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A Message from the Chief Executive



It is my privilege to introduce this special '10th Anniversary Edition' of the FoQus magazine.

Our values and ethos, supported by an absolute determination to provide an innovative, high quality learning experience for every student has continued to drive success.

The Q3 journey began in September 2008 starting a new chapter in the education of students on the Great Barr site (formerly home to Dartmouth High School). Staff and students worked in the old Dartmouth building for 18 months.

In April 2010 we opened the doors to a brand new state of the art building and celebrated the official opening in November with HRH, Prince Edward. Staff and students rose to the challenge and excitement of the new Academy, with Q3 recognised as the top performing school in Sandwell in 2012.

Our success and passion to reach more students in Sandwell resulted in the opening of our second

Academy, Q3 Academy Langley, in September 2016. Q3 Academy Langley is now entering its third year of operation and is the school of choice for children in the area.

Both Academies are over-subscribed with long waiting lists; this reflects our pursuit of excellence in all that we do. Our students are happy, ambitious, caring and resourceful, supported by a talented and highly skilled team of staff who always 'go the extra mile'.

In September, we welcomed Q3 Academy Tipton (formerly ACE Academy) to the family. We are delighted to be working with the staff, students and their families to ensure the Q3 standards, values and ethos become part of their daily routines.

The Q3 Academies Trust (QAT) would not exist without the dedication and support of our Sponsor Eric Payne and his late wife Grace Payne. Eric Payne continues to work with the Academies along with Robert Quayle, Chair of the Trust, to provide inspiration and access to wider opportunities. They are both supported by our excellent Trustees and Governors who give generously of their time.

Our Heads of School embrace the QAT ethos and values, leading their staff to ensure that 'no child is left behind'. Without the dedication and professionalism of our staff we would surely not have travelled as far along the path of success.

We look forward to working with you as the Q3 Academies Trust grows in strength, academic achievement and reputation.

Dr Caroline Badyal
Chief Executive
Q3 Academies

Head of School, Q3 Academy Great Barr



What a joy to be able to look back on a great term. This bumper issue of FoQus magazine can

give you just a taste of Academy life.

What's not really covered is the sheer day-to-day hard work of our students so let's spare a thought for the less exciting aspects of simple hard work and study. A typical Year 11 student will have sat 25 exams taking 38 hours to get 11 GCSEs, and it's no less demanding for our A-Level students.

It's often said that children in England and Wales are the most tested of any country in the world. We've all read, or experienced as parents, how primary school children often have done very little in Year 6 other than preparation for their SATs. I often wonder whether all this effort is for the young people or the school. Non-stop examination practice must surely dull the love of learning and joy of discovery that I'd want all children to experience.

I'm proud to say that at Q3 Academy Great Barr, we've got the balance about right. We certainly do demand hard work and what we have also done is to consider the students well-being too.

During the spring term we invited a specialist instructor into the Academy to teach all Year 11 students about mindfulness. I know for some it seemed like a bit of gimmick, but after learning how to empty their minds of everyday distractions by regulating their breathing and focussing on stillness and quiet, many students felt a deep sense of relaxation and well-being. For some it was a bit of fun, and for others I'm sure it provided an effective strategy to help them switch off and relax.

I know that the following pages will give you a sense of the breadth of our extra curricular activities and achievement and, if they haven't already, I'd encourage your child to get involved.

Those students who get involved in the wider activities of Academy life often cope

better with the stresses of examination preparation as they have learnt to balance a range of demands and they also have another interest at the Academy that provides a real form of relaxation.

What the magazine cannot convey is the sheer thrill of working with young people and helping them to flourish. I know all our staff and governors wish our students and families a successful new academic year.

Mr Mark Arnall
Head of School
Q3 Academy Great Barr

A-Level Results

Q3 Academy Great Barr is celebrating another successful year of A-Level results with a higher average grade and more students looking forward to beginning university and apprenticeships than previously.

We are delighted for all our students who have worked so hard with the support of their families and Learning Consultants and have been rewarded with a great set of results.



GCSE Results

We are also thrilled that so many of our GCSE students have been rewarded for all their hard work.

With the changes to the new GCSE examination system it has been especially difficult for staff and students this year but they have worked hard and we are delighted to welcome so many students back to our Sixth Form.



Head of School, Q3 Academy Langley



As we start our third year it has been a hugely busy period at Q3 Academy Langley; where has

the time gone? I extend a warm welcome to all our new intake and their families as well as the new members of staff who have joined us for the 2018-19 academic year.

Our brand-new Pavilion building was opened in September and will ostensibly house our Year 9s for this year leaving the main building for our new cohort and Year 8.

We have made a raft of internal appointments and I am delighted to announce that our first Curriculum Directors for English and Science in Mr Dawes and Mr Anderson respectively have been made.

In addition Mr Karim was successful in his application for Director of Behaviour and Ms Williamson as Lead Professional for MFL.

I also extend a wonderful and warm welcome to all the new students, staff and families from Q3 Academy Tipton! As someone who has served on the same leadership team with Ms Featherstone and witnessed

at first hand the qualities, dedication and commitment she possesses I cannot think of anyone better to take the helm at the newest school to join our Trust. We have already hosted several colleagues from Q3 Academy Tipton and I look forward to supporting and learning from all new colleagues as we expand our work across all the sites in the Trust.

Mr Peter Lee
Head of School
Q3 Academy Langley



Head of School, Q3 Academy Tipton



What an utter delight to return to the Q3 family as Head of School at the new Q3 Academy

Tipton. After an eventful summer preparing for the handover, we are all incredibly pleased how the start of term has begun.

Q3 Academy Tipton opened on 3rd September with 1400 students, nearly 250 of them joining Year 7.

We have made some immediate changes to the curriculum - such as introducing Hori7on and Innov8 to Key Stage 3, and joint-delivering some A-Level lessons on both the Tipton and Great Barr sites.

A very welcome change has been splitting the one lunch time into three sittings - guaranteeing every student a meal and a place to sit and eat it. We are refurbishing the old swimming pool into an additional dining room.

