and we would like to thank our parents and carers for their support in ensuring our Arts students are coming into the Academy even if they are feeling a little under the weather. We currently hold the highest attendance percentage across all Companies to date. A plea to our parents and carers that if you change your contact details please let the Academy know as soon as possible so that we can reach you if we need to.



Miss R. Walls
**PLD for
Communications
Company**

Communications Company

It's been a really exciting time for us in Communications, with many of our students attending trips to different parts of Europe! Our students have participated in a very successful Charity Day in aid of Edward's Trust, and we have launched the 'AOK Awards'. I am privileged to work with the polite and good natured students in my Company. The AOK Awards allow me to acknowledge members of our Company who go out of their way to selflessly help others and embody the Academy ethos.

Our Company representatives, Dhilbhar (C3) and Luke (C1), have been meeting with other Company representatives to bring about positive changes to our Academy. The feedback given to them from our students is vital to this. Keep up the good work!

Finally, I would like to thank you for the warm welcome I have received since joining the Academy. It's been a fantastic start and I can't wait to see what the rest of the academic year brings!



Miss M. Samuel
**PLD for Discovery
Company**



Miss S. Walsh
**PLD for Lifestyle
Company**



Mr M. Kulyna
**PLD for Social
Design Company**

Discovery Company

The students within Discovery have had a fantastic year so far! We are very fortunate to have lots of students with a multitude of different talents and abilities. We are extremely proud of their achievements and many skills that they possess.

Since September, we have celebrated strong attendance figures, with 63 students within our Company still celebrating 100% attendance, this is a superb achievement and demonstrates the students' dedication to their learning. Additionally, well done to the following students who are the top ten students in the Discovery Company in terms of Q-Points: Alesha (D6), Hari (D3), Kelsey (D7), Charlotte (D2), Aleena (D10), Taryn (D6), Eli (D6), Tnay (D3), Tamzin (D1) and Liam (D6). Well done!

Last term saw the Discovery Company run an extremely successful Charity Day. Discovery Learning Families planned and organised several stalls and activities. We managed to raise a grand total of £353.90, which was split and shared between three charities, Khalsa Aid, Make a Wish Foundation and PDSA.

Lifestyle Company

This half term has been very exciting for Lifestyle! As always, students have continued to demonstrate high standards in behaviour, attendance and commitment to progress.

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 have been getting stuck into their revision as we quickly approach the exam period. It has been wonderful to see how dedicated Lifestyle students are to achieving their very best. I am immensely proud to report that many students have now accepted secure offers to University, a very exciting time for them!

Furthermore, the Year 10 boys' football team went on to win their match, securing a place in the Sandwell finals. Many students who played in this match belong to the Lifestyle Company and I am so proud of their achievement as well as their sportsmanship. Well done to Adrian (L9), Joshua (L3), Jorge (L6) and Cameron (L10). Go on and win the final now boys!

Social Design Company

We are proud to share that since returning after Christmas, Social Design have amassed over 22000 Q-Points! Additionally, we are proud to say that 1250 of these have been for going 'Above and Beyond' during their time at the Academy. This encapsulates what we strive for all our students. We would like to give a special mention to Sophie (S8), Bhavita (S10), Emily Violet (S8), Ellie (S7), Isobella (S8) and Grace (S5) who all achieved over 250 Q-Points in the first half term alone! Keep up the fantastic effort!

Social Design students in Years 11, 12 and 13 are working hard to prepare for their summer examinations. I'd ask that parents/carers please check students' timetables to ensure that they are aware of when they have intervention, so we can support them in ensuring future success!

I'd also ask our parents/carers to check the Business Dress Policy which has had a few updates. This will hopefully make for greater clarity of expectations moving forward. Thank you for your continued support.

Careers & Enterprise

In March, Q3 Academy Great Barr celebrated National Careers Week by hosting a series of activities for all students to celebrate and enhance their awareness of the careers which await them in the future.

The Academy hosted its second Careers Speed Networking Event for Year 9 students. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to gain an insight into the variety of careers and opportunities available.

Students carried out Q&A sessions with employers, which provided them with an excellent opportunity to identify the skills, qualifications and experience required in a variety of sectors and careers.

Our Design Centre was filled with vibrancy and energy throughout National Careers Week. At break times, students were engrossed with displays showing a variety of different careers from the past, present and future.



Students also took part in the 'My Dream Career' competition. Students were required to create a poster or leaflet on their dream job, including a typical day in their dream career and the skills, qualifications and experience they would need to get to the position they aspire to reach.



Business Breakfast

Q3 Academy Great Barr hosted its latest Business Breakfast in December, which provided an excellent opportunity for the Academy and local businesses and organisations to develop partnerships. We are dedicated to working with local businesses and organisations to inspire and motivate our young people.

The morning included a presentation from guest speaker, Paul Coxhead from PLANit Global, which emphasised the importance of career provision in schools and highlighted the need for support from employers to provide young people with the best opportunities in life.

Q3 Academy Great Barr continues to network with businesses and organisations to help close the gap between business and education, creating many opportunities for the future.

During the Business Breakfast, Year 10 Young Enterprise students, who have set up their own business, showcased their products to guests.

Shares4Schools

The 'Shares4Schools' competition has been bringing Economics and Business Studies to life by providing Sixth Form students the opportunity to invest real money into the Stock Market.

Year 12 Business students Ryan (S10), Sara (L8), Callum (A5) and Tomas (A3) have had a busy time making vital decisions about their investments.

Sara has expressed how taking part in the Shares4Schools Competition has impacted her:

"Buying real shares in the Stock Market through the competition has inspired me to try and get involved in personally buying shares in the Stock Market in the future. The Shares4Schools competition has given me a better understanding of how buying and selling shares works. It is great!"



Black Country Young Chamber Committee

Last term, our Black Country Young Chamber Committee members were given the opportunity to write articles about their roles as Young Chamber members for the Black Prosper Magazine's January Edition. The Prosper Magazine is the Official Publication of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce. It is made available online and is distributed to over 3000 businesses and organisations across the Black Country.

Our Young Chamber members, Raheem (D5), Kimberleigh (S8), Stephanie (L1) and Hannah (L8), have done a fantastic job at expressing their aspirations for the future and voicing the work done at Q3 Academy Great Barr to ensure students are provided with the solid foundations needed for their futures.

Hannah has spoken about the positive impact contact with employers and the workplace can have on young people:

"Work experience was a major step into the world of work for me, as my work placement employer offered me a part-time job after completing a one-week work placement. I would not have obtained this if it wasn't for my work experience, which shows how important and vital experience with the workplace is for young people."



PACT Updates

Our 'Room for Reflection' has had a makeover due to a generous donation from Q3 Academy Great Barr PACT. The refreshing coat of light blue paint, introduction of sensory lights and equipment has made the room a fantastic environment for those students who can find some aspects of Academy life challenging.

Some students within the SEN department have shown their enjoyment of the new room by regularly asking when their next opportunity to go in will be. The students have taken great pride in looking after the room and have commented that they particularly like the calming background music and colourful bubble tube.



Q3 Academy Langley PACT are delighted to pass on some excellent news regarding this year's Summer Fête. After the success of last year's event, we secured the date for 2018 early; as a result, 23 different stalls have already been booked! Due to the hugely positive feedback received from attendees of previous events, we are still receiving interest on a daily basis – thank you for all of your support.

PACT has a Committee and 20 members; only through the passion, dedication and engagement from these people can we make an impact on the lives of the students at Q3 Academy Langley. Because of this work, we have been able to purchase a new table football and three table tennis tables for our students to enjoy at break time, as well as a new post box for Learning Level 2 for Year 8 students to place their Student Voice Feedback cards.

Most excitingly, we have invested in the entrepreneurial projects of the Student Council, supporting their fund-raising campaigns.

To continue our fund-raising commitments, we have become members of PTA UK, and are in the process of registering as a charity, in the hope that we can benefit from matched funding and various other innovative schemes.

We are always looking for new members and support with PACT at both of our Academies. Please come along to a meeting and help us contribute positively to Academy life!

For information on how to get involved, please e-mail:
PACT@q3academy.org.uk or **PACT@q3langley.org.uk**



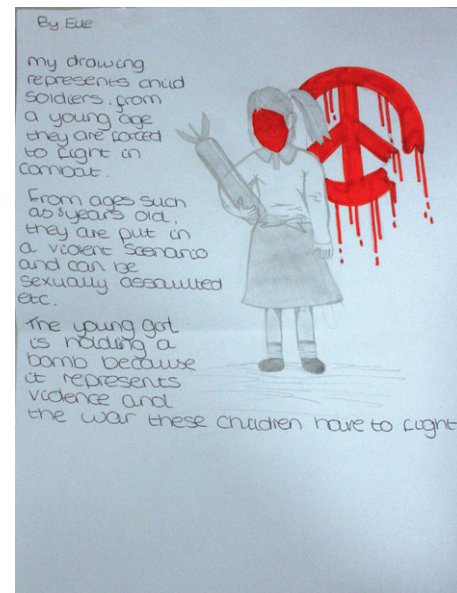
i-Week

From Monday 12th – Friday 16th February, Q3 Academy Great Barr held its first i-Week. i-Week, short for 'Immersive Week' was designed to help students meet areas of the curriculum through fully applied learning within extended projects.

