7th October 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

PARENT FORUM – WEDNESDAY 14th OCTOBER 2015

The world of education is changing fast – new qualifications, new GCSE grading, new ways of rating schools to list just a few of the changes.

Q3 Academy values highly the partnership it has with parents and carers. We have therefore decided to hold regular Parent Forums to provide information on these changes. As part of each Forum, there will be a Principal's Question Time where Dr. Badyal will be available to answer your questions. These questions need to be submitted in advance ensuring that a full response is given. It may be that your question is better answered by a more personal response and, if that is the case, you will be contacted directly.

Following on from this session at 6.30pm, there will be two further briefings for parents and carers of students in Years 7 -10 and Year 11 to inform you as to how this will affect these year groups specifically. If you are unable to attend, the key information is available as a 'fact sheet' provided with this letter. The presentation, which will be used for the information evening, is also available on the Academy website.

Please can you complete the slip below if you wish to attend the Parent Forum. Furthermore, if you wish to ask Dr. Badyal a question, please also put details on the slip.

If you should require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S. May
Assistant Vice Principal

To   Mrs. S. May, Assistant Vice Principal, Q3 Academy.

I wish to attend the Parents' Forum on 14 October 2015 at 6pm.

The question I wish to ask is:-

_____

_____

Name   Child's Name

Signature   Company

                                                        Year Group

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IEF 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'

ACADEMIES   The Grace Charitable Trust   SSAT inquire inspire innovate impact   CBI THE VOICE OF BUSINESS   Black Country Quality Award   BLACK COUNTRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE   Black Country Chamber of Commerce Sandwell Board Member

Factsheet: Reporting to Parents (Years 7 to 11)

Purpose - To provide:
- Straightforward information to be able to compare across subjects and years;
- Sufficient information to identify strengths and areas to develop;
- An accurate record of progress across your child's school life.

Reformed GCSEs

Subjects Reformed or Unreformed	Year Impacted
All subjects unreformed	Year 11
Mathematics and English	Year 10
Majority (except ICT, Business, D&T)	Year 9
All	Year 8

Reformed GCSEs use the new grading system of 9 to 1
Unreformed GCSEs use the grading system of A* to G

End of Year 11 School Targets:
- The targets set are the minimum expectation;
- Targets must not prevent students from reaching higher grades;
- All targets are initially based on the KS2 level in mathematics and English;
- Students with a 4b or above at KS2 will be expected to make greater progress than those below 4b in line with trends nationally;
- A*/8-9 targets for those students at the very top of level 5 at KS2;
- The same grade will be set for all subjects, the only exception will be if prior national subject results data suggests students can achieve higher.

<u>Targets are likely to be HIGHER than previously because of these changes</u>

On Track for 'End of Year' Target
Progress across subjects takes place at different rates due to previous learning experiences at Primary school, the amount of curriculum time provided at Secondary school and the subject difficulty. All reports will identify a Yes/No to identify if your child is 'on track'.

Action(s) if not 'on track'
If your child is not 'on track' for their end of year target 'additional actions' will be provided for the subject Learning Consultant/leader, student and PLD to carry out.

End of Year 11 Variable Prediction*
All schools are now in 'unknown territory' for at least 2 to 3 years whilst the outcomes from the reformed GCSEs become evident. Due to this Q3 will now move to a more cautious position with the teacher predictions being reported as the minimum year 11 expected grade based on **'if the student continues as they have been working'** and the following information will inform the decision:
- Engagement in lessons;
- Homework quality and completion;
- Written communication of the student;
- Assessment results;
- Attendance;
- Ability across all areas of the subject.

In the same way that an investment prediction, based on performance, can go up and down so too will your child's prediction. If the prediction falls below the target grade then subject intervention will

Factsheet: Reporting to Parents (Years 7 to 11)

take place to rectify the situation. If the prediction is lower than on previous reports then this informs you that your child's performance in the subject has reduced.

<u>Predictions are likely to be LOWER than previously because of this change</u>

End of Year 11 Aspirational Prediction*

This is based on your child's full engagement with the intervention actions that the school will put in place.

*Predictions are an indicator and not a guarantee of future performance

Working at Grades

'Working at Grades' (WAG) will be provided for 'strands' of study for the reformed subjects and examination/coursework components for unreformed GCSEs. These will include a percentage so that parents can identify the weighting of each section. An overall WAG will not be provided. Progress maps will be used for reformed subjects in lessons to identify what is required for each strand. These will provide a more focussed picture of student progress, highlighting areas of strength or those in need of development:

- A grade will be provided for each strand/component;
- The report will reflect the way students follow the subject curriculum;
- It will provide a mechanism to measure progress;
- Different subjects will have a different number of strands/components;
- Parents will be able to see how the teacher prediction is arrived at.

Converting National Curriculum & Reformed GCSE Grades to Q3 Grades

Comparison of NC and Unreformed grades to Q3 Grades		
KS2 NC Level (Ma/Eng) End of Year 6	**Numerical Equivalent Baseline Start of Year 7**	**Min End of Year 11 Target Grade** Reformed/ Unreformed
5a	3	9/A**
5b	2+	8/A*
5c	2=	7/A
4a	2-	6/B=+
4b	1+	5/B-C+
4c	1=	4/C=-
3	E3	3/D
1/2	E2	2/EF
B	E1	1/G