Most importantly, we are working collectively to ensure that every child succeeds academically, is happy and thrives at school. Sadly the 'previous' school had gained a very negative reputation and one not deserved by the wonderful children and hardworking, professional staff.

I am very much looking forward to making Tipton as successful as Langley and Great Barr.

Ms Keziah Featherstone
Head of School
Q3 Academy Tipton



Q3 Academy Sixth Form



In June the Year 12 students visited the UCAS conference at the NEC. Every year,

over a quarter of a million students, parents, guardians, and advisers visit UCAS exhibitions across the country.

The conference provided a chance for students to get an insight into life after exams – whether that means university, volunteer work, a gap year or career opportunities.

The conference provided a great chance to ask questions about what the future may hold, gather information on universities and get inspired. It was a very busy and informative day enjoyed by all.

Year 13 students attended the leavers' Tea Party in May, which is our annual event to say goodbye and to share memories.

The students had an opportunity to chat together over refreshments of scones, cream and strawberry jam. This was then followed by an

assembly in which students were presented with awards and slides of photographs of their time spent at the Academy. It was a very memorable occasion not only for the students, but the staff as well.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students who have left us this year all the best for their future studies.

Mrs Vanessa Noakes
Head of Sixth Form
Q3 Academy Great Barr





JETs Update

At the end of the spring term, Sixth Form got together to celebrate the successes and triumphs of the year at the Sponsor's Dinner, and since then we have aided in the setting up of and the running of events such as Community Lunch, which is hosted for the local community once every other month, and Parent Consultation Evenings.

In July we celebrated and said goodbye to Year 11 at the Leavers' Service and Prom after they finished their exams. We also welcomed Year 6 pupils during Transition Day, who

have now joined our Year 7 cohort. Nicole (Leadership JET) and Keisha (Environment JET) worked with the Year 6 children, encouraging them to participate in a drama activity which they then performed to their parents, helping them to understand more about the concept of high school and to build confidence and friendships before joining us full time in Transition Week, at the end of last term.

Ryan (Student voice JET) has aided in the production of the FoQus magazine, Alex (Charity JET) has been involved in many different charity events across

the year helping to raise money for various charities, and Sasha (Enterprise JET) has been working with Miss Balal and a group of Year 8 girls to design their own products and develop their enterprise skills.

We would like to thank the staff at the Academy for their support over the last academic year and we are excited to see what the this year holds for us.

Combined Cadet Force

The Combined Cadet Force started in September 2017 and has been hugely successful.

The weekly activities have gained qualifications and great skills for our cadets. Besides the flying experience and museum trips, the highlight of the year for all those involved has to have been the week-long Summer Camp at Inskip Cadet Centre. Here is a short diary of the week's events:

Day 1

Some of the Cadets were nervous about leaving home for a week. After a two hour coach trip to Inskip, Q3 CCF were the first to arrive and shortly after we met the other units that we'd be working with: Brentwood School, Essex and St Brigid's, North Wales. We watched England win in the World Cup game against Sweden and then played some football of our own before unpacking for the week ahead.

Day 2

This was a tough day in the heat, getting to know each other using a rotation of six lessons in small groups, climbing, abseiling, low ropes (problem solving), DCCT close combat shooting training on an indoor laser range, radio communications qualification

training, and team puzzles. A day of hard work and effort was put in, so the Cadets were ordered to "engage in water combat" to cool off, this lasted nearly an hour - no one escaped dry, staff included!

Day 3

Staff supported cadets around a three hour tree-top obstacle course including four enormous zip wires! Between climbing, cadets did a tough orienteering course. In the space of three hours, the cadets went from being scared and apprehensive - to fearless tree-top warriors! We returned to Inskip at 9pm for our evening meal, utterly exhausted, but what a great day!



Day 4 and 5

This was a two day exercise at a nearby Army training camp. Cadets were taught how to cook ration packs, military skills, camp-craft and weapons training as well as using the live-firing range, and even did a night exercise. The exercise saw the Cadets attempting to monitor and, potentially 'storm' the staff 'skills house' by using the lessons they had been taught during the day. Cadets slept in the woods, after hours of running, crawling, and sneaking about the training area.

Day 6

This was an educational day trip to Manchester to the Imperial War Museum North and Museum of Science and Industry. The evening was dedicated to the inter-flight

competition, starting with presentations on their findings at the museums, which moved into fun relay races, and a tug of war competition. A new sport of 'mophockeyfootball' or MopBall was born on this evening!

Day 7

A fun day out at Blackpool Pleasure Beach, fortunately being situated 8 miles from Blackpool meant we got on all the big rides before 10,000 school children arrived from across the country. The highlights of the day were the new ride, 'Icon', or the old favourite 'The Big One'. The end of camp awards ceremony in the evening was hilarious.

Day 8

An emotional day for all saying goodbyes to new found friends, a good tidy-up,

pack of bags, and travelling home. Every Cadet on the Camp was amazing, a credit to the Academy, their families, and themselves. Mrs Wilde, the other schools' staff, the RAF Sgts, and I could not be more proud of the Cadets' achievements and efforts. They have all grown, gained friends for life, skills, and memories to last a lifetime.



Prince William Award

The Prince William Award helps young people to build their character, resilience and confidence to empower them to "be their best". A group of students from Q3 Academy Great Barr took part in the Prince William Award during the last academic year. The enthusiastic group were a credit to the Academy and thoroughly enjoyed being part of the scheme.

