

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND Q3 ACADEMY LANGLEY

What is the Proposal?

The Governing Body and Q3 Academies Trust, with the support of Sandwell Local Authority, is proposing that the Academy expands to accommodate more students. Our current Published Admission Number (PAN) is 240; our plan is that the Academy will grow, over a five-year period, by admitting up to 60 more students in Year 7 cohort, each year, from 2021.

By 2025, if the proposal is agreed, the Academy will be operating at a capacity of 1500 across Years 7-11 with up to 300 students in each year.

Why is this necessary?

Over the last few years, there have been significantly higher numbers moving into primary schools across Sandwell; this is as a result of an increasing birth rate and inward migration. The Council has worked with primary schools to provide 5000 new places - since 2010, around 40 primary schools have been expanded to accommodate more children.

These children are now, naturally, moving towards the secondary phase in their education: from September 2021, Sandwell are facing a large increase in the demand for places. The Council has informed us that at least 139 new secondary places will be needed in the local area by 2022.

In summary, this proposal will increase the secondary student capacity in Oldbury by 300 places over the next five years, at an academy rated "good" by Ofsted, with a strong and popular ethos, and one which is making a valuable contribution to supporting parental choice.

When will this happen?

The Council has asked us to consider increasing our intake to 300 to meet the demand for places. If agreed, this would mean that we could offer an extra 60 places each year from September 2021 to September 2025.

We are now consulting with you on our proposal to expand Q3 Academy Langley to support a permanent increase in our PAN to 300, from September 2021, so that we can better meet the needs of our local community.

Will there be changes to the Academy buildings?

We are a 'free school' academy that opened in September 2016. Phase 1 of building works was completed during the summer of 2016 to provide capacity for 650 Pupils. 150 Year 7 pupils were admitted in 2016. Phase 2 of the build started in July 2020 to increase the capacity. Planning permission has been obtained for an increased capacity to accommodate a full capacity of 1500. Phase 2 will be completed August 2021.

All options to expand the Academy have been considered, which included certain adaptations to the existing building and completion of Phase 2.

How will this affect students at the Academy?

Students will notice some changes, but these are likely to be limited. The increase in student numbers will occur gradually (illustrated in the table below) and will not impact on current year groups.

Year Group	PAN* 2020	PAN 2021	PAN 2022	PAN 2023	PAN 2024	PAN 2025
Year 7	240	300	300	300	300	300
Year 8	240	240	300	300	300	300
Year 9	240	240	240	300	300	300
Year 10	240	240	240	240	300	300
Year 11	150	240	240	240	240	300
Total	1100	1260	1320	1380	1440	1500

*PAN = Published Admission Number

As a result of the additional student intake, we may decide to organise the Academy slightly differently; this will be for the Head of School and Governing Body to decide, though parents and students would, as per our usual practice, be informed well in advance of any changes.

How will this affect staff?

Staff will generally be unaffected. There may be a need to increase the number of staff and a larger academy will offer more opportunities for professional development.

Will this have an effect on other schools in the area?

The gradual expansion of the Academy would ensure a minimum impact on other schools in the locality. Currently, most schools across Sandwell are generally full in Year 7; forecasts for the Oldbury area indicate that there will be a large deficit of places from September 2021 if this expansion does not proceed.

Will this mean more traffic and parking in the locality of the Academy?

Inevitably, if the Academy takes on more students, there is a potential for more traffic in the locality at the beginning and end of the day. The Council and the Academy will undertake and support measures to reduce the impacts of this and, as part of the scheme to complete the Academy's facilities, Highways have been consulted and measures to reduce the impact will be implemented.

As part of the scheme, the Council will be expected to provide sufficient staff and visitor parking. Officers within the Highways Section will continue to provide advice and guidance to the Academy.

Is there be an opportunity for parents and local residents to raise individual concerns?

Yes. The purpose of this consultation period is to provide parents/carers, local residents and our other stakeholders with an opportunity to raise any concerns regarding the proposed expansion with the Governing Body.

We are aware that the local Planning Authority undertook consultation with our local community before granting planning permission for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the build, but if you do wish to make any comment, please see the 'How to give your views' section below.

How is this being funded?

The cost of the project will be met from the Council's basic need allocation, which it receives from the Department for Education for the provision of new places.

The Local Authority believes that the expansion of our Academy is not only necessary, but also a cost effective and sustainable solution to the increased demand in the area.

Community Use

We will look to extend our strong local community provision. Once complete, our expanded academy will offer us the opportunity to be even more flexible with our space and assist with the development of wider community use.

What happens next?

The Governing Body will consider the feedback from this consultation exercise; if it is decided to proceed with the proposal, it will be necessary to present a Business Case to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC). The RSC is appointed by the Secretary of State for Education and he will have the final decision on whether the Academy can expand. We would hope that the decision will be made before September 2021.

How to give your views:

We would welcome your views on this proposal. You can do so in any of three ways:

1. By completing and returning the response form attached to this letter to Reception.
2. Completing the form online using a Google account at <https://forms.gle/viU9PueGppoGvJNP6>
3. Email your completed form to: PAN300@q3langley.org.uk

In all cases, the closing date for responses is **22nd January 2021.**

The consultation is also available to view on the Academy website: www.q3langley.org.uk

After this date, the Governing Body will consider all responses and publish an update on the proposal giving answers and comments on the issues raised.

We are consulting with:

- Parents;
- Staff;
- Students;
- Sandwell, Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall, and Wolverhampton Councils;
- Local diocesan boards;
- All other Sandwell schools;
- Local Councillors and MPs.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Proposal to expand Q3 Academy Langley

Please help us analyse these responses by indicating your interest in the proposal:

Tick

Parent/carer of a student

☐

Member of staff

☐

Student

☐

Other please specify interest)

☐

Do you support the proposal?

Y / N (please delete as necessary)

Please provide any comments or suggestions you might have on the proposal. Please continue overleaf if necessary.

Please return this form to the Academy by **22nd January 2021**. You can also submit your views online at: <https://forms.gle/viU9PueGppoGvJNP6>

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK.