



15th September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new academic year 2016-2017.

This week we welcomed our new staff to the Q3 team along with our Year 7 students who have settled in exceptionally well. This year's examination results maintain Q3 as one of the top performing secondary schools in Sandwell

Our Year 11 and 'A' Level students achieved more A* grades than ever before and we are delighted that many students have chosen to continue with 'A' Levels at the Academy. 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 last week and they all looked very smart in their business dress. We talked about pursuing excellence and especially the courage to take risks, make mistakes and learn from them. Our PLDs also re-enforced our 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 remains the same as last year at £2.30. The food provided is varied and nutritious and I hope you will encourage your child to use the restaurant facility.

If you wish to become more closely involved with Academy life, our Parents' and Academy Contact Team (PACT) regularly hold meetings and you are very welcome to join them. Their next event is a quiz night on Friday 14th October. Likewise you may wish to volunteer your time and we are currently seeking adults to support our reading schemes and raising aspiration programmes. Please call the Academy to find out more.

Chief Executive: Dr Caroline J S Badyal, EdD, MA BE.d, DipEd, NPQH | Head of School: Mr Mark Arnall BA Hons, MA, NPQH

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To keep you well informed, we regularly add to the information available on our website. Please take the opportunity to visit at 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).

This Term's Key dates for your diary:

- Macmillan Coffee Morning – 30th September (10.00am – 12.30pm)
- Open Week – 3rd October – 7th October (Drop in sessions from 9.15am – 11.00am)
- Open Evening – 6th October (6.30pm – 8.30pm)
- Public Speaking Competition – 19th October (times to be confirmed)
- Half Term Holidays – 24th October – 28th October
- Mock Examinations (Years 10, 11, 12 & 13) – 31st October – 4th November
- Parents' Consultation Day (Years 7, 9 & 12) – 3rd November (times to be confirmed)
- Sixth Form Open Evening – 10th November (6.30pm – 8.30pm)
- Remembrance Service – 11th November (10.30am – 11.15am)
- Academy Production of Enchanted 3 – 7th and 8th December (times to be confirmed)
- Last day of term – 9th December
- Christmas Holidays – 12th December 2016 – 2nd January 2017

Autumn Term 2016

Monday 5th September – Friday 9th December 2016 (Monday 5th September 2016 is an INSET DAY and closed to students)

(Half Term: Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October 2016)

Christmas Holidays: Monday 12th December 2016 – Monday 2nd January 2017

Spring Term 2017

Tuesday 3rd January 2017 – Friday 7th April 2017 (Friday 27th January 2017 is an INSET DAY and closed to students)

(Half Term: Monday 20th February – Friday 24th February 2017)

Easter Holidays: Monday 10th April – Friday 21st April 2017

Summer Term 2017

Monday 24th April 2017 – Friday 28th July 2017

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May 2017

(Half Term: Monday 29th May 2016 – Friday 2nd June 2017)

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



Mark Arnall
Head of School

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