"Whilst I have taken this course, I feel that it has enhanced my planning and reflective skills when doing tasks. It has also taught me prioritisation skills which are all essential life skills." - Jamie (S4)

"Over the last year of the PWA, I have developed useful skills and I have enjoyed being part of this course. This course has helped me with my confidence and has enabled me to believe in myself much more. I work better in a team and I've improved on my resilience because I always used to give up, but the PWA has helped me to keep trying, whatever it takes. I think a lot of people will agree that the PWA is something they would want to do again. I am very grateful for having this opportunity, thank you." - Jacob (S8)

"I have really enjoyed this experience with the PWA. At the start of the sessions, I wasn't that confident but towards the end I have definitely become more confident. If I had the choice to do it again... I would!" - Ellie (S7)

"As I started the programme in Year 8, I was going through a very stressful and worrying time. Through this programme I have been improving my confidence and self-esteem which has supported me through tough times and still is! I am so appreciative to be part of the course and being able to share with you how much it has improved my emotional state. This couldn't have been done without Mrs Wilde and Mr Luckett. Thank you for all the things that the Prince William Award has taught me." - Tyler (A9)



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Following a summer of successful expeditions, both bronze and silver cohorts are close to completing their awards. The twenty two bronze students in Year 9 and Year 12 attended a practice expedition in Much Wenlock, and completed their final expedition in Carding Mill Valley.

The nine silver students in Year 10 completed their practice expedition in Much Wenlock and their final expedition up in the Peak District.

The students encountered their fair share of challenges, from extremely hot weather conditions to getting lost, but I am happy to say that all students successfully passed their final expeditions, and did so with positivity and pride in their achievements.

The students have also been working independently on their skills, volunteering and physical sections outside of the Academy.





Q3 Academy Great Barr PACT

PACT have had a successful few months organising a quiz night which was very well attended and raised over £700! We were also in attendance at the New Intake Evenings, so that parents and carers could find out about what we do, and for us to recruit some new members.

A regular highlight of the year is the Film Night for the Year 6 children who have since joined the Academy. They all enjoyed watching Ferdinand and this gave them a chance to meet with their new peers over some popcorn!

All money raised by PACT goes back into the Academy to benefit the students and this year we have raised nearly £2,000.

To continue this work we need new members to come and join us! One PACT member summed us up as 'good people

doing their best for a good cause and having lots of fun and laughs along the way'.

Please contact PACT@q3academy.org.uk if you are interested in joining or finding more out about the work that we do.



Q3 Academy Langley PACT

This year's Summer Fête was a huge success – whether you measure financially (which was pleasing) or through intangible factors, such as anecdotal feedback and our own experience, a tremendous time was had by all. Our stallholders, many of whom were returning vendors, spoke glowingly about what a wonderful environment they had to work in, mentioning the students and the support of the PACT in particular.

Plans are already well underway for our Christmas event, with many of our 'regulars' already signed up! As Christmas is especially exciting for the students, we will dedicate the entire Sports Hall to activities for them, with such attractions as a rodeo, dance dome, gladiator jousting, magic mirror and table football, with much more planned!

As you can imagine, all of these appealing activities come at a cost to PACT – we rely on your support at these events, so we can continue to support the Academy and its students. One novel way in which we have been able to raise funds, and help our students, is through the sale of stationery at our Parents' Evening and Intake events. Our fabulous treasurer uses all of her wiles to secure

great-quality items for Amazon-busting prices for our students to be fully equipped for the year!

With our new intake seeing more parents and carers joining the Q3 Academy Langley family, it would be wonderful to welcome even more members to the PACT. As the Academy grows, we also grow, and are already delighted to see that parents and carers are signing up to volunteer!

With meeting dates planned 12 months in advance, all dates are now in place for the Summer and Winter events, but there are also lots of opportunities for smaller, 'quick-win' events. It is vital that the PACT are inclusive, visible, accessible and welcoming; we consider all parents, carers and staff

for volunteering, as we seek to become the best team we can be. PACT is run on a purely voluntary basis – no PACT means no additional fund-raising for the Academy; no fund-raising means that we have no capacity to invest in the Academy, enriching the lives of others. We truly have a direct impact on the lives of the students at Q3 Academy Langley – come and join the team!

We would, ideally, like to secure at least two parents per year group for the PACT, so that we have the fullest representation possible.

Please follow us on Facebook: PACT at Q3 Academy Langley
Twitter: PACT@Q3AcademyLANGLEY
or email us with any queries: pact@outlook.com



Sport Sideline

Sport Spotlight: Mya (A8), 13, Karate

Who do you represent?

CSKA (Central Karate School Association) and also Wadokai England Karate Team. I have been training with CSKA since I was 6, but have been selected for England this year.

What is your greatest achievement to date?

Being selected for England is my proudest moment but I have also competed in 5 competitions and achieved 7 medals; 3 Silver and 4 Bronze.

Who is your favourite performer in the sport?

My Sensei, Anisha, she became European World Champion and won Bronze at the World Championships.

Describe your weekly training schedule:

Monday: 2 hours of Kamate and Kumite; Tuesday: 1 hour of Kumite; Friday: 2 hours of Kata and Kumite; Saturday: 5 hours (competition for 2 hours, 3 hours Kata and Kumite)

What do you aspire to achieve in the future?

To perform well in future competitions for my Country and to one day achieve a Gold medal in a European Competition.



National School Sports Week

In June, Q3 Academy Great Barr once again celebrated National School Sports Week. This year activities included the 200m rowing challenge, penalties, basketball free-throws and the inaugural darts challenge.

Students flocked to take part before hours and at break time, all achieving points for their Companies in the process. All week, Wellbeing: Active lessons were also given over to Company Rounders, Football and Softball competitions. Congratulations Team Discovery on winning the 2018 trophy!

Race for Life

Well done to Q3 Academy Langley's Priya (7D1) who completed the 'Cancer Research UK Race for Life' back in July during the thirty degree heatwave!



U15 Boys are West Midlands Champions

In May, Q3 Academy Great Barr's U15 Boys' football team became West Midlands Champions by winning the West Midlands Cup at University of Warwick on a sunny Saturday in May.

The team played five games before reaching the final and there were some great performances along the way. Even beating Sandwell Academy; 4-3 with 10 men which Manager, Mr Davies described as an "extraordinary achievement". They also beat last year's winners Tudor Grange Academy and then Lode Heath School in the Semi-Final, but finally defeated Caludon Castle School in the final; 3-2 in a really close

game which either side could have easily won. Some fantastic performances on the day from Ryan (A4), Jorge (L6) and Adrian (L9). Goals in the final were scored by Daniel (A2), Mide (A7), and Cameron (L10) but all the boys who played throughout their cup run contributed massively.

Thoughts from Manager, Mr Davies: "I am so incredibly proud of what the boys have achieved this year. Having started 'managing' them since they were in Year 7, I have always known they had the ability, but only dreamt that one day could would be lifting silverware in Q3 Academy colours! All the boys have a special place in my heart and I will always remember that day when my boys were crowned West Midlands Champions!".



Sport Spotlight: Fenton (C7), 13, Football

What team do you play for?
West Bromwich Albion
How long have you played for them?

7 Years

What is your greatest achievement to date?
Winning the Premier League Truce Tournament

Who is your favourite player?
Phillipe Coutinho

Describe your weekly training schedule:

I train for 2 hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. I could also attend a day release on Friday but choose to stay in school. I play matches on a Sunday.

What do you aspire to achieve in the future?
I hope to play for England one day.



Ten Years of Q3 Academies



I recall the bright September morning 10 years ago when the former Dartmouth High School became Q3 Academy. The new iconic building, described as being “designed differently to make a difference” was not quite completed but was well underway and the site was being transformed. There was an atmosphere of excitement and enthusiasm amongst the students. They were at the start of the Academy era and embraced the vision for schooling that would be different.

I believe that Q3 has made a difference for good in the lives of all the students who have attended the Academy over the years. We hear how Q3’s ethos has become embedded in the thinking and actions of all who are involved. Our ethos summarised in the statement to “Seek what is Good, Right, and True” has been said to run through the Academy like lettering through a stick of rock.

The vision has developed far beyond expectations. Now with three Q3 Academies in Sandwell and over 3200 students we recognise the responsibility of ensuring we provide the best possible opportunity for every child. The Vision for Q3 has become a reality, through the dedication of the staff, the unstinting hard work and time freely given by the Trustees and Governors and the support of parents and carers. Above all it is the Q3 students who have made my involvement in the Academies a most rewarding and satisfying experience. Thank you all for the part you have played.

Eric Payne OBE

Sponsor

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Jade Boothe, ex-Dartmouth/Q3 Academy student (2006 -11)

I was in Year 9 when Dartmouth changed to Q3 Academy. After the fire, some of the older students relocated during the building work, but our year group stayed on site and were taught in Portacabins. I have many fond memories of my school days, as I was actively involved in Academy life. My favourite lessons were Business with Dr Badyal and Mrs Kinsella. They gave me my passion for business and encouraged me to go on to study Business in higher education. I helped to develop the curriculum for the ASPIRE lessons; I think I'm even credited in the ASPIRE book! I started Quench as my Enterprise Project, making sure everyone had whipped cream on top of the hot chocolates! During the transition from Dartmouth to Q3 Academy, there was a competition to design a Q3 Academy logo, and although mine didn't win, I incorporated the Academy motto (Seek for that which is good, that which is right, that which is true) into my design which Dr Badyal liked and took forward. I recently visited Q3 Academy Great Barr and led an assembly for Year 10 students about apprenticeships and working in the Civil Service. My advice for students at Q3 Academies is to find something you're passionate about, and go with it!





Darrell Wakelam, Artist and ex-Dartmouth student (1980-85)

I loved Art as that was 'my thing' we also had separate pottery lessons in the pottery room in 'Hillary' block. I also enjoyed P.E; or 'Games' as us old ones called it. One of my favourite teachers was Mr Graham who was a fantastic History teacher, he always treated us with respect and I think he got a lot of that back in return. I think I am very lucky as a lot of the things I loved as a child are still things I am actively involved in now. I aspired to be an artist and that's what I do now full time, I loved nature and especially 'Fossils and Geology' and that's one of the reasons why I now live on the Jurassic Coast in Dorset! When I heard about the Dartmouth fire, I felt sad to lose somewhere that held so many memories for me but places change and move forward and I think the new site is much nicer and obviously more up to date. I recently visited Q3 Academy Great Barr, It was pretty strange as the whole building and even the floorplan of the site itself are completely different. Virtually nothing was the same as when I was at school. I did bump into Mr Arandale who was one of my Art teachers, it made me realise how young he must've been when I was at Dartmouth, I'm 50 next year. Advice I would give your students is don't be afraid to be different, try new things, learn from your mistakes and be nice to each other!

Mrs Gaur, Assistant SENCo, Q3 Academy Langley

I began working at Dartmouth High School thirteen years ago. I had been at the school for three years when we became Q3 Academy. This was a very exciting time, but also quite a scary period, as back then there was a lot of stories about Academies and not all of them were positive. Work started on the new build, plans were shared with staff and we all became very excited, as we thought about all the new Learning Rooms that we would be moving into. On the opening day we had a marquee on the field and there was terrible rain fall to say the least, but this did not stop us all from having an amazing time celebrating the start of the new chapter! The new building, beautiful Learning Rooms, and equipment inspired me to want our students to have high expectations of themselves. This meant I had to have high expectations of myself and the department that I was linked to at the time. I ran an intervention programme which produced excellent results each year. For me moving over to Q3 Academy Langley was another milestone. I feel very proud of what we have achieved so far and look forward to the future. I feel honoured to be part of the Langley team. It really does have a family atmosphere, where genuine care is provided for the students. So far it has been a success story for staff and students alike.









Bright Stars Awards

As each academic year draws to a close, we always like to find time in the month of June to celebrate our students who go above and beyond and embody our Academy ethos; to seek for that which is good, that which is right, and that which is true.

Bright Stars is our annual award giving ceremony which sees students winning awards based on nominations by curriculum and pastoral teams, with a small number of students also winning Academy cups or trophies for an outstanding contribution to the whole Academy or wider community.

