



**A C A D E M Y
G R E A T B A R R**

2020/2021 PROSPECTUS



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Chief Executive's Welcome

The Q3 Academies Trust is committed to educating the whole child, underpinned by Christian values. Our name "Q3" embodies our ethos: to search for that which is good, right, and true. The Q3 Family currently has three Academies in the Trust: Q3 Academy Great Barr, Q3 Academy Langley and Q3 Academy Tipton. Our Academies are vibrant and exciting places to learn and grow, where we strive for excellence in all that we do.

There is a relentless focus on high quality teaching and enrichment opportunities for every young person who joins the Q3 Academies Trust; we are determined to give our children the very best start in life.

Our academic achievements are impressive, and to support this we focus on character development and have high expectations of behaviour. Pastoral care is exceptional and the excellent relationships are a striking feature of our work, as we help students to develop mutual respect, empathy, and care for others. We recognise that education is also about nurturing talent and every young person is encouraged to engage in the wide range of activities on offer across the Q3 Academies Trust.

We have an outstanding team of staff who work tirelessly to challenge every student to be the 'best'. They encourage creative thinking, designing learning to engage and inspire all students. Our Sponsor and Governors are committed to supporting staff in providing the highest quality learning experience for every young person who joins us. Strong, collaborative partnerships with our parents and carers contribute to the on-going success of their children. This relationship begins before entry to Year 7 to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

We have exceptionally high expectations of our young people. When they leave our Academies we are determined that they will have the qualities, academic success, and interests that will enable them to enjoy a successful and enriched life.

I am very privileged to be the Chief Executive and I give you my personal commitment to ensuring that 'No child is left behind'.

I look forward to welcoming you to our Academies.

Dr Caroline Badyal
Chief Executive

Head of School's Welcome

It is a great honour and responsibility to lead Q3 Academy Great Barr. A responsibility that all staff, Governors, and I relish.

We recognise that choosing the right school and embarking on secondary education can be an exciting yet worrying time for students and their families.

First and foremost we want every child to feel happy and excited about coming to the Academy. Only when each child feels secure and comfortable can we challenge them to grow and learn together.

We want our students to return home telling their families of the memorable, exciting learning experiences they have enjoyed. Experiences that make it easier to recall the detail necessary for exam success and to develop their character as much as their academic potential.

Our passion is helping young people to flourish and become confident, capable adults ready for the world ahead.

This passion creates a genuine warmth that supports every member of our Q3 community. Our traditional family

values and Academy ethos, 'to seek for that which is good, right, and true' helps to keep the academic and well-being of every student sharply in focus and drives our ambition for continual improvement.

Only if our staff can say that what we provide is good enough for their own children is it good enough for yours, and I'm proud to say this commitment to care, coupled with high academic ambition, is helping all our young people to succeed.

Our prospectus can only give you a flavour of life at Q3 Academy Great Barr and you are very welcome to contact the Academy to arrange a tour with me or a member of our senior team.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Mr Mark Arnall
Head of School



A Message From Our Sponsor



EDUCATION THE Q3 WAY – WE CAN ALL BE INVOLVED

Since its opening in 2008, Q3 Academy Great Barr has been a notable success.

I believe there is more to education than academic success and at Q3 Academy Great Barr we aim to develop all aspects of the students' potential.

A foundation stone for this is the strong emphasis on the Academy ethos. The name Q3 is derived from the Latin word "Quaerere" which means to "seek after". Three key values are established, that which is good, right, and true. An Ofsted inspector commented that the ethos runs through the Academy like "lettering through a stick of rock".

This ethos based on Christian values, is something to which everyone can subscribe regardless of their faith or none. They form a benchmark against which students can assess their behaviour. They set a standard for

performance and delivery of their work. They establish right relationships with their fellow students, staff, family, and the wider community.

The responsibility of education does not only fall to schools and teachers. Parents and the wider community must also share in this responsibility.

The first requirement of education involves imparting knowledge. To do this our Academies have an emphasis on lesson planning and inspirational delivery. A key part is giving the students a love of learning. Learning Consultants alone cannot do this. It also requires the support of families who can encourage and value the importance of a good education.

A second key factor is instilling values. Whilst the Academy plays its part, values instilled in the home have a lasting effect. The value of a good education, the value of perseverance, the value of integrity and responsibility. These values prepare young people for their future.

Thirdly education is about influencing actions. Today the actions of young

people are influenced in many ways. The power of advertising, the media, and the behaviour of people – particularly those in the public eye, the behaviour of colleagues, fellow students, family, friends and associates. These are powerful forces in young people's lives and can be used for good. Let all our actions inspire, motivate and set the right example to young people.

The Pursuit of Excellence is our collective responsibility and our Academies will play a key role in developing students with the support of their families and the wider community.

