

10th October 2008

Dear Parents/Carers

We have now completed almost six weeks of our first term as Q3 Academy and I would like to thank you for your continued support during this period. Our staff and students have worked fantastically to embrace the new developments, and we appreciate the work that you our parents and carers have done to ensure a positive start to the term.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a number of areas of Academy life and also to provide you with key dates for your diaries.

Open Week

We recently held a very successful Open Week and were delighted with the vast numbers of parents who have expressed an interest in sending their children to Q3 Academy in September 2009. Once again our students were a credit to us all!

Business Dress

We are all aware of the difficulties encountered with the supply and distribution of the new Business Dress and I would again like to apologise for the inconvenience which many of you were subjected to. As a result of the large number of concerns raised by parents and carers we have decided to change our supplier, and will therefore no longer be working with Tesco. The style and colour of the Business Dress will remain the same and we are currently discussing options with a number of new suppliers. If you wish to purchase additional garments the Academy shop is open daily from 10.00 am until 2.00 pm. In spite of the difficulties encountered I am sure you will agree that our students do look very smart!

Examination Results

Please find attached a summary of results for Summer 2008. Q3 is placed third in the local authority based on its performance in %5A* - C GCSE grades including Mathematics and English. Early predictions for next summer promise a further upward trend in performance. Information showing trends and targets is also attached.

Family Holidays

I would also like to remind you not to book family holidays during term time. Any holiday taken will be counted as **'unauthorised'** in the official register. Holidays taken during term time can affect your child's achievement and attainment which can be particularly harmful to progress in tests and examinations.

Term Dates 2008/2009

Autumn Term	Monday 1 st September 2008 to Friday 12 th December 2008 (Half-term: 27 th – 31 st October 2008)
Spring Term	Monday 5 th January 2009 to Friday 3 rd April 2009 (Half-term: 16 th – 20 th February 2009)
Summer Term	Monday 20 th April 2009 to Friday 24 th July 2009 (Half-term: 25 th – 29 th May 2009)

Kick Start

Based on feedback from students, staff, parents and carers we have conducted an evaluation of the current provision. Immediately after the half term break the Kick Start programme will be revised to take account of some of the concerns which have been expressed. A new programme will be issued to you shortly.

Parental Parking

May I respectfully remind you not to park in the turning circle outside of the Academy. The number of Parents/Carers parking in this area is now becoming a serious risk to the Health and Safety of our Students.

I trust I can rely on your support in this matter.

National Teaching Awards

The Teaching Awards is an annual celebration of teaching and learning. If you or your child would like to nominate any of our staff please go to www.teachingawards.com. All those who nominate this term will be entered into a prize draw, where you could win £1,000 worth of books for the Academy (five £1,000 prizes in total).

Dates for your diary

20 October 2008 – Parents by Invitation
21 October 2008 – Black History Celebration Evening
23 October 2008 – Interim Report 1 issued
23 October 2008 – PACT Disco Years 7,8 & 9
24 October 2008 – INSET DAY (Academy closed to Students)
27 – 31 October 2008 – Half Term
10 – 15 November 2008 – National Enterprise Week
10 – 15 November 2008 – Year 10/11 Plas Gwynant Visit
19 November 2008 – Post 16 Evening
26 November 2008 – Poetry Live (Year 11 visit)
3 December 2008 – Performing Arts Christmas Showcase
8 December 2008 – Parents by Invitation
9 December 2008 – German Day
12 December 2008 – Interim Report 2 issued, Target Setting and Review Day (Further details will be issued)

I look forward to seeing you during the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Badyal
Chief Executive/Principal

