



FoQus
Spring 2015



ACADEMY

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Cover Photos:

Front - Preetkamal Johal. "This was taken on a trip to the botanical gardens for her project of 'Line'."

Back - Mr I Garfield "Focus on the Crocus"

Dr Badyal celebrates the successes of the new year

In January, the league tables confirmed Q3's position as top performer in Sandwell and this reflects the tremendous hard work and commitment of our staff and students.

Foqus captures the 'can do' attitude of the Q3 team. Students have continued to excel in a wide range of activities both in and out of the Academy. Staff in Art, Drama and PE have engaged large numbers of students in competitive activities showing excellent team spirit. Enterprise has been embedded across the year groups including work with Aston Villa Football Club, Young Tycoons and the National Enterprise scheme.

Links with business and the community have developed further with the introduction of Employabilityuk for our Sixth form students. They have gained first-hand experience of the world of work with the support of business mentors who have helped to raise career aspirations.

Charitable activities have again supported a number of worthy causes with the 'Giving Nation Challenge' featuring as a new project for Year 8 students. Company Charity Days have also continued to raise large sums of money through a range of fun activities and challenges.

Recently I asked all of our Year 7 students to reflect on their journey since joining us in September and I am very impressed with their submissions. In the following extract, Bradley

Jones referred to his incredible journey:

“ I wondered how I would cope out of my comfort zone moving from my junior school to join a large school with so many floor levels, so many classrooms, so many new teachers. I quickly realised that I was at a major stage in my life, that I needed to step up to the mark and start to mature quickly. Each day I left home with a positive attitude and started to settle in. I met new people and started to bond with new friends and my teachers who have helped me to achieve a number of awards.”

Karam Sandhu, also in Year 7, wanted to say a big thank you:

“ ...to every single teacher for making learning fun. I am proud to be studying and attending here.”

As we prepare for the Easter break I would like to add my thanks to the Q3 team for their hard work and commitment to our Pursuit of Excellence.

Best wishes,

Dr Caroline Badyal
Principal/Chief Executive



Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Congratulations to the Duke of Edinburgh students!

All of the students passed the award at the end of the last academic year and have now received their certificates from Dr Badyal at an awards event on 5th February 2015.

The Duke of Edinburgh programme for 2014/15 is underway and there are 22 students enrolled onto the Bronze Award and 6 students enrolled onto the Silver Award. Students have been arriving enthusiastically at 8.00am every Monday morning to attend lessons. Expeditions are set to take place in June and July.



This Girl Can

This Girl Can is a nationwide campaign to encourage women and girls to get involved in sport. It seeks to tell the real story of women who play sport, rather than use false or idealised images.

At Q3 we pride ourselves on the number of girls of all ages and backgrounds who participate in PE and Sport. As an Academy we are celebrating our girls' involvement by joining this campaign.

Q3 Entrepreneurs

Aston Villa Enterprise

As part of the AVFC Social Enterprise programme, 20 of our current Year 10 students took part in a Dragon's Den style event in front of a panel of four Dragons. On the panel was current Aston Villa first team player Libor Kozak.

During the event, students had to sell their business plans and ideas to the judges.

They have been working very hard over the last few months to put their ideas into practise.

The judges gave very rigorous and constructive feedback on how their business plans could be improved before they are put into practice. After each presentation the Dragon's asked very probing questions



to help our students improve the credibility of their business plans.

All groups presenting were competing for prize money of £200 to help start their businesses. A massive well done to all three groups at Q3 Academy who were awarded £200.

Tycoons

A group of Year 7 students have shown their entrepreneurial skills, as they set up their own small businesses.

They started the process in September by writing a detailed business plan for the attention

of Peter Jones; he loved their ideas and offered them funds to help with the set-up costs. The students did lots of research to find out exactly what would sell well within the Academy and came up with ideas for accessories, chocolates in hand-made boxes and USB sticks. As soon as the money came in, they wasted no time in sourcing products and setting up their stalls in the Design Centre. The level of commitment shown has been incredible and will ensure their success over the remainder of the project.



Sports Sideline

Netball

The U14 and U16 league for this Academic year is now complete and the teams have experienced a mixed bag of results. The players have shown fantastic commitment and enthusiasm even when results did not go their way.

The Year 7s are training hard in preparation for their league games.

With the positivity and commitment they are already demonstrating, the season will be a success for them.



