The new academic year has started to take shape with staff and students on a mission to pursue excellence across all areas of their work.

Excellence is often described as being synonymous with superior performance, but experience has highlighted that the real challenge is about giving your absolute best effort every day in all that you do. That is exactly what we do at Q3 Academy and this is reflected once again in our examination results as we celebrate our position at the top of the Sandwell League Table.

Of course success is not only about examination results; it also lies with the wide range of opportunities we provide for our students to grow into confident and aspirational young people. It is therefore a real pleasure to share the many accomplishments of the Q3 family in this term’s edition of FoQus.

My very best wishes as you prepare to relax and enjoy the Christmas break.

I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Dr Caroline Badyal
Chief Executive/Principal
Parent & Academy Contact Team Quiz

There were no “Weakest Links” at the annual Q3 Academy quiz night, as the PACT brought together friends, family and colleagues to raise nearly £500.

Working through 10 rounds of quiz questions, 13 teams were brought together on Friday 16th October for a fundraising event.

Congratulations and a big thank you to the team called Rosie’s Rebels who proved to be worthy winners of a cash prize, which was donated back to the PACT fund.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

- Mrs H May

I would like to thank staff, students, parents and the community for their support at our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 25th September.

It was another successful event and I am pleased to announce we raised a total of £352.65 which was up on last year’s total.

I’m looking forward to next year’s coffee morning - I have no doubt we will raise even more.

Q3 Academy’s Parent Forum

Q3 Academy values highly the partnership it has with parents and carers. With this in mind, we are now organising Parent Forums every half term with a view to keeping parents and carers up to date.

The inaugural highly successful event took place on the evening of Wednesday 14 October. With over 45 participants, parents were informed about the wide reaching national reforms from G.C.S.E grades to the changes in examination structures.

During Principal’s Question Time, Dr Badyal answered some searching questions encompassing such areas as Special Educational Needs and how the progress is being maintained and monitored across all Key Stages.

Feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive with one parent stating it was “very useful and the information was thorough and very relevant”.

On Wednesday 21st October the Academy was delighted to hold its second annual Grace Payne Public Speaking Contest.

As the name suggests, the contest was an initiative from our Academy sponsors and as a result, it is something that continues to grow in significance and prestige. It was fantastic to be joined for the evening by our Chair of Governors, Robert Quayle, who was there to represent the sponsors in presenting awards and sharing some of his own reflections on the evening.

The evening itself marked the end of a process for the students involved who had already had to audition for a place in the contest as well as taking part in a series of writing and coaching sessions in the run up to the final.

The contest was split into two categories: a Junior category open to Years 7 to 9; and the prestigious Senior category open to Years 10 to 13. Competing in the Juniors were Kyle Johnson, Ali Chaudrey and Navleen Bains and the Seniors saw Eleanor Elliot-Brown, Kimberleigh Logan and Lydia Bradbury go head to head.

All of the students performed magnificently on the night in front of an audience of family, friends, staff and community members, and received wonderful feedback from our esteemed panel of judges.

Returning to the panel for a second time were Head of Humanities Mrs Carrick, Public Speaking Coach Diana Wills and Creative Lead for Saltmine Theatre Company Tom Frith. They were joined for his judging debut by English Learning Consultant, Mr Dawes, which led to a well-balanced panel all bringing something different to the process.

After several rounds of speeches and poetry, our inaugural Junior winner was declared to be Navleen Bains who received the highest individual score of the evening for her speech on World Peace. In the Seniors, Kimberleigh Logan claimed victory performing both poetry she had written herself and a moving speech on the origins of the hymn “Amazing Grace”.

Both winners received cash prizes for their efforts and all the participants received a certificate recognising their participation and a voucher as a reward.

Overall it was another successful contest which celebrated some of the fantastic talent here at the Academy and gave students the chance to develop some crucial skills for their futures. Roll on next year!
I would like to welcome Arts Company students, new and existing to the new term and I would like to thank all parents, carers and students for their dedication to their education.

The Arts Company is currently top for attendance to date with 97.4%. There is a strong correlation between high attendance and high achievement, so it is even more pleasing that Arts students are attending at such a high percentage.

My expectations are high and I look forward to congratulating as many Arts students as possible throughout the year and to highlighting their successes in the future.

- Miss J Lones-Greaves

Achievements

**Madison Smart Year 10**

Madison has been chosen to be a Coach for Holy Name Football Club and is training the under 7s. “I am really happy with my job and I feel it has helped me to mature a great deal”

We would like to wish Madison and her under 7 team all the best.

