

11<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the new academic year.

I am delighted to announce the first set of examination results for the Academy:

5 GCSE A\* - C grades including Mathematics and English: 45%

A Level: 100% pass rate

Both of the above key statistics have exceeded the targets set for the Academy's first year of operation. In addition the quality of grades has shown a marked improvement with the students achieving a record number of A and A\* grades. A detailed subject breakdown will be provided in your copy of 'Q Review' (issued before the end of September). We are confident of further improvement as we prepare students for the year ahead.

I would like to thank you for your support in ensuring an excellent standard of 'business dress' – the students are a credit to you. I am aware that there have been some delays in accessing certain sizes and would like to assure you that we are in regular contact with Clive Mark to deal with issues as they arise. The suppliers have agreed to have business dress available in any of their stores if parents make that request. For your convenience there is also an on-line ordering service via the Q3 website. All students in Years 7, 8 & 9 should have Academy bags which are also available to purchase from the Q3 shop priced at £7 (a different style to the bags available from Clive Mark). Students in Years 10 and 11 are not required to purchase Academy bags for this academic year. However their choice of bag should be a sturdy typical 'school/sports bag style' and not fancy, colourful handbags which appears to be a developing trend for the girls! Please remember that black laced canvas shoes are not acceptable footwear and we do not expect to see students wearing 'hoodies' as alternatives to black/navy outdoor coats. Queries relating to business dress can be clarified by visiting the website or via direct contact with your child's Company.

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. Research suggests that children who are taken out of school may never catch up on work they have missed. This may affect future levels of success and can be particularly harmful to your child's progress in tests and examinations.

Please remember all students should be in lessons for a prompt 9.00am start each morning. Breakfast is available in the canteen from 7.45am daily. Students will continue to have mentoring sessions by appointment on Mondays between 3.05pm and 3.50pm and all students will have an extended Wednesday session until 4.00pm. The Monday mentoring sessions are compulsory and students must attend at their given appointment time.

We are holding our Open Week from Monday 28th September through to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October when you will be most welcome to join us for a tour of the Academy, where you will be able to see Q3 staff and students at work. Daily tours will operate from 9.30am until 12.00 noon alternatively you may prefer to attend our Open Evening on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Space for parking during Open Week is limited whilst the new Academy is being built, and we would therefore ask for parents/carers to be patient upon arrival whilst you are directed to park safely by attendants. In the interests of preserving as much parking space as possible, we would encourage parents/carers to either share transport or walk if possible. This would certainly help to avoid delays on the evening.

We would like to remind those parents/carers attending Open Evening that it is inadvisable to park on the double yellow lines outside the Academy. Traffic Wardens do operate in the area and have been known to issue instant parking tickets in the past.

***Can you please ensure you do not park in the turning circle outside the Academy as this continues to impose a serious Health and Safety risk to all of our students.***

Construction of the new Academy building is progressing well and we remain on schedule to move in during April 2010. We will continue to provide regular updates including opportunities for you to come into the Academy for a more detailed discussion about developments.

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). You will find the 'Handbook for Parents' particularly useful outlining key information and providing a useful reference for queries. Do also remember to use the website to provide us with any feedback you may have – your views are very important to us.

**This Term's Key dates for your diary:**

Parents 'Drop in' Session – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 (2.00pm – 3.00pm)  
National Poetry Day – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009  
Black History Evening – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009  
INSET Day (Academy closed to Students) – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009  
Somme Trip Departs – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009  
Half Term – 26<sup>th</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009  
End of Term – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

**Spring and Summer Term dates:**

Spring Term 2010

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010  
(Half-term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010)  
***(Easter Holiday: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010) Amended dates***

Summer Term 2010

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010  
(Half-term: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010)

Please remember the extended Easter Break which will facilitate the move into the new building. Do also remember to regularly check the Academy's Calendar which is available to view on the website.

Finally, I would also ask you to support us in encouraging your child to take a full and active role in the life of the Academy. By working together we can ensure that all students achieve and become the best that they can.

I look forward to working with you as we begin a critical and very exciting year which, I am confident will build upon the excellent developments already taking place here at Q3 Academy.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Badyal  
Chief Executive/Principal