The quality of the work produced by students was excellent and was displayed in the Design Centre on returning from the half term break. Whilst there were too many excellent opportunities to name them all, some particular highlights include:

Year 8 'Grease in a Week'; Year 8 Art Installation; Year 9 Banksy Masterpieces to explore 'Conflict'; Year 7 Shelter design, following a theme of Robinson Crusoe and Year 10 Presentations to explore current affairs.

Our second i-Week of the year will take place between 16th and 20th July and we look forward to even more exciting outcomes then.



Student Voice & the Q3 Senate

At both of our Academies, we understand how important it is for students to have their voices heard. This term, as well as revamping 'Student Voice' - our platform for students to raise their opinions, comments and concerns, we have formed the 'Q3 Senate' which brings together students from both Academies to discuss successes and areas for development.

"On Wednesday 17th January, Q3 Academy Langley hosted the first ever Senate Meeting with Head Boy and Head Girl from both sites, together with Dr. Badyal.

During the Senate Meeting, we discussed positive aspects of life at each Academy and which aspects we could improve upon, together with ideas and hopes for the future.

The meeting highlighted exciting future developments for both sites; we look forward to developing and implementing these in the future.

At the end of the meeting, we took the Head Boy and Head Girl from Q3 Academy Great Barr on a tour around our

Langley site, and we will be welcoming them for Family Lunch following our next Senate meeting, scheduled for next term."

Ben (8L1)
Head Boy
Q3 Academy Langley



Meanwhile, at Q3 Academy Great Barr, students were asked to design a Student Voice card for each Company to use throughout the year. These will be used to capture suggestions about what would make the Academy even better. The variety of designs were amazing. Each Learning Family nominated two representatives who discussed each idea put forward by members of their Learning Family.

Q3 Academy Great Barr's Head Boy, Richard (A6) and Head Girl, Amandeep (A1) then ran the feedback sessions. These culminated in a range of suggestions which have now gone to the Senior Leadership Group for consideration.

The students have taken a mature approach and have made an impressive contribution throughout the process.

"Since I have been part of the Student Voice I have learned the importance of good communication skills. I enjoy being part of the process as it affects our education"

Amandeep (A1)
Head Girl
Q3 Academy Great Barr



Curriculum Area Updates

Mathematics Department

It has been great to see staff and students gearing up towards exams. Our Year 12 students were able to experience what Mathematics would be like at university during a visit to University of Wolverhampton for a problem solving day. We have also taken Year 12 and 13 students to compete against other Sixth Form students in a UK Maths Challenge, where they did the Academy proud.

Over the next few months we will stretch and challenge students. We are hoping to enter a number of students into another National Maths Challenge, as we did last year and we hope to see some students achieve Silver and maybe even Gold certificates.

We have also launched Numeracy Ninjas this year to Year 7-10 students. This has proven successful in building basic Maths skills with a competitive edge.

We look forward to the challenges that will come our way over the next few months and wish all of our students good luck in preparing for their exams.

Performing Arts Department

If you are near the Music department on a Friday, between 15:05-16:05, you will hear a tremendous tumult of toe-tapping funk music. A new ensemble, dedicated to performing the music of funk legends and funky covers, began in January and rehearsals are sounding amazing! Funk Band is open to musicians of all ages. It will help if you can read sheet music but it is not essential. See Mr Sassons or Miss Baines if you'd like to join.

In December, the Performing Arts department hosted an evening of performances festively named 'Here Comes Christmas'.

It featured performances from Quavers Choir, GCSE Drama lessons, GCSE Music lessons, instrumental ensembles and soloists. In total, we raised £426, which was donated to the 'Charlotte and Craig Saving Hearts Foundation'.

Professional bassist, Sandy Beales, delivered a masterclass to music students in January. He toured and performed with One Direction for over four years all over the globe, and played at many of the world's most prestigious venues including Madison Square Garden and Wembley Stadium. Sandy performed a range of songs, showing the versatility of the bass and what it takes to succeed in today's evolving music industry.