Eric Payne OBE
Sponsor

Our Vision For Learning

We are committed to a personalised curriculum, creating the flexibility to match all our students' abilities and fire their imagination.

Our vision for learning is based around the whole child ensuring no child is left behind. Students are encouraged to, and given the chance to work holistically across different subject areas.

Literacy and Numeracy intervention is a priority. Students experience a wide range of teaching and learning techniques to encourage high levels of progress at all levels.

All staff are committed to 'making a difference'. They are enthusiastic and inspire our young people to have a 'love of learning'. There is a culture of high expectation and our young people work hard because that is what everyone does at Q3 Academy Great Barr. This approach is vital in developing a keenness to learn that students will carry throughout their lives.



Student Support

Every student should feel a valued, respected and equal member of the Q3 family. Each is placed in one of five companies when they arrive.

At Q3 Academy Great Barr we operate a traditional year group structure and to maintain continuity and develop relationships between home and the Academy, Personal Tutors and Year Leaders will often stay with the year group as they progress through the Academy.

Before students start in Year 7, our Primary Transition team is in regular contact with local primary schools to aid a worry free transition into secondary education. For on-going pastoral care, each year group has a bespoke pastoral programme focused on their needs. For example, Year 7 can focus on settling in and establishing new relationships, whereas Year 11 Personal Tutors can focus on exam preparation and Sixth Form Personal Tutors will be able to focus on personal statements and applications for university and apprenticeships.

To help foster a sense of cooperation and also competition between year groups, all students are allocated into one of five 'Companies', similar to a traditional 'House' system – each with their own logo and distinctive branding fitting with our business ethos.



Arts



Communications



Discovery



Lifestyle



Social Design



Our Ethos

We build on our ethos to provide a holistic education that provides enrichment for every student. Spiritual and moral development is a powerful resource within the Academy's environment, reflecting the diversity of culture, ethnic background and experience in the local community. So what exactly is meant by 'spirituality'?



“Spirituality is concerned with ‘whole child’ development, taking an holistic view of education. A school that continues to address spiritual development will find that children become more ‘ready’ learners, willing to co-operate and contribute within the school community.”

**Standing Advisory
Council for Religious Education
(SACRE)**



We build on our ethos to provide a holistic education that provides enrichment for every student.

Our ethos shapes our name.

The letter ‘Q’ represents the Latin word Quaerere - meaning ‘seek after’ or ‘search for’. We see life as a journey, during which we look to improve our knowledge, our aspirations and develop our values.

The name Q3 represents three high ideals, which we mean to follow in everything we do.

- To seek for that which is good
- To seek for that which is right
- To seek for that which is true

Our ethos helps to shape an understanding of appropriate behaviour and family values. In developing character it creates commitment to care and compassion. Students are able to build firm foundations for their lives, with values such as respect, care and empathy, which are all key to a happy and successful life.

Policies to support progress

Our students’ health, safety, and welfare are key priorities. You can find out more about our policies, for example, on topics such as Safeguarding, Attendance and Positive Behaviour at:

www.q3academy.org.uk

Paper copies are also available at a small charge to cover the cost of photocopying.

“The development of a sense of identity, self-worth, meaning and purpose. It is about the development of a student’s ‘spirit’. Some people may call it development of a student’s ‘soul’, others as the development of ‘personality’ or ‘character’.”

**The Office for Standards in
Education (Ofsted)**

Tailored Learning

Our innovative curriculum allows us to personalise education and offer Learning Pathways.



Key Stage 3

Years 7, 8 and 9

At Q3 Academy Great Barr we are proud to offer an engaging, broad, and robust curriculum that allows all students to rapidly and thoroughly build on their learning from Key Stage 2. This prepares students for the intellectual rigour required of them at Key Stage 4. Our aim is for all students to access the English Baccalaureate subjects, whilst maintaining breadth across creative subjects and ensuring that the widely reported dip in Key Stage 3 outcomes does not hinder progress. We particularly focus on application of literacy and numeracy across the curriculum.

A typical week for a Year 7, 8 or 9 student would include:

- English (4 hours, including 1 hour of Accelerated Reader);
- Mathematics (4 hours);
- Science (3-4 hours);
- French (2 hours);
- P.E. (1-2 hours);
- RE, RSE & PSHEE (1 hour);
- History/Geography (2 hours);
- Creative Curriculum (4-7 hours).

Students in Year 7 will also study our unique programme called 'Hori7on', and in Year 8, 'Cre8', which allow extended periods in: visual arts (media and art), performing arts (drama and music), computer science, and enterprise (design technology and business). These 9-week rotations are taught in mixed ability groups in these subjects and include opportunities for all students to learn to play a musical instrument and make use of our extensive facilities in art, computer science and design technology.

The curriculum provides an excellent transition from primary school with extended periods with the same Learning Consultant which allows for much stronger relationships as in many primary schools.