LIFESTYLE COMPANY

On behalf of the Lifestyle Team, I would like to say a massive thank you to all students for their excellent consistency and hard work this term. In September I mentioned that we are a big family, and together we achieve and succeed. I am very excited about Lifestyle Charity Day and I hope that you can all contribute so that we can make a difference and have impact on the charity we support.

Mr A Nore

Achievements

Street Dance

Leah Ellis and her street dance crew called 'Distinction' have had magnificent achievements over the last couple of months. Read Leah's story below about her dance group: "My street dance crew is called 'Distinction'. We've been together as a group for almost a year and a half now. We have recently competed in the Midlands Street Dance International competition which we won in November 2014. As a result, we were asked to perform in front of the Lord Mayor of Walsall. As well as this, we have performed at the launch of the 'New Look' clothing store in West Bromwich. 'Distinction' have been entered into many talent shows, the most recent being 'The Big One' held at Walsall Town Hall. We regularly perform in community events in front of the local community. For many people in our crew, dance is a way for us to release our emotions. Also, we have developed many skills such as teamwork, collaboration, thinking skills, practical dance skills as well as learning about different dance cultures around the world. Being a part of this crew has been an amazing experience and I cannot wait to see what lies ahead."

Leah Ellis

The following students below were nominated for the PLD award for Lifestyle. This is a very difficult decision to make however, to receive the award, students must go above and beyond.

Year 7 – Harleen Bains

Consistently high standards and an excellent attitude to her learning. Always offers to help other people and get involved.

Year 8 – Hannah Humphreys

Consistently high standards and an excellent attitude to her learning. Always helpful, dedicated and hard working, a real credit to the company.

Year 9 – Sara Banares

A consistently smart student who is always ready to learn. Maintains high standards and an excellent attitude to learning.

Year 10 – Asha Bains

A hard working student who leads by example in her tutor. She has great people skills and sets high standards for herself.

6th Form – Lily Wilkins

Support of younger members of the company and acting as co-tutor.

Well done everyone!



In the

SPOTLIGHT



Jak Loach

Year 13, Looking at Next Steps.

“My dream is to become an RE teacher in a secondary school. I did GCSE RE here at Q3 Academy and I am currently doing A-Level RE too. I have applied to universities and have received many conditional offers and I cannot wait to start my course. Every Friday I help Mr Nore and Miss Smith in the RE department with their Year 9 GCSE class.

They have given me the platform to experience what it is like to be in their shoes and what it is like to be a teacher.

I have been helping Year 9 students in small group activities, I have been able to provide my own personal experience of RE at GCSE as I was also taught by Mr Nore. I give them support with exam structure and technique and I have also been very lucky to be able to deliver activities to the class. This has raised confidence in myself and in my ability and I would like to thank Mr Nore and the RE department for giving me such a valuable opportunity.”

Jak Loach



SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form students benefit from weekly assemblies held by the Director of Sixth Form/Assistant Vice Principal, Mr Wiltshire. During these assemblies students are given up to date information relating to university applications, student finance, any upcoming examinations and revision techniques.



UCAS

All Upper Sixth applications for university were successfully submitted well before the deadline of 15th January. Students are now in the process of accepting offers from universities and attending interview days. Places have been accepted at a wide range of universities, including Birmingham,

Exeter, Leeds and Cardiff. Lower Sixth students are currently participating in the 'Higher Education Programme' during tutor time, which includes advice on university applications and personal statements in readiness for next year, when they will be required to complete their UCAS applications. They have also received careers advice from Mr Perrins explaining all their options after Post-16 study.





JETS

The JETs are having an extremely successful year.

They are a group of highly motivated students who help to raise money for charity, give advice and guidance to younger students, chair company and Academy councils, assist with community lunches and help the Academy to be as environmentally friendly as possible. They manage the prefect team, comprised of Year 12 students.

EMPLOYABILITYUK

The Sixth Form Mentoring Group experienced a work place visit to Thomas Dudley Ltd recently as part of their mentoring programme.

Students had a guided tour of the whole of the manufacturing process, involving foundry casting and plastic mouldings, and experienced presentations by one of the engineering apprentices. They were also fortunate to listen to Mr Michael Dudley, Chief Executive, who gave a brief outline of the history of his family's firm and their attempts to enhance the career experience of local students.

Students on the programme have been attached to a business mentor this year, who has provided valuable guidance on various aspects of career development.



acorns

Congratulations to Olivia Dyer, Karenpreet Shoker and Maariyah Kola who, through their hard work and commitment, have raised a total of £1097 so far this year for Acorns Children's Hospice. Well done girls!



