

Our Ref : MAL/SKY

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers



As the first half term comes to a close I am delighted that our students have settled into the new academic year so well. I am particularly impressed with our new Year 7 students and with the warm welcome they have been shown by older students. We are equally proud that so many of our former Year 11 students have achieved the grades they needed to return to our Sixth Form. Last year's Year 11 did exceptionally well and they achieved the highest average points score in Sandwell. Our A-Level students also had very strong results and we improved our average A-Level grades.

This year we have welcomed a number of new staff to our Academy. Miss, Ebrahim and Miss Rollason (Learning Consultants in English) Mr Walker (Learning Consultant in English and Media) Mr Stephenson (Learning Consultant in Science) Mr Mousa (Learning Consultant in ICT), Mrs Sayer (Learning Consultant in MFL) and Mr Kumar (Learning Consultant in Art). We are also delighted to announce a new internal appointment, Miss Callaghan has become one of our Vice Principals and will work closely with our existing Vice Principal, Mr Slack.

I was delighted to be able to address all students in their Year assemblies at the beginning of the term and they all looked very smart in their Business Dress. This year we emphasised the importance of taking personal responsibility, and especially the courage to take risks, make mistakes and learn from them. Our Heads of Year 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 important foundations to achieving success.

If you have any concerns about your child's progress in a particular subject or their personal welfare, do not leave this to a parents' consultation evening, but instead make contact with the relevant Head of Year: Miss Baines for Year 7, Miss Walsh for Year 8, Miss Samuel for Year 9, Mr Webster for Year 10 and Mr Kulyna for Year 11. For concerns regarding a Sixth Form student please contact Mrs Noakes. These are all teaching staff, so it may be necessary for them to call you back when they are available.

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 8.55a.m. at the latest, ensuring a prompt 9.00a.m. start to lessons. If you drop your child off at the Academy, it is important that the 8.55a.m. start is maintained. May I also remind you about safe and considerate parking in the interests of all our children, and the local community.

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 8.00a.m. As the most important meal of the day, breakfast ensures a good start to learning. Students must be in the Academy before 8.45a.m. if they wish to benefit from this service.

If you wish to become more closely involved with Academy life, our Parents' and Academy Contact Team (PACT) hold meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, and would welcome new supporters. 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](http://www.q3academy.org.uk). Do also continue to use the website to provide us with any feedback you may have – your views are very important to us. We also have regular updates on Twitter (you can follow us @q3academy) and on our Facebook page (Q3 Academy Great Barr).

A list of key dates for the new Autumn Term 2019 is provided below:

- Inset Days – 24th and 25th October 2019 (Academy is closed to all students);
- Half Term Holidays – 28th October 2019 – 1st November 2019;
- Sixth Form Open Evening – 14th November 2019 6.15p.m. – 8p.m.;
- The Grace Payne Public Speaking Competition – 28th November 2019 – timings to be confirmed;
- Parents' Consultation Evening (Year 10 and 13) – 3rd December 2019 – 3.30p.m. – 7.30p.m.;
- Academy Christmas Performance – Cinderella – 10th and 11th December 2019;
- Christmas Break – 16th December 2019 – 3rd January 2020

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

### Autumn Term 2019

2nd September 2019 – 13th December 2019

(Monday 2nd September, Thursday 24th and Friday 25th October are INSET DAYS. The Academy is closed to students.)

Half Term: 28th October – 1st November 2019

Christmas Holidays: 16th December 2019 – 3rd January 2020

### Spring Term 2020

6th January 2020 – 3rd April 2020

(Monday 6th January is an INSET DAY. The Academy is closed to students.)

Half Term: 17th February – 21st February 2020

Easter Holidays: 6th April – 17th April 2020

### Summer Term 2020

20th April – 24th July 2020

(Friday 3rd July is an INSET DAY. The Academy is closed to students.)

May Day Bank Holiday: **Friday** 8th May 2020

Half Term: 25th May – 29th May 2020

Summer Holidays: 27th July – 31st August 2020

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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