

4<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new academic year 2015-2016.

This week we welcomed our new staff to the Q3 team along with our Year 7 students who have settled in exceptionally well. We also enrolled Post 16 students who are ambitious and keen to succeed in their A Level studies.

This year's examination results maintain Q3 as one of the top performing secondary schools in Sandwell:

5 GCSE A\* - C grades including Mathematics and English: 61%  
A Level pass rate 100%

This year's results reflect the hard work and commitment of our staff and students and I am sure you will join me in congratulating them. A detailed subject breakdown will be available on the Q3 website.

I was delighted to be able to address all students in their Company assemblies on Wednesday and they all looked very smart in their business dress. We talked about pursuing excellence, including a focus on ensuring they are always well prepared for learning. Good attendance, punctuality, smart business dress, arriving with the correct equipment and having a positive attitude are all important factors that were discussed. Our sponsor, Mr Payne also welcomed the Year 7 students and shared his vision for success.

As you are already aware, we expect excellent attendance, and ultimately the students benefit from this not only from an educational stance but also for their future beyond the Academy. Therefore be aware that family holidays during term time will not be considered and any holiday taken will be counted as **'unauthorised'** in the official register. Holidays taken during term time affect your child's achievement and attainment – please bear this in mind. Punctuality is also very important and we therefore expect all students to be in the Academy for 8.55 am at the latest, ensuring a prompt 9.00 am start to lessons. If you drop your child off to the Academy, it is important that the 8.55 am start is maintained. May I also remind you about safe parking in the interests of all our children.

All students are provided with a free breakfast consisting of two slices of toast and juice each morning. Please encourage your child to join us for breakfast from 8.00 am. As the most important meal of the day, breakfast ensures a good start to learning. Students must be in the Academy before 8.45 am if they wish to benefit from this service.

The price of the daily meal deal has increased from £2.10 to £2.30 for the first time in five years, and the price of a selection of other items has decreased for example certain drinks. The food provided is varied and nutritious and I hope you will encourage your child to use the restaurant facility.

Our Parents' Association (PACT) are holding their first meeting of the year on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 pm. New members are welcome and further information about PACT is available on our website.

We regularly add to the information available on our website. Please take the opportunity to visit at [www.q3academy.org.uk](http://www.q3academy.org.uk). Do also continue to use the website to provide us with any feedback you may have – your views are very important to us. We also have regular updates on Twitter (you can follow us @q3academy) and on our Facebook page (Q3 Academy Great Barr).

The time schedules for the Q1 and Q2 bus service provided by the Green Bus Company have changed recently so we have attached maps for your convenience. Also please be aware that from 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015 they will no longer be accepting cash, all students who use this service must have a swift card (more details can be found on their website [www.thegreenbus.co.uk/news/](http://www.thegreenbus.co.uk/news/)).

**Please be aware that interim reports have been reduced from 6 to 4 and will be uploaded to the Parent Portal during this academic year. Please visit our website for more details.**



### This Term's Key dates for your diary:

- Macmillan Coffee Morning – 25<sup>th</sup> September (10.00am – 12.30pm)
- Art and Design Exhibition – 28<sup>th</sup> September – 15<sup>th</sup> October
- Open Week – 5<sup>th</sup> October – 8<sup>th</sup> October (Drop in sessions from 9.15am – 11.00am)
- Open Evening – 8<sup>th</sup> October (6.30pm – 8.30pm)
- INSET DAY – 9<sup>th</sup> October (Academy closed to all students)
- Parents' Consultation Day (Years 7, 9 & 12) – 20<sup>th</sup> October (times to be confirmed)
- Public Speaking Competition – 21<sup>st</sup> October (times to be confirmed)
- Half Term Holidays – 26<sup>th</sup> October – 30<sup>th</sup> October
- Parents' Consultation Day (Years 8 & 10) – 3<sup>rd</sup> November (time to be confirmed)
- Remembrance Service – 11<sup>th</sup> November (10.30am – 11.15am)
- Careers Fair – 12<sup>th</sup> November (times to be confirmed)
- Sixth Form Open Evening – 18<sup>th</sup> November (6.30pm – 8.30pm)
- Mock Examinations (Years 11, 12 & 13) – 23<sup>rd</sup> November – 4<sup>th</sup> December
- Academy Production of Enchanted 2 – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December (times to be confirmed)
- Non business dress day (Christmas Jumper) – 11<sup>th</sup> December
- Last day of term – 11<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas Holidays – 14<sup>th</sup> December – 4 January 2016

### Autumn Term 2015

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015 (1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015 are **INSET DAYS** and closed to students)

(Half Term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015)

**Christmas Holidays:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016

### Spring Term 2016

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 (29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 are **INSET DAYS** and closed to students)

(Half Term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016)

**Easter Holidays:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### Summer Term 2016

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016 (11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 is an **INSET DAY** and closed to students)

**May Day Bank Holiday:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016

(Half Term: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016)

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

I look forward to seeing you during the academic year when we can share the progress and wider achievements of your children.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Badyal  
Chief Executive/Principal