Sports Sideline

Girls Football

The girls have been continuing with their football training each week with the WBA coach. Both their fantastic attendance records and effort have aided their development as players, improving both their skills levels and knowledge of the game.

Recently, they participated in a weekly tournament, playing against each other in order to be crowned as Champions. Well done to the individuals, captained by Amritpal Samra, who won the tournament. There were also awards and prizes for the most improved player – Phillipa Handy and the best leader – Charlotte Nelson, who were both rewarded with tickets to West Bromwich Albion!

The girls have many tournaments coming up, with different year groups playing at the Wolves training ground as well as the WBA Dome. Well done to all of the girls for their continued commitment to training.



Arts COMPANY

The Arts company continue to impress me. Our attendance has been a real strength and is currently 96.6% since September, with many students still on 100%. I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support. If I can ask if you have any new contact numbers, can you please ring Miss Davis the Arts Company Administrator who will be delighted to have these from you. She will then ensure our Academy records are up to date.

Ms J Lones-Greaves

Achievements

The following students all need a special mention for their achievements:

Demi Powell

for being chosen to participate in a music dance video, set in London. Well done Demi!

Shiva Chauhan

attends K-Stat gym and has recently achieved a yellow band in Thai Boxing.

Ryan Dorkins

has achieved a black tag in taekwondo (1 Kup)

Sophie Cooper

has gained star trophy 5 in ballroom and Latin.

Emma Brown-Short

has gained her 100m swimming badge

Ellie Beckett

has gained Grade 3 in Dance

Alisha Rahman

gained level 2 Ice-skating and a Gold badge for swimming.

Abi Ridley

has passed stable management and riding at level 1 & 2

Jack Barry

plays for Holy Name football team and has scored 16 goals this season.

Daniel Mistry *(Pictured)*

has been awarded the position of goal keeper at Great Barr Harriers F.C, following a month of training trials.



Matthew Collingwood

achieved a blue belt in taekwondo

Caitlin Lockyer

came joint 1st in a recent horse show

We would like to congratulate Shauna Husband on getting her poem 'Peace' published in the Great Barr Observer. The theme was International Peace Day.

PEACE

No more bangs
Just shake hands
No more bombs
Just happy songs
No more war
That should be the law
Not that horrid sight
So people can sleep at night
Just pray
People get through the day
Make the world a happier place
Throughout the human race.

In the

SPOTLIGHT



Christopher Handy

Army Recruitment Process

“Chris has applied to join the Royal Armoured Corps (The Tank Regiment). He has undergone the initial rigorous stages of the selection process, including a week long assessment course in which he was placed first in the physical activity test; followed by two formal interviews.

He will soon undertake an assessment day where he will undergo a series of technical tests, as tank crewman he must learn to fix any mechanical issues in the field.”

Mrs V Scott-Garrett

Well done so far Chris, we wish you every success in the next part of the process!



ARTS CHARITY DAY

A massive thank you to all the staff and students who took part in the Arts Charity events, they were a huge success!

A variety of activities were undertaken including: a sponsored silence, selling a variety of sweets, cookies, books, Valentines cards and hot drinks.

There were two 'I'm a Q3 celebrity get me out of here' eating challenges held. Students paid to see members of staff eat rather strange and odd items. A big thank you goes to all the staff who were brave enough to take part!



One of the key events was 'gunge the teacher'. Staff were asked to donate out of date food items which were then combined to make a rather unpleasant concoction, four staff were kind enough to have the gunge poured over them.

Thank you to all staff and students for their time and generosity.

The Arts Charity Day raised in excess of £1100! All proceeds will go to Cancer Research and Diabetes UK.





ENCHANTED

Christmas 2014 saw the world premiere performance of 'Enchanted' at Q3 Academy - a brand new fairy-tale musical which combined the magical stories of Rapunzel and Beauty and the Beast.

Staff and students put countless hours of dedication and enthusiasm into preparing the show and the delighted audiences who witnessed their efforts unanimously voted the show a festive smash-hit.

In a long tradition of past Christmas productions at Q3 Academy such as Snow

White, Sleeping Beauty and a Christmas Carol, this year's show was another sell-out success and combined beautiful ballet, hilarious comedy and powerful live vocal and musical performances.

To make the show as professional as possible, the Academy hired special costumes from the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham and a great deal of time and effort was put into stage design and the use of state-of-the-art lighting and sound.