Modern Foreign Languages

Our MFL curriculum is tailored to each year group so that their interests are covered and they are provided with the vocabulary and language skills needed to progress towards their GCSE qualification:

Year 7 – family, colours, animals, food and restaurants;

Year 8 – mobile technology, young people at home, going out;

Year 9 – advanced technology, free time, traditions and customs;

Year 10 – the environment, home and abroad, social issues;

Year 11 – future study and employment, work experience, next steps in our future.

In addition to the curriculum, Mr Price encouraged his Year 7 students to learn and perform a song in French at the Year 7 Celebration Assembly which they all loved doing! Mrs Cobo is busy making plans for our next trip to Spain and Miss Matthews developed a fun and engaging residential revision weekend for all MFL Year 11 students, with the help of Miss Dijoux. We are fortunate to have French and Spanish Foreign Language Assistants who work closely with our students to develop their speaking skills.

Design Technology

As part of the 'Enterprise' programme, Year 7 have made bamboo models, keyrings, book covers, food and ugly dolls. Year 8 have up-cycled pallets, made vibrobugs, bookend deskdys and food. Year 7 and 8 have also been studying aerodynamics and have created model electronic cars to race them. They are currently studying forces and creating bridges as part of the STEM curriculum.

Year 9 began the first part of the Design course, and are busy creating speaker models. Year 10 are working hard on design theory in preparation for their GCSE examinations next year, as well as creating some delicious food dishes, including Italian cuisine where they have tried their hand at making pasta from scratch. Year 11 are completing lighting models and moving onto theory.

For several weeks, parents have been attending a DT club with Year 8 students and Mr Webster. They have been working alongside the students to design and manufacture clocks, covering a range of skills from CAD to card modelling to sketching and developing designs. We look forward to completing their projects and then welcoming a new set of parents as we start the project again.



Outside the Learning Room

SEN Key Worker Breakfast

In December, some of our SEN students had the opportunity to go for breakfast at the Harvester with their Key Workers. This gave them an opportunity to develop their confidence and get to know a bit more about each other in a more relaxed setting. Students' impeccable behaviour was noted by staff at the Harvester and students thoroughly enjoyed both the food and the experience.

"It was nice to spend some more time with my Key Worker." Tyreece (A5)

"The food was so nice, I've had a great morning." Leo (L4)



Berlin

What an incredible time we had in Berlin! 32 Linguists and Historians shared a wonderful experience in improving their German and knowledge of the history of this magnificent city.

From exploring the cells of a Stasi prison, checking out Checkpoint Charlie, immersing ourselves in the warm waters of Europe's biggest waterpark, or walking in the tracks of great athletes at the Olympic Stadium, we did it all and loved every minute of it!

Science Vs Disney

A magical experience was had by students in KS4 when the Science department arranged a trip to Disneyland Paris to show how Science was all around us. Students explored the park and the rides, and learnt about the Science behind rollercoasters; whilst being given the opportunity, with Disney employees, to design and present their own rollercoaster ideas using the knowledge gained during the seminar. They had some amazing ideas which were displayed during Science Week for all to see.

Paris

In February, 105 of our Year 8 language enthusiasts ventured to Paris for a four day adventure of the beautiful city. Our students' commitment to discover the city shone through as they hiked up the Eiffel Tower to see the panoramic views, and then discovered interesting facts on a guided tour of the wonderful city. After a busy day in Paris, our students rested before a big day in Disneyland Paris where they had the opportunity to meet the Disney favourites and enjoy the Buffalo Bill Wild West dinner and show spectacular.

Staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the whole trip and feel inspired to continue improving their language skills in the future.



Levi's Roots!

There was a real buzz at Q3 Academy Langley in December, as we excitedly awaited the arrival of a BBC television crew – they were filming for a Newsround special to be featured later on in the year. This focuses on young people with links to other countries and how they can explore their roots further. One of the stars of the programme is our very own Levi (7A1), who travelled to Jamaica in February to discover his heritage.

When speaking to Levi about his trip, he told us *"I felt at home in Jamaica, like I'd been there my whole life"*. He also reflected that his experience showed that life in many ways is much harder in Jamaica than here and that he felt extremely privileged to have the standard of education he receives at Q3 Academy Langley. The whole experience gave him a deep and special connection with the country, leaving Levi with a desire to engage in fund-raising efforts to help schools in the area he visited.

We are very proud of the journey Levi has been on and look forward to seeing him on our screens when the special is aired in June – well done, Levi!