**Electra Ebanks Year 7**

Electra has been dancing since she was 4 years old. She is a member of Starmakers and in a recent dance show Electra and her dance group won a bronze medal. ‘I am working towards my silver medal and to achieve this I need to pass two set dance exams. I am hoping to have mastered both dances by Christmas and then it’s on to my gold medal’

We would like to wish both Electra and the entire members of Starmakers all the best in their forthcoming competitions.
**In the SPOTLIGHT**

Amelia Priddey *Year 8*

Amelia is a member of City of Birmingham Gymnastics Club. There are 20 girls who attend aged between 5 – 15 years old and Amelia has been a member of the group for 2 years. At a recent competition in Streetly, Amelia and her team won three bronze medals. The group had to learn a set routine and then perform it in front of the judges.

“I enjoy learning new routines and it is really exciting. When I compete I am very nervous but when I get into the routine, it is fun again.”

Joseph Willis *Year 8*

We would like to congratulate Joseph on his recent 5 mile marathon in Sutton Coldfield to raise money for his cousin’s primary school.

“I went for a run every day after school in preparation for the big day. I raised £20 in sponsorship, this helped towards the total raised which was over £5000 and I am proud of completing the marathon and helping to raise money to build a play area.”

We are very proud of Joseph, well done. It is always lovely to hear of students who do things to help others.
In August 2015 we were extremely proud of the 58 students who were accepted into university and this year we are working closely to support our current Year 13 students to make an informed choice about their next steps.

Mr Wiltshire and I have been working closely with students to identify the best options to ensure that the transition into the workplace or university is as seamless as possible.

On Tuesday 20th October students were fortunate enough to participate in the Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Modern Medicine Careers Taster Day held at Sandwell Hospital.

The day started with informative talks from a selection of medical students currently studying at the University of Birmingham sharing their experiences of the first three years of study. A particular highlight of the day was listening to the A and E consultant who had taken time from his day to share his experiences of daily work life. He gave a real insight into the qualities required to be a successful medic.

UCAS applications have started to be submitted and students are already receiving offers from their chosen universities. During October we were delighted to welcome the Student Finance team into the Academy to speak to our students and to answer any questions they had.

Support and guidance for students and parents can be found at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com). The website provides a range of useful advice and links on everything related to university life. For those not going to university we have a range of work experience placements available in addition to guidance available on employability. If students need advice regarding employability they can arrange to speak to me and I’ll be happy to assist them in their next steps.

- Mrs V NOakes
The Mayor of Sandwell Visits Aspire Students

- Mr P Lee

On Friday 23rd October we were honoured to welcome the Lady Mayoress of Sandwell, Councillor Barbara Price - who visited the Academy to speak with Year 12 students as part of our Aspire course.

Students were informed about the history of the office by the Sergeant at Arms as well as briefed about how they could register to vote, by Electoral Participant Officer at Sandwell Council, Surinder Singh.

Over the past few years we have really promoted democracy and tried to engage our students in the political world and the visit highlighted our commitment to this important area.

JETs Update  - Kieran Rowe

The Jets have had a busy term and all has gone extremely well.

The re-established importance of Company Council meetings has allowed us to make sure that all of the problems and opinions of the students are heard and every voice is recognised.

The Diary Room has been used more than ever this term and it looks set to continue its success into the Academy’s future.

Events, like the Macmillan Coffee Morning and Open Days that have taken place over the term have been enjoyable for those involved and the guests that have come to see the Academy.

The new prefects have all been given their duties and are shaping up to be great leaders of the student body.

The community lunches have been thoroughly enjoyed and highly praised by everyone who took part, the guest speakers have been great and so has the atmosphere.

All in all, this has been another exciting term at Q3 Academy, here’s to the next!
We would like to extend a warm welcome back to our students who have continued to show enthusiasm and determination to excel in their studies.

The students have made a great contribution to tutor time, with some fantastic discussions and debates being held, demonstrating a real togetherness within the Discovery tutor groups.

- Miss M Samuel

 Charity Day

Tuesday 20th October saw the Discovery Company run an extremely successful Charity Day.

Discovery tutor groups planned and organised several stalls, where students sold toffee apples, samosas, cakes, pick and mix sweets as well as drinks.

There was an apple bobbing competition, a celebrations cards stall as well as a football scratch card and Guess the Name of the Toy competition.

We are also lucky enough to have some superb musical performers in Discovery, who sang live in front of an extremely busy Design Centre.

One of the most popular stalls that we had was the Spookie Photo Booth, where students and staff had the opportunity to dress up and have their picture taken with their peers.

We managed to raise a grand total of £530.00, which will be donated to the Stephen Sutton’s Teenage Cancer Trust charity nominated by the Discovery students. If you wish to make a donation please visit www.justgiving.com/stephen-sutton-tct

It was an exceptional team performance from both the staff and students of the Discovery Company.
Holly Phillips  Year 8

Holly swims for Broadway Swimming Club, where each year, a Club Championship Gala is held.

This year’s gala saw Holly winning 5 trophies across a range of races, including 50m front crawl, 50m breaststroke, 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke as well as the 50m individual medley!

Holly won a total of 5 trophies and 1 medal from the competition, which is a testament to her dedication and hard work towards her swimming.

She has been swimming since she was 3 years of age and her favourite swimming stroke is the butterfly.

“I like swimming because it is fun learning the different strokes at first but then you have to compete. Competing is difficult but it helps to improve your times and the way you think of swimming. Being able to swim is a good skill to have even though it takes time.”
So, it’s November, and any organisation related to the Armed Forces (along with the rest of the country) take time to look back at those who have come before them. The ACF Cadet detachment at Q3 Academy is no different, and has had a real focus on historical events.

We have been specifically looking at the relationship between the development of the Cadet Forces and the military actions of the nation. The Q3 Academy detachment took great pride in the role that we played at the Q3 Remembrance Service, parading for our visitors and laying a wreath to commemorate the lives of those who represented us with bravery and honour.

The start of this year has also seen a large increase in numbers at the detachment. With the new Year 8s becoming eligible to join Cadets, we held an assembly to share what we do. Since then our numbers have increased threefold, with a bright young group that have years ahead of them to progress.

At a time when we look to the past with pride, we can also look to the future with optimism.
Science Club Goes Off With a Bang! - Mr A Kundu

Bright and early on an autumnal morning, an eager group of young scientists gathered to launch the first Q3 Academy Science Club.

The sessions demonstrate how enjoyable and exciting science can be and are aimed at all ability levels, providing many opportunities to stretch and challenge the already able and motivated.

So far, we have learnt how fireworks work, seen magnesium burn and experienced the thrill of the “whoosh” bottle. We are looking to develop long-term projects to enrich and spark the students’ enthusiasm. Speak to your science teacher if you are interested in joining the club.

Q3 Languages Day - Mr L Price

On Monday 28th September we celebrated ‘Q3 Languages Day’ here at the Academy!

Everybody got into the spirit of things with a number of opportunities to celebrate culture and languages from around the world. A ‘European Cake-Off’, traditional costumes, music from around the world, and linguistic scavenger hunt helped to set the tone of the day.

A great big ‘merci’, ‘gracias’, and ‘danke’ to all of the staff and students who took part.

Sports Sideline

6th Form Futsal

Congratulations to the following students: Jordan Rumney, Dan Burton, Alex Rowley, Connor Maguire, Edward McGuire and Matt Gillett Davis. They won the U19’s Boys Indoor Futsal Tournament at Birmingham Indoor Arena. They won every match they played and conceded only 1 goal during the whole tournament.

Cricket

James Rodgers captained the KS4 team to victory in the Sandwell Cricket Cup Final against George Salter Academy. Alex Bowen, William Bartlett and Parbajan Dhami all played excellent shots in bat to secure the victory for the team. James was excellent, bowling out more than three of the opposition during the match.
The beginning of the 2015/16 academic year has been a period of major transition for a number of people connected to the Communications Company.

We welcomed a great cohort of Year 7s and our new Year 12s are now starting a new chapter in their educational journey. We have been joined by more experienced members of the Communications team with some fantastic new staff coming on board. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Goodbourn, Mrs Ruiz-Blanco and Miss Bull to the Communications family.

This term in tutor time, we have looked at a number of topics from E-Safety to healthy and active lifestyles. Two of these topics, which were put together by the Communications company, stood out.

‘Language and Meanings in Different Cultures’ week, which incorporate a celebration of European Languages Day was a very interesting week of activities, put together by the Modern Foreign Languages team.

During Black History Month, there was a celebration of leaders from a wide range of cultures, looking at Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto. We challenged students to consider what it was that made these leaders so inspirational, and what they can emulate from this.

We are looking forward and anticipating another fantastic year at Q3 Academy. As we head towards the end of the calendar year, Communications added their special touch with a Christmas themed charity day on Thursday 3rd December for a positive sign off to the year.

- Mr C Bailey
As we look back at a fantastic start to the year in Communications Company, it is important to reflect, not just how great the term has been, but on the successes of individuals.

One such individual is Emma Handley who has had a great start to the academic year at the Academy and in her extra-curricular activities.

Emma has recently received her ‘Black Tag’ belt in Taekwondo, which is one belt below a black belt. This means that Emma has the opportunity to achieve her black belt in March 2016, whilst still in Year 7!

When you add this to the fact that Emma has had 100% attendance so far this year and made a positive impact all round, I am confident that this young lady has all that it takes to be a star in the future at Q3 Academy.
Mr Stabler Wins Teacher of the Year Award

We are delighted to report that our very own Mr Stabler has been named “English Schools Rugby League Midlands Teacher of the Year 2014/2015”.

Mr Stabler took part in and qualified as a Rugby League coach in 2012. After 2 years of pushing Rugby League as an after school activity across Years 7, 8 and 9; the team managed to win the Black Country Schools KS3 Championship in 2015.

“This is an incredible honour for me personally, but this award couldn’t be achieved without help from the PE Department and without a doubt, all the boys in the Q3 Rugby League Club. The club is also securing funding to purchase a much needed new playing kit.”

If you are interested in providing sponsorship for the new kit or volunteering to help out, then please contact Mr Stabler on 0121 358 6186.

Geography Trip: Plas Gwynant - Mr M Kulyna

Students across KS4 studying Geography recently had the opportunity to visit Plas Gwynant in Wales. This was a great opportunity for students to understand the physical Geography of Snowdonia and the processes and landforms which are found there.

We arrived on Friday 9th October. After settling in and having dinner, students went on a night walk up one of the local hills. For part of the walk students weren’t able to use their torches which added to the excitement!

On the Saturday students went on a hike. There were three groups visiting different mountains. They were all tough climbs and everyone was exhausted by the end of the day.

On the Sunday students had an option of canoeing, kayaking or abseiling. All the activities were thoroughly enjoyed and it was clear that by the time we had to leave everyone would have happily stayed for longer.
On Friday 16th October, a team of Year 10 students went to the LionHeart Enterprise Challenge North West Regional Finals in Bolton. Teams from all over the North West of England came together with ‘LionHeart Business Coaches’ ably assisted by entrepreneurs and executives from the Business world, to undertake a Real-Time Enterprise Challenge within the space of just 1 day. They were working on the social issue of tackling homelessness and came up with a fantastic concept. The team decided that they would create t-shirts to sell for £1. And for every t-shirt sold, they would give two t-shirts to a homeless person. They won the award for ‘Great Concept’. Congratulations to the team.

We have had a busy first term in kickstart. Over in the greenhouse there has been bulb planting and cress growing. There have been some brilliantly choreographed Dances with Miss Bull. Reading has been a mixture of speaking and listening exercises, designing front covers of a chosen book, and writing a new blurb. Mr Harvey has been running a STEM activity - how to protect an egg from being dropped from a height? The PE department have been running golf, hockey, ultimate frisbee and Danish longball. In arts and crafts there have been models made of paper cities as well as recycled animals.

The Year 7/8 football team performed brilliantly in the academic year 2014/2015 respectively, having played 10 games, winning 8 and losing two under the guidance of first time manager Mr Davies. They suffered an early setback when they lost their first game in the Birmingham cup but came back to win their next 7 games, which eventually led them to the Sandwell Under 12s cup final.

Mr Davies has said “Well done to all the lads who participated throughout the year to make it a success. I am extremely proud with how they have played all year and it showed by us reaching the final. I am looking forward to the challenge of upcoming years and hoping we can build on this for the future. The squad have started well this season having played five games, won four and lost one. Their fixtures will continue in the new calendar year.
It has been a great start to the 2015/16 academic year and in Lifestyle we have introduced some excellent new initiatives.

I would like to welcome our new Tutors to the Lifestyle Pastoral Team: Mr Turner, Miss Cox, Miss Beck and Miss Smith.

Every Thursday we celebrate a ‘Star of the Week’ for one student who has gone above and beyond. They can be selected by their tutors, Learning Consultants or even their peers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all students, parents and carers for their continued support this Academic year.

- Mr A Nore

Achievements

Anisha Begum Year 12

“During half term I had decided to take up a voluntary placement at the amazing Cadbury World. I had enrolled at Cadburys a whole year before the actual work placement as I had been planning every step of my future ambitions.

I had chosen this massive organisation to do work experience as it would help encourage my aspirations of wanting to become an engineer.

When I arrived at Cadbury’s I was taken on a tour of the factory and I got to try a lot of chocolate! Afterwards I worked alongside an engineer, discovering the physics to the creation of chocolate and also worked within the exhibition taking on roles between several departments such as; handling the Cadabra ride, serving customers, giving directions to customers to name a few.

By doing this placement I have gained a strong set of skills such as becoming an effective communicator, team player and public speaker allowing me to get on with people from all walks of life.