In addition, for the first time this year, our friends at Francesco Group created amazing make-up, hair design and realisation for the actors



and we sincerely thank them for their invaluable support. Every year group was included in the show from Benjamin Hayfield and Caitlyn Lockyer in Year 7 up to Alex Nutall in Year 13 and all the performers and the creative crew had a wonderful and enchanting time in bringing the show to life.



COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY

In Communications we are proud to say that we make a positive contribution to the Academy on a day to day basis. As the first Company to run a charity day this academic year we managed to raise £471.05 for the Birmingham Christmas Shelter.

Communications were sad to say goodbye to Miss Antell this year as PLC, but are happy to re-introduce Mr McCormack as our new PLC

One of our assembly focuses this term was 'The Impact of Bullying' where we looked at the Shane Koyczan poem To This Day; it would be great if our parents could find this video and engage in the discussion at home, to the right is a short excerpt.

Mr C Bailey

...I'm not the only kid
who grew up this way
surrounded by people who used to say
that rhyme about sticks and stones
as if broken bones
hurt more than the names we got called
and we got called them all
so we grew up believing no one
would ever fall in love with us
that we'd be lonely forever
that we'd never meet someone
to make us feel like the sun
was something they built for us
in their tool shed
so broken heart strings bled the blues
as we tried to empty ourselves
so we would feel nothing
don't tell me that hurts less than a
broken bone
that an ingrown life
is something surgeons can cut away
that there's no way for it to metastasize
it does

*You can read the full poem at
<http://www.tothisdayproject.com>*

Academy Council

This term has seen the Communication's Academy Council get fully involved in their role.

They are now having regular meetings and bringing the ideas of their tutor group to be shared on a wider platform. Communications' student council representative Ted McGuire explained his reasons for joining the group, saying; "I am happy to be part of Comms and C-AGS, so I like to be able to represent them as part of the council. It will look good on my CV as well, so I'm happy with that".



In the

SPOTLIGHT



Caleb Woodhall

Head Boy



The start of 2015 has been particularly successful for Communications student, Caleb Woodhall (C-AGS) who has been voted by his peers, to be the Academy's Head Boy.

Caleb stated that he was happy to be Head Boy, despite the fact he initially wasn't sure he'd be right for the position:

“ It was Mr. Bailey's recommendation that I apply and suggestion that I would be good for the role, that led to me applying for the role of Head Boy. ”

Now that Caleb is Head Boy he is looking forward to “getting involved” and “representing the other students” of Q3 Academy.

CADETS



The Q3 Academy ACF Cadet detachment has seen a change in leadership in recent weeks with Lt. Allen travelling down from Walsall HQ to oversee the detachment. Alongside Mr Bailey and Sgt. Leith, Lt. Allen is hoping to continue to build on the skills already developed by the cadets and continue to build a strong and confident detachment that will proudly represent Q3 Academy and the ACF. There has never been a better time to sign up for Cadets at Q3 Academy.



Get involved in our action-packed New Year campaign by telling us how you will change your limits in 2015

Interested? Come and ask Mr Bailey for more information!



Changing Young Lives Safeguarding Workshop

This term we have teamed up with the organisation 'Changing Young Lives' for a workshop on safeguarding. A panel of Year 8, 9 and 10 students spent a morning working alongside visitors from the charity highlighting risks to young people.

Their comments and ideas will be used to inform Sandwell Local Authority on how they could improve the safety of young people in the community. There was a real buzz of enthusiasm throughout the session and the students were able to make some brilliant suggestions, even taking on the roles of Social Workers in a group activity.

The greatest success of the workshop was the leadership and teamwork skills demonstrated by the students involved. In particular, one of our Year 10 students Sam, who has been working as a young leader for Changing Young Lives, delivered a workshop to the younger students with the support of our visitors, showing great confidence and a clear passion to make a difference in our local area – well done!

MFL Spelling Bee

Once again our 'French Spelling Bee' has produced some tight competition between students.

All Year 7 Outlook students took part in the competition and not only did they have to learn the meanings and spellings of up to one hundred French words, but they also had to spell them aloud under pressure, using the French pronunciation of the letters.

Well done to Parmdeep Kooner and Katharine Marsh who reached the Q3 Finals and special congratulations go to Amelia Priddey, Luke Gardner, Javaughn Mair and Amandeep Kaur who won the Q3 round and will be representing the Academy at the regional finals in April. Well done to all our competitors!



