Dear Parents/Carers

As we end the term I would like to thank our students and staff for their fantastic commitment, teamwork and energy. The latest FoQus newsletter showcases their work and I hope you enjoy sharing the many successes achieved.

I am sure you will join us in thanking the staff who are leaving at the end of this term and we wish them success in their new roles.

Our partnership with parents and carers is continuing to grow in strength and we were delighted with the support for the recent Parents' Forum. Again, this provided an opportunity to share new curriculum and examination developments while also answering general queries about Academy life.

Issues have continued with some students not returning home at the expected time. On almost every occasion we find that the child has gone to a friend's house without informing parents. This naturally causes concern for the family and the Academy. Therefore, it would help if you had contact details for your child's friends so that early checks can be made if they haven't arrived home. This would support the Academy when we are trying to locate missing students.

We have experienced a number of issues with the Green Bus company and have therefore decided to use another local organisation to assist with travel. From 4th January 2016 Central Buses will replace the current providers. The bus routes will be renamed to '41' (previously Q1) and '42' (previously Q2). If your child uses the bus service please see the Academy's website for further details and route maps.

This year's pantomime 'Enchanted 2' really does mark the start of the festive season with our students and staff showcasing their wide range of talents. Thank you for your support and encouragement throughout both performances.

Staff and students will be supporting Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11th December, with all proceeds going to the Save the Children charity (minimum £1 donation), please encourage your child to contribute to this worthwhile cause. Students will need to attend in Business Dress with the addition of a Christmas Jumper.

The Academy will close for the Christmas holidays at 2.05pm on Friday 11th December and re-open for staff and students on Monday 4th January 2016. Students will need to clear their lockers, ensuring no perishable items are left during the Christmas break.

On Tuesday 15th December we will be holding a 'Lost Property Day' for parents and carers from 10am until 1pm.

A reminder that our Twitter (@q3academy) and Facebook (Q3 Academy Great Barr) accounts are updated daily with all events, news stories and information from the Academy, including action to take during adverse weather conditions.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE (PRINCIPAL) Dr Caroline J S Badyal, EdD, MA BE.d, DipEd, NPQH Q3 - QUAERERE | 'SEEK THAT WHICH IS GOOD, THAT WHICH IS RIGHT, THAT WHICH IS TRUE'

A list of key dates for the Spring Term 2016 is provided below:

- Academy Christmas Production – 10th December – 7.00pm
- Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 11th December
- Christmas Holidays – 14th December until 1st January 2016
- Parents' Consultation Day (Years 11 & 13) – 7th January (Academy closed from 2.05pm)
- INSET DAY – 29th January (Academy closed to all students)
- Half Term Holidays – 15th February – 19th February
- Sixth Form Drop in – 2nd March (times to be confirmed)
- Pathways Evening – 9th March (times to be confirmed)
- Non Business Dress Day (Sports Relief) – 18th March
- Sponsors' Dinner – 22nd March
- INSET DAY – 23rd March
- Easter holidays – 24th March – 8th April

Please be aware that on occasion, dates may need to alter slightly, you will be notified in good time should this happen.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Badyal
Principal/Chief Executive