This opportunity has really given me a clearer insight into the real world and has shown me that you must work hard to achieve something special.”
Ben Hayfield Year 8

“I performed at the Lichfield Garrick for five shows of ‘Les Miserables’ playing the parts of a convict, ‘Fauchelevant’ and ‘Joly the student’ as well as being in the ‘ensemble’.

Our society is called WBOS Youtheatre and I have previously played the part of Artful Dodger in Oliver as well as appearing in their concerts.

I really enjoy acting and have been doing it since the age of four, I feel privileged that I was able to perform in Les Mis!

If you haven’t come to watch one of my shows yet, make sure you get yourself down to the Lichfield Garrick!”
Primary Transition: Hopes and Dreams Competition - Miss J Lones-Greaves

This year’s entries for the Hopes and Dreams primary transition competition were superb. Dr Badyal and members of the senior team spent hours going through all the entries and found it a very difficult task to decide on the winners due to the exceptional standard of entries.

This year there had to be two special awards on top of the first, second and third place winners.

The finalists received their certificates and prizes from Dr Badyal in the conference room on Friday 11th September.

I would like to say a big thank you for all of the hard work that went into the entries and it was wonderful to see the creativity and talent of our Year 7s.

Poetry competition
1st Prize - Sophie Bayliss
2nd Prize - Kaitlyn Humphries
3rd Prize - Kate Bailey

Story competition
1st Prize - Amreet Shergill
2nd Prize - Isabel Clarke
3rd Prize - Kiarna Griffin

Poster competition
1st Prize - Emma Handley
2nd Prize - Catherine Ashford
3rd Prize - Banisha Saund

SPECIAL AWARDS
Emma Quinn
Harveen Chahal
Q3 Academy Remembers

Wednesday 11th November was a poignant day at Q3 Academy. Students, members of the community, staff and guests were present for the annual Armistice Day Remembrance service, conducted by Reverend Deborah Humphries. The service which marks the 11th day of the 11th month was commemorated with poppy petals placed in the air during the two minute silence.

Students from the Academy’s ACF detachment were present to lay a wreath as were members of the British Legion and representatives of Q3 Academy. Derek Morten was the standard bearer during the service to commemorate all those who lost their lives during war and conflict.

Operation Christmas Child – Samaritans’ Shoebox Appeal - Miss L Karim

After watching an inspirational video as part of tutor group activities; students in A-LKM decided that they wanted to make a difference to less fortunate children around the world.

Students have packed shoe boxes with gifts to be delivered to children in less fortunate circumstances. In the shoeboxes are also letters from the students. Sofia and Hanna Khan wrote “We want to show you that someone cares”.

As a tutor group we hope that our gifts make a young person smile this Christmas time.
This term has seen the arrival of our new Year 7s into the Academy who have come to us with much enthusiasm and gusto. While the transition to secondary school can be a tough one I have been astounded by the guidance older students have provided; what excellent role models they have been.

With the first half term well and truly under our belts we are seeing students settling in well with a mature work ethic which will see them do well in time for their upcoming mock exams. Additionally I’m pleased to see that the Social Design students have not been phased with the introduction of the new behaviour slips and once again I have been impressed with the consistently high standards displayed by our students time and time again; Well done Social Design; keep being the best you can be.

- Miss S Leggett

Achievements

A special mention goes to:

Sasha Bunn (Y10) and Jai Mudhar (Y10) for Winning the ‘Best Concept’ and helping to represent the Academy at the regional finals of the LionHeart Challenge; a Nationwide Enterprise Programme.

Katie Kumar (Y8) for her impressive Cheerleading talents; Katie is currently the Welsh National Champion.

Lucy Fallows (Y8) for her musical abilities and for receiving a distinction in her recent cello and double bass music exam.

And last but by no means least Kyle Johnson (Y9) for his participation in the Grace Payne Public Speaking Contest.

Sophie Wheeler Year 9

Sophie is an exceptional student and an avid dancer who practices tap, Irish and street dance. Over the holidays she has passed her Irish dance exam with a highly commended award and passed her Street dance exam with Honours. Well done Sophie.
In the SPOTLIGHT

Kimberleigh Logan Year 11

Kimberleigh is an exceptional student with an infectious enthusiasm that spills over into all that she does.

She is a wonderful role model for her peers and was recently awarded first place in the Grace Payne Public Speaking Contest where she wowed the crowd with a mature and passionate speech to rival some of the greats of our time.

We are incredibly proud of you.
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

Tel: 0121 358 6186 ext 1469
Email: heather.may@q3academy.org.uk

Gym membership is also available at a discounted rate.