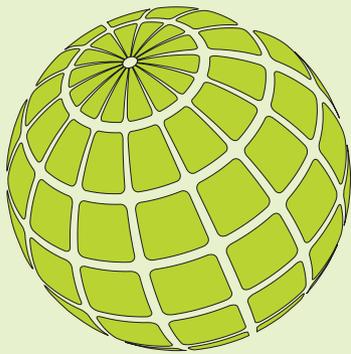
Sports Sideline

Futsal Final

After winning the Sandwell Schools Futsal tournament earlier in the year the Sixth Form squad went on to represent Sandwell at the Black Country Games Futsal tournament, which was held at Birmingham Futsal Arena.

The students played the best teams within the area and came third in the tournament overall, missing out on second place only on goal difference. With a record of only one loss, one draw and winning the rest of their games, the boys played really well and showed some fantastic individual skill and team work.

The boys were also complemented on their style of play from the Futsal referees. Originally there were 30 teams entered in this tournament so it was a massive achievement to represent Sandwell and to come third overall. All the players should be really proud of what they achieved and hopefully next year they can go on and win the tournament!



SOCIAL DESIGN COMPANY

I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to all of the students in Social Design for their contribution to the Social Design Charity day in December. Thanks to their efforts, £575.16 was raised for the Help for Heroes charity.

Social Design has continued with great attendance figures for this Academic year. Our company attendance currently stands at 96.2%. This is 0.2% above our Academy target and a 0.5% improvement on this time last year.

Mr R Machin

Achievements

A special mention goes to:

Sasha Bunn

who has been selected to represent the Academy at the regional finals of the Lion Heart Challenge, a Nationwide Enterprise Programme.

Arjun Singh

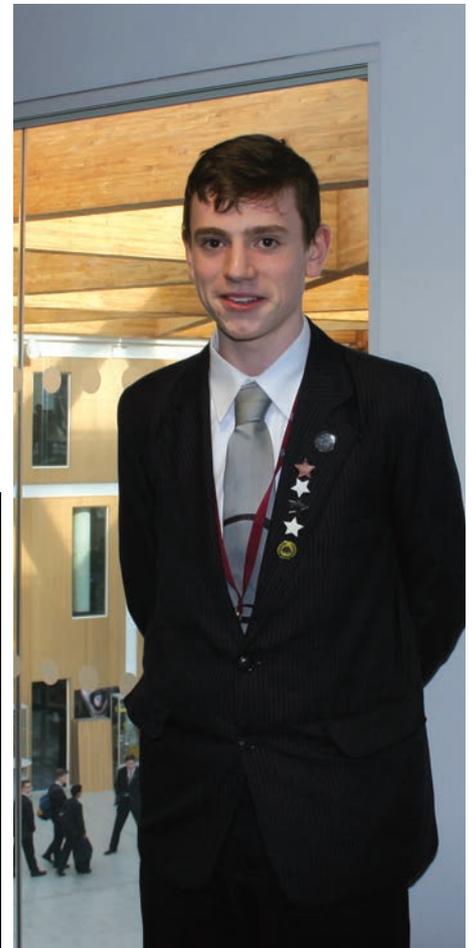
who at the start of February has earned a Brown Belt in Thai Boxing.

LIAM PRESTON

Liam Preston recently attained the role of a character in Fagan's gang in the theatre production Oliver.

He performed this role for 5 days at the Garrick Theatre in Lichfield.

He is now looking forward to his next performance in Les Miserables later on this year.



In the

SPOTLIGHT



Francesca Orthodoxou

International Football U17 Star

Francesca Orthodoxou has represented Birmingham City Ladies FC U17 in the Gothia Cup football tournament in Sweden.

At the opening ceremony of the tournament there were 50,000 in attendance. This tournament consisted of teams across the world. Fran's team was placed in the elite U17's group as last year they were recognised as one of the top 16 best teams at U17 level across the world.

They played well throughout the tournament before unfortunately being knocked out at the quarter-final stage. They have been invited back to Sweden again in July to compete in the elite tournament.

Congratulations Fran, we wish you every success in the next tournament!



Learning Together

Parent/Student Learning Evening

Study sessions have been held to support the parents through a series of 'Support your child at home' workshops. The sessions have been delivered by a member of the senior team and have aimed to give resources and techniques to aid revision at home for students in all year groups.

“ This session has helped reinforce what we are doing at home. ”

“ I found the session really useful and helped in the way of my daughter doing homework, it has given me different ideas. Mr Machin made this very informative, well done. ”



Q3 Academy Teachers Learning Together

On Monday 26th January the Academy was closed for an Inset day as we welcomed renowned teacher Jim Smith. He led a day's training by taking staff through his repertoire to encourage students to "learn more when you teach less," in order that we empower our students to learn collaboratively, make decisions and solve problems.

