



ACADEMIES
TRUST

FoQus

Review of
Autumn/Winter
2016 - 2017



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A message from the Chief Executive



I am exceptionally proud of the time and commitment put in by colleagues

across the Q3 Academies Trust every day to ensure that our students have the very best start in life. Partnership working is an essential component of our success providing the opportunity for staff to support each other, while valuing and appreciating everyone's contribution.

I value the work all of our staff are doing to engage in and further develop collaborative working. Our recent joint training day saw staff from both academies working with a nationally celebrated teaching and learning expert and we were delighted to

welcome colleagues from other Sandwell schools to the event.

In January we heard of the untimely death of one of our Post 16 students. Aderonke was an inspiration to us all, continuing to attend the Academy and work exceptionally hard even though she was battling against a terminal illness. She will be remembered for her determination and wonderful smile.

As you take the time to read through and enjoy this edition of FoQus you will see that education is not just about what we learn in the classroom, but it is also about introducing our students to culture and community in its many forms. It is so rewarding to be part of all that our students are

achieving and it is clear to see the difference that the combined hard work of staff, governors, students and parents can make.

We were delighted to welcome Christine Quinn, one of eight Regional Schools Commissioners who monitor schools and have the power to decide who runs them. She visited Q3 Langley in early January and was impressed to see the excellent work ethic and behaviour across all aspects of the Academy's work.

Together we will continue to define excellence on our journey to securing the very best education for the children of Sandwell.

Dr Caroline Badyal
Chief Executive

Mr M. Arnull, Head of School, Q3 Academy Great Barr



It's a privilege and pleasure to work with such dedicated students, parents

and staff. The sense of shared purpose and commitment amongst all members of the Academy community to being 'the best they can be' gives the Academy a real sense of energy and excitement.

At the half-way point of the academic year, it's a valuable opportunity to reflect on the previous terms.

Year 7 students have quickly settled into secondary education, helped by older students through the Academy's company 'house' system, and Year 12 have begun the demands of 'A' Level courses. For both Year 11 and Year 13

students, it's the final year of GCSE and 'A' Levels respectively, and supported by staff and parents they are showing great commitment to securing the outcomes they need for the next stage of their life. All our Year 13 students who want to go to university have secured an offer including Cambridge as well as other prestigious Russell Group universities.

However, success in examinations alone is not enough to say we have provided a good education. The following pages will give you a sense of why it's a thrill to lead such a vibrant organisation, and one that firmly sits at the heart of the local community.

There are many successes detailed in this issue of FoQus magazine and all of them have arisen from the commitment of

students, staff and parents. Only if our staff can say that what we provide is good enough for their own children will it be good enough and I'm proud to say this commitment to care, coupled with high academic ambition is helping all our young people to flourish. A view confirmed in our recent Ofsted inspection that recognises we continue to be a 'Good' school.

Mr P. Lee, Head of School, Q3 Academy Langley



As part of celebrating Harvest this year Q3 Langley students were asked to bring

in food stuffs that we collated and then could donate to a local food bank. We were overwhelmed with the generous response from students, parents and carers and this certainly demonstrated that our students are living out our ethos to seek for which is good, right and true.

We donated the items to the Smethwick Food bank who were overwhelmed with the gifts. We will be hosting another week of giving in the early part of 2017.



In addition we have held two non-uniform days – the first one in aid of breast cancer awareness – entitled #Wearitpink in which we raised over £100 for that charity. In the last week of term we held a #WearitChristmas day in which students could attend the Academy with one item of Christmas related accessory e.g. tinsel in their hair or a Christmas jumper – whilst donating to the Acorn's Children's Hospice and the Q3 Thailand charity.

We have hosted several visitors to the Academy since we opened – many people are joining us for Family Lunch. We have welcomed colleagues from schools both locally and further afield as well as local politicians including the Lady Mayor and MP John Spellar. Our unique Wednesday afternoon curriculum has also seen Q3 Langley students undertake a

range of enrichment experiences including entrepreneurship, world music, input from Women's Aid, Golf, Sports Leaders, Film club and lessons from the Director of Youth Theatre for the Birmingham Rep! Weekly, students either take part in P.E. or Enrichment activities and we are confident that the range of providers and experiences will grow as we develop this area for all the students this academic year.