Student Achievements

Micah (D9) has been selected to represent Team GB at the World Cup of Street and Break Dancing in Spain later this year. He is already a well decorated Street dancer, having won a number of local and national awards and this is the next step.



In music **Zara (L9)** (pictured), **Jamie (L10)** and **Tanaka (L8)** have worked incredibly hard and have produced some amazing musical pieces.



Shauna (A9) has achieved her Bronze Duke Of Edinburgh Award. Shauna is now working hard to complete her Silver Award.

Ethan (A9) has achieved Student of The Year in his Martial Arts class. A huge congratulations goes out to Ethan for achieving this recognition.



Ryan (A4) supports others in his Taekwondo class twice a week, which has really helped with developing his leadership and communication skills. Ryan hopes to become a Taekwondo instructor in the future and we wish him all the best in achieving his goals.

Congratulations to **Ellie (A4)** for gaining a distinction in her recent Ballet examination. *"I did the examination at Arabesque Dance Academy and I had to practise for months in order to achieve the necessary skills and routines until I got them correct. As a consequence of putting myself forward to do these examinations, I have grown in confidence and have learned the need for perseverance. I am currently working hard and practising for my tap dancing examination."*



Sophie (S3) had the great honour of carrying the torch at the opening of the World Transplant Games, of which she was the youngest ambassador.

Jelan (C10) has started training with West Bromwich basketball team.

Congratulations to **Mia (S3)** and **Niamh (S7)** who competed in the West Midlands Acrobatics Championship, finishing 7th and 8th respectively.

Kallum (A1) has won his tenth Karate tournament in a row within a short space of time, Kallum feels very proud and we do too!

Ermina (A7) has achieved a Level 8 badge and certificate in Gymnastics, what a huge accomplishment to reach already in Year 7. Keep up the hard work and dedication Ermina!

Janet (A1) has been accepted onto a Sir Douglas Health Pathway introductory course at Aston University. This is a huge accomplishment and we are very proud of Janet's achievement.

We would like to congratulate **Courtney (A4)** for coming second in a recent dance competition. Courtney has been going to Star Makers Dance Academy where she has been practising hard. It is pleasing to see her hard work and perseverance during the 3 months it took to learn this routine. We wish her luck in her upcoming competitions.





Q3 Academies' Students take on the STEM Challenge

Six students are representing Q3 Academy Langley in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Challenge: Deeyah (7C1), Kiyan (7A2), Isabella (7S1), Jaspal (7L2), Paddy (7L2) and Madeleine (7A1).

Students were given the challenge 'to create a product that will improve or enhance the quality of life of an individual'. The students then went on to come up with a team name: 'The Imagineers'. The Imagineers have made excellent progress with their project, successfully identifying a target audience and a product they are going to make, as well as creating a prototype.

The Imagineers do not want to reveal their product until it is finished, but we are certain it will not disappoint! Miss Fisher would like to thank the team for their hard work and commitment to the challenge - she cannot wait for the team to present their final product. Good luck!

Students in Years 10 and 11 have been involved in the NMA STEM Challenge, run by the Express and Star. Partnered with AE Aerospace, a team of six students are working on a project to meet their design brief:

"To design a product that will improve the quality of life for someone who is considered to be disadvantaged."

The team quickly worked to establish a definition of 'disadvantaged' and identified factors that lead to people being disadvantaged. During their research they wanted to focus on the most literal form of disadvantaged that they could think of. This meant that they focussed on people without access to food, safe drinking water or shelter. Of all of these, access to safe drinking water causes the greatest number of deaths around the world each year. To tackle this, the team are designing and building a water filtration system that can be produced cheaply and may be supplied to people in countries where access to safe water is limited. Our students will present their product, along with their research in June at Dudley College's School of Manufacturing.

As part of their Physics topic, students in Year 7 have been designing, building and testing their very own rocket-powered, Micro:bit equipped cars in a project run by Bloodhound SSC. The School Race Day took place in March and the winners will go on to compete against other schools at RAF Cosford in the summer.

Sport Sideline

Q3 Academy Langley Welcomes P.E. Trainees

We were delighted to welcome Mr. Carline of the University of Wolverhampton, a long-time friend of the Academy, and 22 PGCE P.E. trainees for an experience day and training.

They spent time with students, worked within the systems at the Academy and listened to Mr. Payton take them through the Assessment Grids and Progress Maps for P.E.

In the morning sessions, trainees looked at long-term planning, with 'Big Questions' at the heart of Schemes for Learning. It was wonderful to give them the opportunity to observe Q3 Academy Langley teaching, and join us for Family Lunch.

It was terrific to see so much positive feedback online from the trainees; we look forward to working with the University of Wolverhampton in the future - good luck to all trainees in their careers.

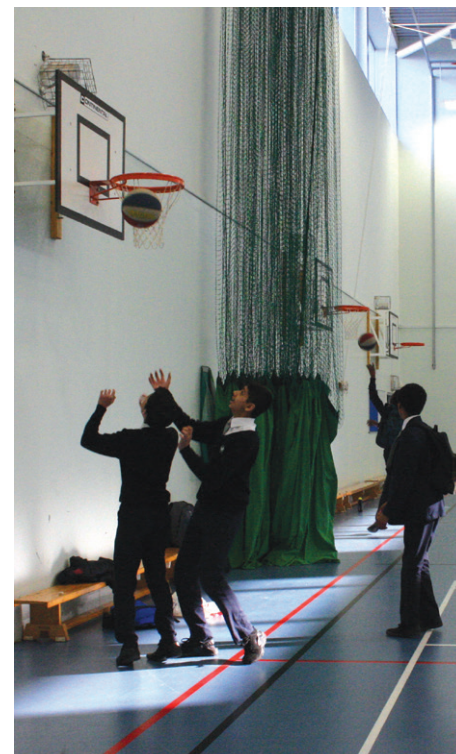
Break Time Basketball is a 'Slam Dunk' with Students

Basketball is becoming an increasingly popular pastime at Q3 Academy Great Barr and as a result, we have seen the outside court become overpopulated. The P.E. & Sport department has taken this as an opportunity to open the Sports Hall at break time to any budding basketballer that wants to come and 'shoot hoops'.

Since its inception, the club has grown and now boasts over 20 'regulars'. After noticing some real talent within the group, a Key Stage 4 fixture was arranged against Phoenix Collegiate. 12 students were selected and competed against a good Phoenix side.

After a competitive first quarter, Q3 led 5 points to nil. The second quarter went much the same way, with a half time score of 13-2 in our favour. After half time, Phoenix rallied and scored an impressive 10 points, but this was met with stubborn defiance from the Q3 players, matching the 10 point score and giving an 11 point advantage going into the final quarter. With a score of 9-6 in the final quarter Q3 triumphed 32 - 18 at the final buzzer.

The game was played in great spirits and it was no surprise to see all players returning the following day to hone their skills at the break time club. All students are welcome to attend the club, providing they have trainers, and we look forward to more fixtures and more success in the future.



Tom's Trip to Twickenham

In the last edition of FoQus magazine we reported on four students who designed a new Q3 Academy Great Barr Rugby kit, at a special design day as part of the CBRE All Schools Rugby Programme. As a follow up to this, Year 10 student Thomas (A1) was selected, due to commitment to the rugby club, to represent the Academy as a flag bearer at Twickenham, prior to the Six Nations international game between England and Wales.

Alongside other student representatives from across the country, Thomas had a full day of activities as part of the celebration event, including meeting England Rugby international players Ellis Genge and Harriet Millar-Mills. However the culmination and memorable moment came when Tom was able to stand on the try line as the players came onto the pitch and the national anthems were played. An unforgettable experience. Well done, Tom!



Hori7on Showcase

In February we again welcomed our Year 7 parents/carers, grandparents, and siblings into Q3 Academy Great Barr to experience the work their children had completed during the second cycle of Hori7on.

Visitors, including Liz Stevenson (Primary/Secondary Transition Lead for Sandwell) and Robert Quayle (Chair of the Q3 Academies Trust) commented on the high quality of the work produced by the students and the excellent demonstration of the Academy ethos during the event.

The Performing Arts department were very proud to showcase the wonderful talents of students, with the event giving them the opportunity to perform pieces of work that they have been developing during their Performing Arts lessons.

Year 7 students all performed on either their P-Bone or Clarinet, with music ranging from dance to samba which allowed for a collaborative performance.

The music was then followed by two drama performances, one of the spooky

Mr Fox (with scary musical accompaniment), and a Roald Dahl inspired performance. All of the students worked really hard and the performances were outstanding.

Our next Showcase will take place on Friday 27th April 2018.



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 Coordinator & Lettings Officer

Tel: 0121 358 6186 ext 1469

Email: hmay@q3academy.org.uk

Gym membership is also available at a discounted rate.



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