Jim's refreshing approach to classroom practice reminded staff of many strategies – 55 at last count – some were new, some we had forgotten! He is the latest in a series of guest presenters that have visited the Academy to help improve and inspire our staff team!

We were joined by several new PGCE colleagues and overall an enthusing day was had by all!

Lion Heart Challenge

In February all Year 9 students participated in the 'Lionheart challenge'. This event, sponsored by the West Midlands Police Force, aimed to channel the students' creativity by looking at community cohesion and challenging youth crime.

They created a product or service that directly linked in with youth crime and community safety. The teams then completed tasks around customer profiles, developing the team, pricing, finance, marketing and presentation skills.

The students reflected on their activities throughout the day and, with the assistance of leading figures from the business and police community, produced eloquent and inspiring presentations.

Our students were fantastic, as always, and feedback was very complimentary from the group who selected Q3 from all the Schools and Academies in the region.



The Giving Nation Challenge

This half term my Year 8 Head Start group were given the 'Giving Nation Challenge' to raise money for their chosen charity using only £50 which they had to pay back at the end.

Students decided they wanted to have a Valentine's Day theme which took the form of offering a gift and delivery service. As a group, it was decided they would sell Rolos, Love Hearts, Roses and origami hearts.

They sold an origami heart with another item for £1, including free delivery if the purchaser preferred to stay anonymous. The roses proved to be extremely popular and sold out on day two!

Once the £50 had been repaid, students managed a profit of £27.60. This was donated to help volunteers at Mind Empower and support people struggling with a mental illness.

Miss L Chamberlain

Sports Sideline

Sports Leaders

Year 11 students have begun their Level 1 qualification, the majority of whom are also undertaking their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. The students have learnt about methods that can be used to motivate participants, manage disruptive behaviour and the skills it takes to become a good leader.

Year 12 students are half way through their Level 2 qualification and have studied modules of work on 'Health and Fitness', 'Development of Leadership Skills' and 'Making Activity Sessions Inclusive for All'. They experienced their first taste of leadership and planning when they hosted an after school session for thirty Year 4 and 5 Gifted and Talented students from our local Primary Schools. The group are in the process of organising further sessions to work with Key Stage 1 students on a range of multi-skills activities.

The Level 3 Leaders are working hard to complete the theoretical element of their course and are in the process of planning how they will achieve their thirty hours of leadership within the community.



DISCOVERY COMPANY

We continue to pride ourselves on how we work together as a team and I wanted that to be the theme of this term's update. As I write this we are in the final stages of planning our charity day and I know it will be a great success with all of the effort that students are putting in.

Mr A Machin

JOE ROWLEY

Joe has taken on the responsibility of managing and coaching Silverdale Baggies U8s, a local boys' football team. Over the last 7 months, Joe has been developing his players, both with skill levels and knowledge of the game. Joe has given up his free time helping youngsters improve, training his team each Friday evening and arranging friendlies with local teams. We hope to see some silverware soon!



Achievements

We have many students competing in a number of sports and other activities:

Joe Nokes

plays water polo for Boldmere and has been selected to train with The City of Birmingham Water Polo team.

Ellie Taylor

is not only fantastic at Judo, currently at her blue belt/red tip, but she is also a member of our cadets unit.

Alfie Harwood

was mentioned in the local newspaper in the last half term for scoring for his team, Wednesbury Sports Union U12s .

Holly Forrester

has achieved a merit level 2 qualification in piano.

As you are probably aware at the end of last half term we had a girls football team selected to play in a tournament against teams such as Wolverhampton and Aston Villa and we are proud to say that not only did the girls win the tournament, but our very own Antonia Kingscott scored the winning goal in the final!

In the

SPOTLIGHT



Billy McKen

Young Artist

I am pleased to share with you some beautiful work done by Billy McKen (Year 9) for his Art project. It is a large oil pastel drawing of a pineapple done from a photograph that he took. It really is stunning!
-Miss M Jeanneret

“This piece was for my natural forms project and I used oil pastels. I spent a long time on it and am very proud of it.”
Billy McKen





Q3 Academy
Wilderness Lane
Great Barr
Birmingham
B43 7SD

Tel 0121 358 6186
Fax 0121 358 5967



www.q3academy.org.uk