The last week of term saw our first ever school trip – and one abroad to boot! 50 students joined Ms Goodbourn, Mrs Gaur, Mr Dawes, Mr Anderson and Mr Lee travelling to the Lille Christmas market on the last day of term. A great time was had by all – we are hopeful of a further trip abroad in the late Spring/Summer in 2017.

SIXTH FORM



This term has been tinged with great sadness. January saw the sad loss of Year 13 student

Aderonke Akinwe. Aderonke was a very popular member of the student body who had high aspirations and wished to pursue a career in medicine so she could help others. Aderonke demonstrated exemplary Academy ethos and resilience.

Her determination to maintain her studies whilst facing a personal struggle with illness has been an inspiration to us all.

Aderonke made a huge impression on everyone who

came into contact with her and she will be greatly missed.

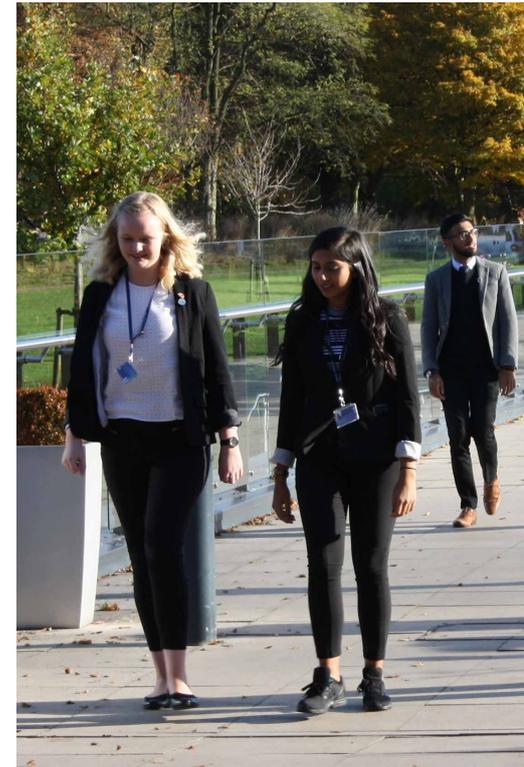
All students have embraced the challenge of A-Level study. Students have already had the opportunity to start visiting open days and events to allow them to consider universities and future career pathways.

All Year 13 UCAS applications 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.

Year 12 students are currently participating in the ACE Council with Mr McCormack. This involves supporting students in the lower school in their lessons. This is providing students with a fantastic opportunity to broaden their work experience and also the skills to work within a team.

We are looking forward to starting the preparation for the final exams and also the UCAS events to support our Year 12 students on their learning journey.

Mrs V Noakes



JETs Update



Our 2016 JETs have come to the end of their time in their roles and now pass the baton onto a new set of exemplary students. 2016 JET, Simran, shares some of their highlights.

“One of our best accomplishments was raising over £1300 for the development of our memorial garden and supporting Acorns Children’s Hospice during our beach-themed charity day. It featured the sale of ice lollies and events including ‘sponge the teacher’ which was a great source of entertainment for students.

We organised an Academy-wide “design a garden” competition in which students shared their vision for a peace garden to inspire the development of the one in our grounds. The top three entries received prizes and part of their designs have been incorporated into our memorial/peace garden in the Academy.

We reintroduced the stationery shop, selling various items for students to buy if they were missing equipment for their lessons and the Student Council was relaunched so that students could more easily share their opinions and suggestions to improve the quality of Academy life and to give students the chance to make a difference.

As JETs we helped out at various social events including the Year 11 Prom, Sponsor’s Dinner and several community lunches. We have really enjoyed our time as JETs and we have gained

many fantastic skills including organisation, team work, leadership and public speaking. We would like to wish the new JETs the best of luck in all of their endeavours.”

The new Junior Executive Team includes:

Varisha - Leadership & Development

Phillippa - Enterprise

Indi - Charity & Community

Sophie - Environment

Lauren - Aspirations & Academic Development

Jake - Student Voice



Q3 Out & About

Thailand

"Our trip to Thailand was an eye-opening experience, not only to see how their lives differ to our own but also to see the amazing work that Christian Care Foundation do for the children at Rainbow House, Fuang Fah, the community projects, facilities and opportunities that they provide for each and every child.