We were privileged enough to share the evening with our guest speaker, Amerah Saleh. Amerah is a poet, author, and producer for one of the country's leading art and youth

engagement organisations. Amerah was selected, this year, to be an integral part in the handover of the Commonwealth Games, from the Gold Coast, Australia to Birmingham.

Amerah was also named as one of Birmingham's thirty most influential under-30 year olds. This event included, and was attended by, students from Q3 Academy Great Barr and Q3 Academy Langley, showing, once again that when the Academies collaborate the outcomes are fantastic.

The Bright Stars Awards is always a highlight in the Trust's calendar; the Performance Theatre at Q3 Academy Great Barr was packed, with proud parents, carers and staff, and very well deserving students.

A Royal Tea Party

The Excellence Leaders at Q3 Academy Langley were delighted to host our first ever Royal Tea Party in honour of the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle!

Our invited guests including local residents, parents/carers and also governors were treated to finger-sandwiches and delicious cakes! We even had the pleasure of hearing our

newly formed choir, under the expert tutelage of new Learning Consultant for music, Ms Wheat, perform their repertoire of songs for the first time!

As ever, Mr Pope compered proceedings with his usual aplomb; we look forward to hosting more of these type of events as we grow as an Academy in number as well as facilities!



Making Waves!

Q3 Academies' Graphics & Media Technician, Miss Clay, embarked on a fantastic adventure during the Whitsun holiday; aboard the 99-year-old Dutch Brig, 'Morgenster' for the first leg of the 'Three Festivals Tall Ship Race'.

"We boarded the ship in Liverpool, and were up early the next day to literally 'learn the ropes'! We were put into three groups, and took turns to sail the ship 24 hours a day - doing everything from steering at the helm to climbing the rigging up the almost 100' tall masts to set the sails! From Liverpool, we raced against ten other ships around the Isle of Man, finishing in Dublin, where Morgenster won the race for the 'Class A' ships!"

I made lots of great friends and learnt so much; about sailing, but also about myself - I highly recommend it to anyone; get out of your comfort zone - adventure awaits!"



Performing Arts: Drama

Blood Brothers at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

On Wednesday 18th April 2018 the Drama Department took GCSE Drama and BTEC Performing Arts students to see Willy Russell's fantastic Musical Tragedy Blood Brothers.

The production will form an important part of the students' Key Stage 4 assessment but it is also a fantastic theatrical experience including both hilarious comedy moments and heart-breaking tragedy. An enjoyable evening was had by all and students were enthused by the play that they will now further explore during lessons.



Dream Girls!

For the Performing Arts Department's annual London West End Theatre visit we went to see the smash-hit musical DreamGirls at the Savoy Theatre! There was added magic seeing an ex-Q3 Academy Great Barr student in the cast. Jabari Braham gave up his time after the show to meet students and give them advice on how to make it to professional level, showing them that with hard work and determination your dreams can come true!

For some of our students it was their first experience of professional theatre and for some their first visit to London. A fantastic day was had by all and we look forward to our next theatre visit!

The Glass Menagerie

The Drama department were extremely proud of our Year 13 students who took on the enormous challenge of performing Tennessee Williams' The Glass Menagerie for their final performance exam. The students embraced the challenge of performing with a Southern American Accent and delivered the extract of the play with outstanding naturalism and attention to detail.



Performing Arts: Music

Summer Concert

Q3 Academy Great Barr's final concert of the year was scheduled to be indoors. However, the unpredictably glorious weather lead to a change in venue to the amphitheatre. The set list was an eclectic celebration of over three dozen musicians musical achievements and collaborations over this year. There were 20 performances by singers, duos, guitarists, pianists, the Academy choir, and funk band. The evening culminated in a sing-along performance of Summer Holiday led by our Academy choir. If you would like to perform in a future concert, join an ensemble, or use the music department to rehearse your own musical act, see Ms Baines or Mr Sassons for further information.



Album Club

A group of music enthusiasts have met every Wednesday morning to discuss a carefully curated collection of albums. Over the year we have discussed and reviewed the merits and failing of over 70 albums. Each week has had its own whimsical theme such as 'Going Solo: superb solo artists who formally found fame with a band' and 'Pretty as a Picture: albums with art as good as their music'. Our sessions together have not only served us as a space for enthusiasts to debate but also as a place where students and staff can suggest albums to their peers and Learning Consultants. Album Club began again in September, see Mr Sassons in the music department for more information.



Funk Band

The year has been a loud, jazzy, and energetic exploration of funk music and pop covers. All students have come together really well as a band and everyone has improvised in front of an audience at least once, with some students improvising for the first time in their musical careers.

The band have performed at all Academy concerts as well as during events such as Bright Stars Awards. Ms Baines and Mr Sassons would like to congratulate the band members on their massive achievement and thank them all for their hard work and dedication! Funk Band is looking to expand and hopefully double in size over the next year; beginning in September and are open to all musicians who are of a grade 2 standard and above.





Within Walking Distance

On Monday 23rd April 2018, the A.C.E group in Years 7 and 8, along with Mrs Dhansey, Miss Williamson, Mrs Gaur and Mr Walker, went on a trip to investigate landmarks around Langley. Firstly, we went to Langley Library, where we met Nina (our wonderful host), who took us on a guided tour around our local area.

During the tour, students and staff took photos of our local surroundings, knowing that these were going to be used as the basis for our art project. 'Within Walking Distance' is a project which is set out to promote local landmarks, both present and historical, as well as the people who contributed to this wealth of culture.



SEND

Spies in Training!

Some of our Year 7 and 8 students within the Stepping Stones groups had a fantastic opportunity during the summer term to go on an Alex Rider spy themed residential stay at Castleton Losehill Hall in the Peak District.

Students were able to develop their independence skills as well as strengthen their team skills during activities such as archery, orienteering, fire lighting, and shelter building.

This visit was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and the impeccable behaviour of students was acknowledged.



Pizza Express

On Thursday 24th May some of our Year 7 Stepping Stones students were lucky enough to attend an educational visit to Pizza Express, Walsall. Students were able to enhance their culinary skills by making pizza alongside Pizza Express chefs.