The culture and atmosphere of Thailand and the area of Pak Kret that we stayed in, was not what I had expected at all and I was pleasantly surprised by how welcoming everyone was to the group.

I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the trip and wished that I had stayed longer to experience more of the culture and the work of CCD." - Emma (Year 13)



GCSE Geography Worcester Trip

As part of their examinations, our Geography students went to Worcester City Centre on Tuesday 8th and Thursday 17th November to undertake an investigation into what life is like in a city. Students investigated how Worcester is changing and patterns of migration as well as numerous other areas of interest they chose. The students undertook a variety of tasks to reach their conclusions and will write a report based on these findings. Our students showed exemplary behaviour and were very polite when speaking to members of the public which was a credit to the Academy.



Student Achievements

Electra (Year 8)

"When I started Q3 I found it very hard to settle in but I had older students and staff from the Arts Company to help me. This inspired me to offer similar support to the new Year 7s this year. I am currently mentoring two Year 7s, to help them settle in. I have done this by offering tips and encouragement. This has made me very proud, if I have helped even a little then I am delighted."



Rajak (Year 11)

"During the summer holidays I volunteered to help out with a local Mosque in Handsworth who held a youth event, this included learning about Islam. I went early to help set up and cleared up at the end of the event. During the event I helped guide people around the Mosque. A week later I was delighted to receive a certificate through the post. The certificate was for 'the most helpful youth' at the event. I was so pleased to be appreciated for my efforts."

Zoe (Year 11)

"Every Saturday I help train children aged 3–10 years old, developing their football skills. It is not a team it is different age groups of children who like football and want to improve. I am enjoying it as I am able to meet new children and help them get better at football. Most of the children play for a Sunday team but go to training on Saturdays to get better and have fun."

Vagas (Year 10)

Vagas spent the summer doing herself and the Communications Company very proud, dancing at the United Dance Organisations World Street Dance Championships. Vagas was in the top ten in the individual competition and her team came away with the gold. What a fantastic achievement from our dance superstar. Well done Vagas!

Lydia (Year 11) & Emma (Year 8)

This year's Grace Payne Public Speaking Contest saw two Communications girls shine very brightly, in what was a very strong level of competition. Emma in Year 8 won the junior competition with a powerful and impressive speech about getting more girls involved in STEM subjects. In the senior section, Lydia wowed both the audience and the judges with a speech and poem around the difficult subject of depression. With some audience members literally moved to tears, Lydia was definitely a deserving winner of the overall contest.

Grace (Year 10)

"In April 2015, I was chosen by a local organisation to go on a community action project to Estonia. I had to fundraise £1600 in just over a year in order to pay for the trip. After raising the money, my group and I went to Estonia in July 2016. When we were there, we spent ten days in a traditional area of Estonia called Rõuge where we volunteered, but also where we had the opportunity to learn about the culture and lifestyle of the people that lived there.

In Rõuge, we worked on a farm for half the day and then travelled around the local area; volunteering at youth groups and helping the community in different ways that we could; we built a volleyball court for the children in the area to use. After these ten days were over, we then spent three days in the capital city, Tallinn. In Tallinn, we spent our time sightseeing and learning about the history of Estonia.

It was an amazing experience, which helped to develop my confidence around new people and provided me with an appreciation of different cultures."



Tamzin (Year 7)

"Since young children, both me and my elder sister have attended the Performing Arts Team of Birmingham Stage School, where by the school performs annually at the Birmingham Hippodrome's pantomime and this year I was lucky enough to have been chosen to perform within the major Christmas show.

Since I was six years old, I have been fortunate enough to experience the wonders of pantomime and met an array of celebrities whilst doing it. From Coronation Street's Chris Gascoyne in the 2014 show of Jack and the Beanstalk, to Birds of a Feather star Leslie Joseph in the 2012 performance of Robinson Crusoe, all the stars have been just so friendly and lovely to work with.

It is my stage school's 28th year of pantomime at the Birmingham Hippodrome and I was looking forward to our latest show,

Dick Whittington more than any of the others we have starred in before! Eastenders' Steve McFadden a.k.a Phil Mitchell played the part of the evil King Rat!

Even though the pantomime is an amazing opportunity that any child would love to do, as an entire school we also partake in regular visits to the Pineapple Dance Studios in London and Disneyland Paris and by invitation only we have appeared at the Royal Albert Hall and Her Majesty's Theatre.

Birmingham Stage School has become a major part of not only my life, but it has become part of all those thousands of people who come to watch us every year which makes me a very happy student and gives me so much pleasure."



Benjamin (Year 9)

Benjamin performed in the West Bromwich Operatic Society Youth Theatre production of Cats. The show was a sell out and was given 5 star reviews. Mr Price and Mr Payton attended the performance, they said that Benjamin was fantastic and were amazed at the standard of acting demonstrated by the WBOS Youth theatre group.

Oliver (Year 7)

Oliver has made a fantastic start to Q3 Academy. His tutor Mr Bennett has said that 'he is the most inquisitive child I have ever met and he has a natural willingness to learn about anything new. It has been a pleasure to see his confidence go from strength to strength.' Well done Oliver for such a fantastic start!

James (Year 11)

"My name is James and I have been at The Walsall Cricket Club playing since the age of 5. I am currently playing in their second team. Training three times a week and playing at the weekend can become quite a lot to handle but it allows me to relax and have fun as it is something I am passionate about while allowing me to de-stress from the pressures of school. I am the main bowler for the team and have also won the most promising young player award. I love what I do and I would certainly recommend it to anyone."

Scarlett (Year 7)

Scarlett is another Lifestyle student who has really made an impact. She has been an asset to the tutor group and is always offering to help out whenever she can. She is doing rather well academically and puts in lots of effort into any extra-curricular work, such as her amazing artwork she brings into tutor time to show us and her entry to the Busta Rhyme poetry competition.



Bradley (Year 12)

"My name is Bradley and I carry out voluntary work at my local community centre as I enjoy working with the people there and this also allows me to meet new people. I help out with a number of activities, events and functions here which include helping the staff set up before private functions and internal groups and then cleaning up and packing away at the end. We also run computer courses for adults and the elderly which I help out with and teach people how to use Microsoft office effectively. I also work with a group called Cre-8 which is a voluntary run group which consists of a number of small dance groups who compete in external street dance competitions around the West Midlands. We have also run our own street dance competition and I ran the PA system, music. I have worked with this group since I was around 11 years old and over the years, I have been given more responsibility. I really enjoy doing this because I know the work I do benefits others. I also look after all of the technical side of things in the community centre such as making sure the PA system, projector screens and computers are working and if there are any problems, I am there to sort it out quickly. It is something I love doing every day"



Jamie (Year 7)

Jamie is a Year 7 student who has already demonstrated that he has many talents both in school and out. Jamie is a determined student with great academic potential and is really embracing the Q3 ethos; however his drive doesn't stop there as he is also an avid Motor Cross racer. Jamie has a very competitive streak and has won several medals while being trained by the British Champion Luke Burton. We are thrilled to have Jamie here at Q3 and cannot wait to see what the future holds for this young man.

Sport Sideline

Rajanvir (Year 8)

"I normally play football on a Sunday at 'Goals' in Walsall. I was asked to play a Charity football match to raise money for prostate cancer research. I played in midfield and my team won 2-0. We raised £346, which we were really delighted by. This was the first Charity match I have played in. I was happy to raise money for those who are suffering from this condition."



Sean (Year 8)

"I really enjoy playing football and played for Walsall Football Club who train on a Wednesday. I've become a better footballer as a consequence of being on the team. Out of all of the matches I played we only lost one game. When I was in Year 6 I also played for my schools' football team and we won the Catholic Cup. This made me really proud, I am now a member of the Q3 Football Team which is helping me improve my skills further."



Mitchell (Year 11)

We would like to congratulate Mitchell on being offered a scholarship for Lichfield City Football Academy, following a recent football tournament at St George's ground in London. Mitchell's team got to the final which went to penalties and he saved the winning penalty shot. Well done!



'Mr Helpful'

In October Tom was supporting his fellow students from the Q3 Rugby Club during a Year 7 Tournament. Due to the number of teams, Mr Stabler and Kane Krlic from the RFL, were doing a lot of refereeing and coaching. Tom decided rather than watch he would help.

Tom went above and beyond throughout the whole afternoon. Not only did he help set up the pitches and pump up all the balls (without needing to ask him!) he also helped create a fixture format, he managed the touchline, kept scores and an up to date league table throughout the afternoon. Probably more importantly than anything

he showed great maturity by applauding the other schools, giving coaching tips to opposing players and congratulating the winning teachers. Straight after the competition had finished he came over to Kane Krlic and shook his hand and thanked him for the opportunity.

A quote from Kane Krlic really says it all about this young man "it was a pleasure working with Tom for the afternoon and he is a credit to your school that you give the students a chance to showcase their abilities, maturity and to develop".

U14 and U16 Netball

The netball season is well under way and has produced some fantastic results. Both teams have put in some outstanding performances to win all but one of their matches which will hopefully see them finish second in the league. A huge congratulations to both teams for their dedication and teamwork this year so far.

Walsall FC v Shrewsbury Town

On Saturday 15th October, six students were selected to watch the Super Saddlers against Shrewsbury Town at the local Banks's Stadium. Tickets for this match were kindly donated by the Childhaven Trust, who Q3 Academy have raised money for in the past. The tickets were given to students who had shown excellent commitment to extra-curricular activities as well as effort in PE lessons. The match proved to be a very eventful 5 goal thriller! The Saddlers went ahead twice with the opposition levelling soon after. Shrewsbury then lost a player due to a poorly timed tackle, with Walsall then going on to finish the game off with a last minute goal. The girls very much enjoyed the game and the fantastic atmosphere.



Savannah (Year 7)

Savannah has been taking the martial art world by storm by achieving Gold and Silver medals at the World Fight Sports and Martial Arts Council in the Under 12's Continuous battle and K1 categories.

Kickboxing from the young age of 5, Savannah trains 7 days a week and enjoys the sport so much she hopes to represent the UK at the next Olympics!

Being in the first cohort of Q3 Langley, Savannah enjoys the afternoon of enrichment that takes place on Wednesday and includes a number of sports activities such as swimming and rugby.



Lewis (Year 13)

Having spent a large amount of this calendar year recovering from a major leg injury and unable to compete, Lewis returned to action in November. Lewis made a triumphant return to competitive Karate in the JKS England Nationals retaining his crown as 16-17 years National Champion and making it 3 years in a row. Lewis is now switching his focus back to academia, hoping to be as successful in his A-Levels as he is in his extracurricular activities.



Are you the Rugby Star of 2017?

For 2017 Q3 Rugby will be a mix of Rugby League and Rugby Union, with competitions and training being held on Tuesday after school.

If you want to give Rugby a 'try', come and have a go, see Mr Stabler about a permission form, any standard welcome.

Athletics

2016 has been a fantastic year for Athletics at Q3 Academy. For the first time in the Academy's history, we completed both the indoor and outdoor seasons, with great success. In the winter indoor competition held at Tipton Sports Academy, the Year 8 and 9 Boys teams both finished as Sandwell Schools' runners up. In the outdoor Summer season, Q3 Academy again finished as runners up. The girls' team qualified for the UK Schools Games finals at Wolverhampton where they finished 3rd within all Black Country Schools.

Exceptional displays led to Kai Dudfield qualifying for the English Schools where we were part of the Silver medal sprint relay team, and Jessica Moore who represented Sandwell in the 800m West Midlands Championships, and has now represented her club, Wolverhampton and Bilston in the National League. A tremendous achievement for Kai and Jess, and all the other students involved throughout the year.

Rugby

The Q3 Rugby Club was visited by coaching staff from professional rugby club Wasps.

The session was well attended with 24 students. The atmosphere during the session was electric.

Off the back of this session, we have been offered a Stadium Tour of the Ricoh Arena and possibly the opportunity to meet some first team players or watch them train. The huge bonus is all the attendees will receive 2 free tickets to a Wasps home game. As a reward for the time and effort the boys put into rugby, this is fantastic opportunity





Remembrance Service

On Friday 11th November, our cadets once again attended and paraded at the Q3 Annual Remembrance Service.

The service was opened by Mr Dave Pope and the service delivered by Reverend Deborah Humphries.

The Royal British Legion was represented by Mr Derrick Morton, who also took the role of standard bearer.

Year 7 were joined by honoured guests from the local community to observe the service; including a two minute silence.

2016 is the 100th Anniversary of The Battle of the Somme. The Battle of the Somme, fought in northern France, was one of the

bloodiest of World War One. For five months the British and French armies fought the Germans in a brutal battle of attrition on a 15-mile front. In total, there were over one million dead and wounded on all sides.



The Grace Payne Learning Centre

The design and tendering process for our new Learning Centre is complete. We are happy to announce that we have appointed A.M. Griffiths to complete the work.

All surveys and investigations into the site have also been completed and A.M. Griffiths have now began construction. We anticipate completion – subject to weather and other constraints – at the end of June 2017.

We are grateful to have received an offer of partial funding from the Army Cadet Force (ACF).

Charity Days

Discovery

October 11th saw the Discovery Company run an extremely successful Charity day. Discovery tutor groups planned and organised several stalls, where students sold samosas, cakes, hot chocolate, pick and mix sweets as well as smoothies and drinks. There was a football scratch card and guess the name of the elephant competition. Once again one of the most popular stalls that we had was the Photo Booth, where students and staff had the opportunity to dress up and have their picture taken with their peers. We managed to raise a grand total of £413.97, which was donated to the County Air Ambulance Trust nominated by the Discovery students. It was an exceptional team performance from both the staff and students of the Discovery Company and a great first Charity day of this academic year.



Social Design

We were very proud to have raised £460 for the Young Minds Charity in line with the Heads Together Campaign during our Charity day on Wednesday 7th December. We personally feel that this is such a worthy Charity as a young person's emotional wellbeing is paramount to their academic success. Everyday young people experience stress, trauma and mental health issues therefore it is with great pride that all our students here at Q3 stood united against the stigma and barriers young people face and raised money for the campaign. Once again I'm humbled by the outstanding generosity of our students and their determination to be the best they can be.

Anti-bullying Group

Mrs Baines and Mr Alexander are working with a small cohort of students to create an anti-bullying group. The aim of the group is to raise awareness of the different forms of bullying and to educate young people with the knowledge to prevent themselves from becoming victims of bullying.

Representatives from each company and year group discuss issues that students are faced with, both inside and outside of the Academy as well as online, with a view to changing attitudes, signposting support and offering strategies to make a difference.

The group are keen to think of ways Q3 can continue to create a support network. The students lead the group, thinking of ways to raise awareness about the impacts of bullying and how the anti-bullying ethos can be further promoted at Q3.

Please contact Mrs Baines or Mr Alexander for more information.

Community Lunch



Local residents and members of the community were treated to a festive feast as part of Q3 Academy Great Barr's annual Christmas Community Lunch.

The day began at 12.30pm with Grace and prayers from Reverend Deborah Humphries followed by a traditional turkey dinner with of course the obligatory sprouts and Christmas pudding for dessert.

The event was finished off with a performance from Q3's Quavers Choir and a wonderful sing along to festive carols with piano accompaniment and was the perfect start to the festive season.

Students and staff volunteered their time to serve food and welcome guests as over 100 were in attendance.

The day was a huge success and goes hand in hand with Q3 Academy's reputation for being an Academy that works alongside the local community.

One local resident said: "Thanks once again for all the effort and hard work that you put in to make the community Christmas lunch so enjoyable. The room and tables looked lovely and everything ran like a well-oiled cog! Your effort really is appreciated."

The Music Department

Music Showcase

Q3 Academy hosted a brilliant Music Showcase on Thursday 24th November. This was an opportunity for the students to perform pieces that they had been working on throughout the term and raise money for a good cause: 'Save the Children'.

The concert showcased a range of performances including vocal and instrumental solos, Quavers choir, GCSE Bands and an instrumental ensemble group and featured musical theatre pieces, pop 'mash-ups', film music, a devised

composition, sneak previews from Enchanted 3, rock performances and several Christmas pieces.

The students worked extremely hard and were very professional on stage and were supported by an excellent back stage team and a fantastic compere for the evening.

The concert was a great success with parents and staff asking when the next showcase will be. Well done to everyone involved for an outstanding concert which raised £116 for 'Save the Children'.

Quavers Choir attend Community lunch

To help celebrate Christmas the Quavers Choir were invited to perform at this year's community lunch.

The Quavers performed a piece called 'When I Grow Up' from the hit musical Matilda, with Year 7 soloist Emily-Violet.

The performance was outstanding and members of the community commented on how lovely the group sounded.

The choir worked really hard to prepare for this performance and it was a great way to celebrate at the community lunch.





Emma, Ché & Vigash share an interesting insight into new technology

Over the decades machines have been a huge part of our world, changing the way we live, work and exist. But what happens when they are given the right of consciousness and their own free will? What happens when machines begin to learn?

AlphaGo, from Google's 'Deepmind' project (a self-learning A.I) made a revolutionary step forward when it beat Lee Sedol, a professional player at the game of GO. The game of GO originated in China more than 2,500 years ago with simple rules, but great complexity; there are more possible positions than atoms in the universe! So how did a machine beat Lee Sodel at the world's hardest game?

Deepmind technologies founded in September 2010 created AlphaGo. It mimics the short-term memory of the human mind. But all of this only leaves us asking one question "What next?"



We have to consider a variety of possibilities; will the development of full artificial intelligence spell the end of the human race as Professor Steven Hawking believes?

To understand how to avoid the mistake of human design we'll need the support of S.T.E.M subjects in building intelligent robots, but as complicated as it is, these ideas were there long

before the technology. However, in the beginning there were no practical applications, these immense advancements came only in the 21st century, when technology became more efficient.

Robotics can explain human behaviours, helping the way we live, work, exist and therefore shape our economy.

-Emma, Ché & Vigash

If you're interested in S.T.E.M subjects, Q3 runs various after school clubs, including Maths, Science & D&T (Product Design).

If you'd like to get hands-on with programming and robotics, speak to your ICT Learning Consultant about the BBCMicro:bit.

Please see your Tutor if you'd like to contribute to Student Voice.

Enchanted 3

December 2016 saw three amazing performances of the compilation pantomime entitled 'Enchanted 3' performed at Q3 Academy Great Barr.

Featuring a huge cast of over 50 students ranging from Year 7 to Year 13, the show was voted a runaway smash-hit by delighted audience members.

The show included hilarious comedy along with fabulous live music and astonishing dance performances.

This year's show was the third and final part of the Enchanted trilogy which since 2014 has told the tales of Rapunzel, Beauty and the Beast, the Snow Queen, Jack and the Beanstalk, Hansel and Gretel,

the Blue Fairy, Rumpelstiltskin and many more.

As usual, show tickets were completely sold-out and we would like to thank our loyal audience members for once again supporting our young people with their production work.



Grace Payne Public Speaking Contest

On Wednesday 19th October the Academy was delighted to hold its third annual Grace Payne Public Speaking Contest. It was, of course, inevitably overshadowed by the loss of Mrs Payne, this being the first Contest held without her. Her vision and patronage were the lifeblood of the event and it simply would not have existed without her. Ultimately, the continuation of the contest is the most fitting commemoration of her legacy and it was in such a spirit that the evening was held.



The evening itself marked the end of a process for the students involved who had already had to audition for a place in the contest as well as taking part in a series of writing and coaching sessions in the run up to the final.

Repeating a successful formula that was started last year, the contest was split into two categories: a Junior category open to Years 7 to 9; and the prestigious Senior category open to Years 10 to 13.



Competing in the Juniors were Nick (Year 9), Emma (Year 8) and Ché (Year 8) whilst the Seniors saw Marcus (Year 13), Pardip (Year 10) and Lydia (Year 11) go head to head.



All of the students performed magnificently on the night in front of an audience of family, friends, staff and community members, and received wonderful feedback from our esteemed panel of judges. Returning to the panel for a third time were Head of Geography Mrs Carrick and Public Speaking Coach Diana Wills. They were joined by Communications

PLD Mr Bailey, an established poet in his own right and Ameera Salah of 'Beatbreaks'.

After several rounds of speeches and poetry, our Junior winner was declared to be Emma who received four 10s from the judges for her speech on girls in STEM subjects. In the Seniors, returning competitor Lydia Bradbury claimed victory with moving pieces on dealing with and understanding mental health issues.

Both winners received a significant voucher for their efforts and all the participants received a certificate recognising their participation and a voucher as a reward.

Overall it was another successful contest which celebrated some of the fantastic talent here at the Academy and gave students the chance to hone and develop some crucial skills for their futures. Roll on next year!

Duke of Edinburgh

The Year 13 students have recently completed their Silver Award. They have been busy completing the skills, volunteering and physical section for the past twelve months, and finished with their expeditions in September.

The group travelled to Church Stretton for their practise expedition and the Peak District for their final expedition. They completed three days of walking using maps and compasses to navigate the countryside, and set up camp and cooked using camping equipment on two evenings.

The group gave their final presentation in January.



Christmas Card Competition



This year's Christmas card competition proved to be one of the best yet. The Art department received 100s of fabulous entries from both Q3 Great Barr and Q3 Langley. The judging of the competition proved difficult for the senior leadership team and so resulted in 5 winners overall:

Amreet (Year 8)
Aimee (Year 8)
Hanna (Year 7)
Harveen (Year 8)
Isabelle (Year 7)

Well done to everyone who entered the competition.

Primary Hopes & Dreams Competition

This year the entries received as part of the transition competition were truly magnificent. Mr Arnall and the senior team spent many hours going through all of the entries for the three categories.



The students had the opportunity to enter a poster, story or a poem. The entries were so good, besides the winners for each category, a decision was made to recognise a number of students work with commendation certificates.



The winners were:

Poem category

- 1st Harry (Lifestyle)
- 2nd Kavita (Social Design)
- 3rd Sophie (Discovery)

Story category

- 1st Shaun (Arts)
- 2nd Emma (Discovery)

Poster category

- 1st Ella Rose (Discovery)
- 2nd Bhavita (Social Design)
- Joint 3rd Harrison (Arts)
- Joint 3rd Malachi (Arts)

Commendation certificates

- Vinita (Arts)
- Rohan (Discovery)
- Oliver (Discovery)
- Ramarno (Communications)
- Emily Violet (Social Design)
- Katie Louise (Communications)
- Nikita (Lifestyle)

Hori7on Showcase: Creative Expression

As part of our Year 7 Hori7on initiative, a cohort of students worked within the Creative Arts department studying a mixture of Music, Art and Drama over a nine week period.

Within these disciplines students devised their own response to the folk tale 'Mr Fox' in Drama. In Art students developed essential skills within the themes of tone, texture, colour theory and Mexican art. Students then studied world music and descriptive music whilst also learning either the P-bone (a plastic trombone) or the clarinet in Music.

To celebrate the hard work and achievements of the students, parents were invited to attend our Hori7on showcase. The Qube performance theatre was divided into three sections and was transformed into an art Gallery, a stage and two ensembles of P-bones and Clarinets.

In the week leading up to the showcase, all students performed their Drama, Mr Fox performance to their peers, then one group was chosen for the showcase. Choosing one group to perform was a very difficult task indeed. The final group that was chosen to perform were extremely confident, organised and professional and blew the audience away at the showcase.

We then had a performance of P-bones led by Mr Beer, our brass teacher. Students performed 'We Will Rock You' and a piece called 'Ariba'. Mr Beer gave the parents a quick introduction to the P-Bone to demonstrate how far the students had come in just 9 weeks. We then had a very modern performance of two summer dance anthems by our clarinet group, who have been taught by Mr Smith, which dazzled the audience.

To finalise a great afternoon the parents were then invited to look around our beautiful Art display, where students showed off their portraits, still life and painting skills. Well done to the first Hori7on Creative Expression group, we hope that you continue to build on the progress you have made throughout Year 7.



MONDAY 27th MARCH 2017

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