In addition, children were able to taste unusual foods that some had never tasted before including anchovies and sweet chilli before digging into their creations back at the Academy.

Levi (8A1) has the ability to see the best in every situation. Earlier this year, Levi had a fantastic opportunity to take part in a BBC project looking at the Windrush generation, and went to Jamaica to explore his own roots and family ancestry!



The sporting success continues within the Arts Company as Cameron (A1) has achieved a Yellow Belt in his Martial Arts. Well done Cameron.



Raphiela (C5) has attended classes at the Alexander Stadium Gymnastics and Martial Arts Centre for 10 years. Her team took part in the Regional Gymnastics Competitions in July. Despite being the youngest in the competition, Raphiela's team came 1st for floor and bars, 3rd for vault and beam and 2nd overall. Congratulations to Raphiela and her team!

Tushar (9A1) has made outstanding progress this year, exceeding all of his core subjects targets. Tushar has also shown commitment to extra-curriculum activities including playing for the Q3 Academy Langley cricket team and representing his company in a wide range of sporting events.



Congratulations to Matthew (A9) who has achieved his First Dan Black Belt in Taekwondo. *"After doing the sport for 5 years, this has been a real accomplishment!"*



Isabel (C10) has recently been promoted to the under 16s regional Netball team. She has also been a part of the under 16s County team who recently won the regional league and went on to become national finalists. Only 18 teams made it that far in the whole country! Isabel has also run the Year 7 Netball Club at Q3 Academy Great Barr. Keep up the dedication Isabel!

"My name is Alyssa (D7) and I am the Captain of the Q3 Academy Great Barr Rounders Team.

I have had a great experience playing rounders for the past two years and I am honoured I have had this opportunity. We have Miss Samuel, Miss Tromans and Miss Ingall as our coaches and I would like to say thank you for all of the support they have given us. We are currently the Sandwell Champions and the team have been very supportive to one another. We have played well against some great teams from other schools, including George Salter Academy; RSA; Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School and Wood Green Academy amongst others.

I am excited to continue to play rounders this year now that I am in Year 9."



Last term, Che (L8) flew off to Cyprus for a 10 day adventure training trip with the CCF. During this trip students were given the opportunity to participate in many exciting activities. Che had a fantastic time taking part in abseiling, scuba diving. Go-karting, an escape room and hiking. Che feels he has developed many transferable skills from this experience including patience and perseverance. Miss Bloomfield has commented on the fantastic attitude and camaraderie demonstrated by Che who often stepped up to help others including the air hostesses on the plane! Well done Che we are all very proud of you.



Ellie (S2) has worked and achieved brilliantly in all academic subjects, whilst achievements in Taekwondo and hockey outside the Academy and netball, rounders and handball in Academy teams. She is part of the Year 10 team that are West Midlands Champions.

Grace (S5) has achieved many awards in athletics and is the U13 West Midlands champion at 100m and has won over 8 gold medals for her club, Tipton Harriers.



Aspirations, Careers & Employment (ACE)

Year 10 Civil Service Apprenticeships Assembly

During the Summer Term, ex-student Jade Boothe visited Q3 Academy Great Barr to speak to Year 10 students about working in the Civil Service and the apprenticeships available for school leavers. During an assembly, Jade and her colleague, Kamara, explained to students what the Civil Service is and the variety of apprenticeships available within different departments.

As individuals who have undertaken apprenticeships with the Civil Service, Jade and Kamara were able to provide our students with top tips and first-hand accounts of the application process, and experiences of working within the Civil Service.



Business Mentoring Scheme

In July, Aspire2Innovate students celebrated the completion of our first year of the Business Mentoring Scheme, which pairs Year 9 students with business professionals on a one-to-one basis.

The celebration included mentors enjoying games with groups of students such as 'Careers Heads Up' and prizes for the group which could find out the most interesting fact about their mentor.

We'd like to give a massive thank you to all our Business Mentors who have supported the ACE Team and students in developing their aspirations and making the Business Mentoring Scheme a successful venture.



Year 10 Work Experience

From 16th–20th July 2018, Year 10 students at Q3 Academy Great Barr embarked on work experience, providing students with a hands-on experience of the world of work, and awareness of key skills required and practiced in the workplace. Some of these have included time management, communication, independence and problem-solving skills.

Members of staff at Q3 Academy Great Barr visited some of our Year 10 students at their work experience to see how they were getting on and adapting to the change from education to employment. We had fantastic feedback from the students and the employers.



Black Country Business Festival

In May, companies and organisations from across the local area came together for the first 'Black Country Business Festival'. More than 120 events took place across the Black Country, from online seminars to workshops and exhibitions.

Alongside a vast array of organisations, Q3 Academies' ACE Team showcased the work they do to raise student aspirations and prepare them for the world of work. Dr Badyal delivered a fantastic speech on the importance of linking business and education. Q3 Academies continues to work with businesses to provide students with first-hand employer engagement experiences and enhance their knowledge of the careers awaiting them in the near future.



Enterprise

We're happy to report that 'Cool Keys', a company which was set up at the beginning of the academic year in September 2017 by Year 8 Enterprise students has continued to grow and gain popularity.

Students in Year 7 and 8 have also set up their own business, selling colourful slime! Zara (L9), Amreen (S4), Ella-Rose (D1), Amritpreet (S5), Simran (S5), Ria (C10) and Bandna (S5) have taken advantage of the current slime trend amongst young people to promote their product 'Super Slime' and make a profit.

Amreen and Ella-Rose have taken their creativity and entrepreneurial mind-sets one step further by setting up another business – Frames for All, in which they have made and packaged photo frames to sell.



Black Country Young Chamber: Sky Studios

"Back in March 2018, the Young Chamber committee visited Sky Studios in London. Here, we worked with representatives from other schools to create and broadcast our own news report based on young people voting and their political involvement.

We quickly settled in to the Sky Academy studios where we began the broadcast preparation. We were separated into two teams and given a role; Hannah was the camera operator and Steph was the editor. We soon worked out how to operate the equipment and once filming was completed, we returned to the main studio hub to see our work in action. We were proud of our broadcast and have taken away a copy ourselves to remind us of this memorable visit." - Hannah (L8) and Stephanie (L1)





Photo courtesy of Bradley Foster

Prom

Like the weather, this year's Prom was a scorcher! Proud parents and carers joined us as students arrived in flashy cars and quirky vehicles of all descriptions.

The students looked stunning in their suits and dresses and they have matured into a delightful year group. Like the students, the Academy was all decked out in finery to match the black and white 'Great Gatsby' theme.

As well as some light-hearted prizes for Prom Queen and King, they were also entertained

by magicians who performed simply jaw dropping tricks and slight of hand. With amusement and embarrassment in equal measure the staff also joined in the disco at times and treated them to a bit of 'dad' dancing as well as the now traditional 'Electric slide' to Cameo!

We all celebrated their time at Q3 Academy Great Barr with enthusiasm, good humour, and genuine affection. We wish them every success and happiness!



Leavers' Service

Q3 Academy Great Barr said a fond farewell to the Year 11 Class of 2018 in June; after gathering for the traditional photograph and Subway buffet, students followed their PLDs on the short walk to the service.

Held, as usual, at the historic and beautiful St Margaret's Church on Chapel Lane, students shared their musical talents and memories spanning the last five years. Dr Badyal, Mr Arnall and Governor, Reverend Rutter asked students to reflect on the chapters of their lives as well as ensuring that they

had 'packed in their rucksack' the tools needed to face life's challenges. As a community, the service marks a special time to celebrate our amazing students.

Whatever their future plans may be, it is important for them to remember how they have grown and how their experiences have shaped them into young adults.

For some, this was not goodbye as they returned in September to start the next phase of their studies. For those that are off to pastures new, Good luck.

Q3 Academy... Morocco?

During the summer break, Q3 Academy Great Barr SENCo, Miss Chamberlain and Learning Consultant Miss Matthews spent two weeks volunteering in Marrakesh, Morocco. They had first hand experience 'living like a Berber' collecting water from the mountains; baking bread; and making Tagine from locally sourced products in addition to developing the skill of perfecting Moroccan tea.

They travelled with resources and activities so they were able to teach Berber children crafts, sports and enhance their French and English skills. Many of these children live in poor conditions with very little access to food. Children as young as five were walking up to 30 minutes to access the sessions on offer as there is so little available to them in such remote areas.

As well as volunteering in remote villages Miss Chamberlain and Miss Matthews spent some time organising sessions and working with both children and adults with special needs within the city of Marrakesh. This involved stepping out of their own comfort zone to dance on stage with some of the younger children as well as finding their artistic side with face paints and braids.

In addition Miss Chamberlain and Miss Matthews got stuck into a renovation project and helped with painting and refurbishing a primary school to brighten up an old, poorly resources building prior to the children returning in September.

"Perfecting our dance to Shakira's 'Waka Waka' was so much fun and to see the enjoyment on the children's faces felt incredible. Working with both children and adults with special needs in such an underprivileged area just highlighted some of the challenges they would face on a daily basis and how lucky we are to have provision within schools in our country that allow our children to succeed. I feel very privileged that we were able to spend a night in The Sahara after riding to camp on a camel and seeing the natural beauty of the Ouzoud waterfalls between our projects." - Miss Chamberlain

"I feel very fortunate, not only for seeing the contrast in lives and the luck that I have, living in England, but also fortunate to have been so welcomed into a community who will give all they can, even if they have little to give." Miss Matthews



Student Voice

Student Voice is a platform for all students within our Academies to have their say, from suggestions to improve their learning environment to ideas for extra curricular clubs and anything in between.

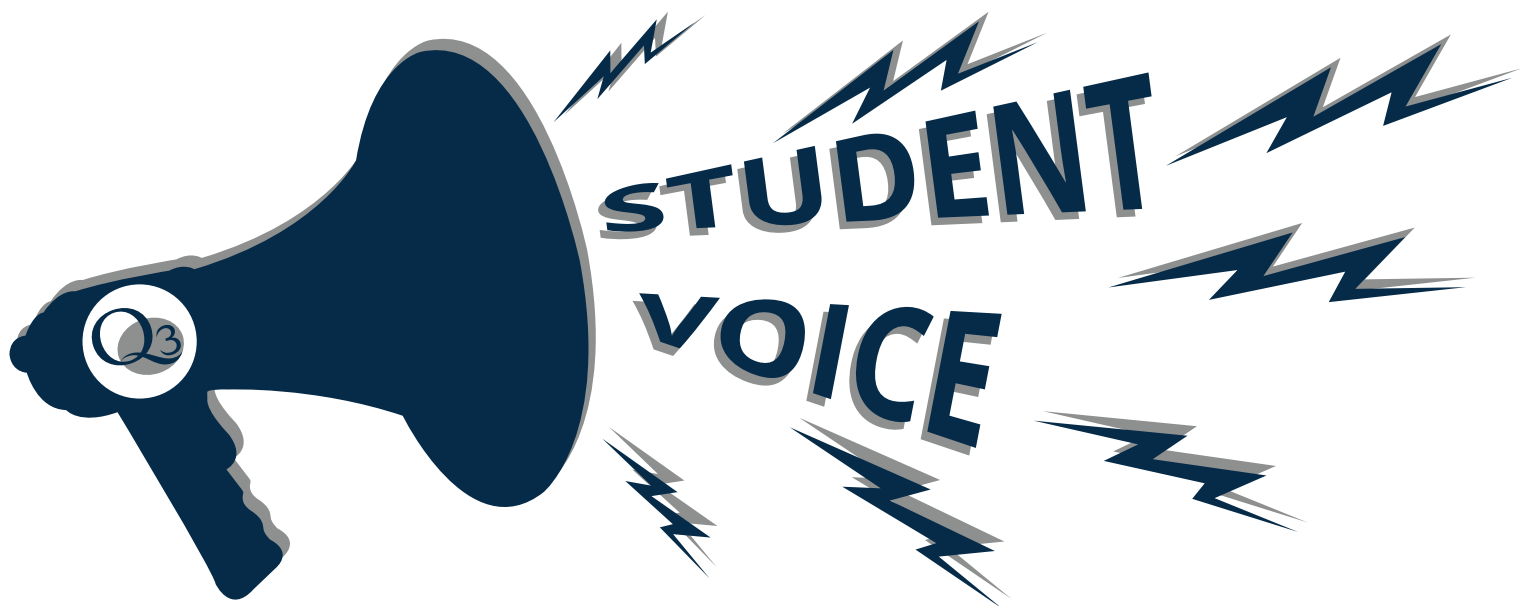
The initiative was relaunched last spring, and since then students have been sharing their opinions through this system. Each Learning Family has their own Student Representatives, who meet on a regular basis to discuss the comments and ideas put forward to them. This is a big responsibility for the individual representatives, but all have risen to the challenge.

The Student Representatives put some of the suggestions to the Senior Leadership Group to implement and some changes have occurred. One of the main points presented to the Senior Leadership Group during last term was regarding the lesson transition music.

Student Voice received a lot of comments asking for the music (which was the Mission Impossible theme) to be changed regularly. This suggestion was successfully implemented and Student Voice Representatives are asking students to send in their music suggestions.

We would like to say a big thank you to the Student Representatives and also Ms Lones-Greaves and Miss Smith who lead Student Voice for Q3 Academy Great Barr and Q3 Academy Langley respectively. Both have done an amazing job leading the Representatives and guiding them into their new roles.

Student Voice brought a lot of insight into the opinions of our students, with the continued support from the staff and the vital input from the students, Student Voice will continue to champion change.





Tea with Dr B: Literacy Rewards

On Friday 25th May, twelve of our wonderful students were rewarded for their reading efforts and achievements this year. Accompanied by our Chief Executive, Dr Badyal; Head of School, Mr Arnall and Academy-wide Literacy Lead; Miss Iacono. The students enjoyed tea, cakes, and other treats whilst sharing their love of reading and genres of interest.

Q3 Academy Great Barr values the importance of Literacy and reading not only as a lifelong skill, but the building blocks of all learning. Recently, the tenth annual 'What Kids Are Reading' report revealed that development made by pupils in primary school pauses when they transfer to secondary school and, consequently, the gap between students' reading

ability and their age widens. Through the recent refurbishment of our Learning Solutions Centre, the implementation of the 'Keep Calm and Read' programme, and our continual restocking of current and classic texts, Q3 Academy Great Barr is proactive in ensuring that students do not fall into this category.

It is so thrilling to see our students equipped with a reading book each day and watching them get lost in the world of reading. We would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support, whether that be taking time to read with students at home, or ensuring they have their reading book ready for the Academy week ahead.



Sports Days

Friday 13th July saw the 2018 Sports Day for Q3 Academy Great Barr. The morning session consisted of field events and 800m which included a very exciting high jump competition. Later, the track events brought out the best in Q3 students with everyone eager to gain points for their Company. The infamous obstacle relay brought the most humour and competitiveness to the day. Motivated by rousing pep talks from Miss Samuel, Discovery students led from the first competition and never looked back to win the Sports Day trophy in addition to the National School Sports Week trophy!

The week after, it was Q3 Academy Langley's turn, hosted at near-by Barnford Park and joined by Mr. Hard, whose expertise helped the day run extremely smoothly. In a closely-contested day of events, determining the winning Company came down to the wire. Last year's winners, Lifestyle, did win the Year 8 competition, but due to a magnificent effort from Year 7, Social Design ended the day as the overall champions, pipping their rivals to the post by a single point! All staff and students had a fabulous day!





Sixth Form vs Staff

In an attempt to raise funds for a fantastic charitable cause, The Brothers Trust, Q3 Academy Great Barr Sixth Form students came up with a Q3 Academies first - a charity football match between Sixth Form and staff!

The after-hours event was very well attended by students and staff alike and the atmosphere was electric.

The match was close throughout the whole of the first half, with impressive playing from both teams. The staff team scored two goals in quick succession, but a fantastic goal from Sixth Former Bradley (S8) brought the score to 2-1 as the half time whistle blew.

However, the second half sent the game into a downward spiral for the Sixth Form students, with the staff team scoring goal after goal for the remainder of the game and at the final whistle the score stood at an impressive 7-1!

The number of spectators was fantastic, the number of goals was higher than expected but the only number that really mattered was the money raised from ticket and refreshment sales and donations totalling a very respectable £246.50!



THANK YOU

Thank you to all the business individuals and organisations who have supported Q3 Academy Great Barr's Aspirations, Careers & Employability Events during 2017/2018. We look forward to working with you again in the near future.

If you would like to enquire about working with the ACE team to support our students' career aspirations please contact cmeredith@q3academy.org.uk.



Lettings & Events

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 Coordinator & Lettings Officer

Tel: 0121 358 6186 ext 1469

E-mail: heather.may@q3academy.org.uk

Gym membership is also available at a discounted rate.

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**ACADEMY
GREAT BARR**

Open Week:

Monday 24th - Friday 28th
September 2018
9.15am - 11.00am

Open Day:

Saturday 29th September 2018
9.00am - 12.00pm



**ACADEMY
LANGLEY**

Open Week:

Monday 1st - Friday 5th
October 2018
9.15am - 11.00am

Open Day:

Saturday 6th October 2018
9.00am - 12.00pm



**ACADEMY
TIPTON**

Open Week:

Monday 24th - Friday 28th
September 2018
9.15am - 11.00am

Open Day:

Saturday 22nd September 2018
9.00am - 12.00pm

Come along to our Open Events and find out more about us and how to secure a place for your Year 6 child.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Academies

Q3: To seek for that which is good, right and true

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