Each cycle culminates in a Showcase event which ensures opportunities for parents/carers to maintain regular contact with the Academy and staff, and see the work their children have produced.

In year 9 we give students opportunity to experience a wider range of subjects in order to support their Key Stage 4 choices.

For students who come into the Academy significantly below expected standards at Key Stage 2, provision is made in the form of a nurture group, in which students study English, mathematics and humanities. These students do not study French but instead spend additional time developing reading strategies.





Option subjects include:

French | Geography | History
Sociology | Psychology | Separate
Sciences | Art and Design
Fashion and Textiles
Photography | GCSE PE
Performing Arts | Music
Business Studies | Computer Science
Design Technology | Religious Studies
Hospitality and Catering
Health and Social Care.

Key Stage 4 Years 10 and 11

At Q3 Academy Great Barr we are proud to offer an engaging, broad and robust curriculum that allows all students to rapidly and thoroughly build on their learning from Key Stage 3. Our four Pathways allow students to make the best options for them and meet the needs of their learning, whilst still achieving relevant and purposeful qualifications which allow for outstanding progression rates to further study at Key Stage 5.

All students are expected to have a mature and dedicated outlook on their education and will in turn be supported by a committed team of Learning Consultants to monitor, support and assess work. This is all geared to the continual raising of achievement amongst all groups of students.

Our core subjects at Key Stage 4:

- English Literature and English Language (5 hours);
- Mathematics (4 hours);
- Science: Double Award (4 hours);
- Wellbeing - P.E." (2 hours);
- Wellbeing - RE, RSE & PSHEE (1 hour).

Our four Pathways at Key Stage 4:

- **The English Baccalaureate**
Students study at least one humanities subject and one Modern Foreign Language, plus two options of their own choice.
- **The Achievement Route**
Students study at least one humanities subject or one Modern Foreign Language, plus three options of their own choice.
- **The Applied Route**
Students study at least one humanities subject or one Modern Foreign Language, plus one vocational qualification involving a work placement or practical application and one other Level 2 GCSE/Applied option subject.
- **The Supportive Route**
Identified for those who are working significantly below expected standard, this provides students with additional support in English and mathematics, along with practical subjects to prepare them for a successful future, such as 'Work Skills'.

Key Stage 5

The curriculum at Key Stage 5 is designed to ensure that students have the option to choose three A-Level subjects, to follow a range of potential progression routes. We only offer Level 3 and A-Level courses as we specifically focus on the academic routes into University and further education. However, our courses can also take students into other progression routes. Please refer to the Sixth Form Prospectus for specific subject options and further information:

www.q3academy.org.uk/sixth-form-prospectus



Extended Learning



Q3 Academy Great Barr offers a full and exciting life that extends beyond compulsory study hours. We believe these extra experiences play a valuable part in developing the student.

Students have the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of activities.

At the Academy, sport is a vital part of everyday life; it is one of the many ways in which we actively encourage our students to adopt a healthy lifestyle. Students of all abilities are given the opportunity to represent the Academy in various sports events.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the many extra-curricular activities and visits on offer; these include trips to museums, galleries, the theatre, and other places of interest. These kinds of experiences extend and enhance learning and give opportunities that many students would otherwise not be able to access.

They have the opportunity to take part in our exciting regular Academy productions and performances.

Everyone Has a Say

Working with families and carers

We have strong partnerships with families and carers, to ensure that every student achieves their potential.

Our Academy Partnership Agreement outlines the details, covering such issues as good attendance, punctuality, and Business Dress.

However, the most valuable support any parent or carer can provide is to take an active interest in the Academy, and what their child is doing in terms of academic work, Independent Learning, and how they are taking advantage of the extended activities and opportunities on offer.

“Six Post-16 students, known as Junior Executives, form a link between the Q3 Academy Great Barr students and the Executive team.”

Student Voice

Research shows that students who have a say in their education enjoy greater success, therefore their views are very important to us.

We appoint six Post-16 students, known as ‘Junior Executives’ to act as a link between students and the Executive team. A Junior Executive chairs a council forum for each Company. Any issues to do with Academy life are discussed and fed into the termly Academy Council.

Progress reports for all subjects are issued regularly. There are opportunities for parents/carers to meet with their child’s Personal Tutor throughout the year.



Welcoming you

Q3 Academy Great Barr is not just for the students. We want parents and carers to enjoy our excellent facilities too.

We have an 'open door' policy, with a special point of contact; PACT (Parent and Academy Contact Team) for parents and carers at appropriate times of the year. Our Family Welfare Champion is dedicated to providing support to students to overcome barriers to learning. The Family Welfare Champion works closely with Local Authority services and providers to make sure we get the right help for your child.

The Q3 Academy website, ParentPortal and social media pages help to keep you in touch and offer direct lines of communication.

Connecting with business

We work within the community to build shared responsibility and commitment for lifelong learning.

Our strong business links allow students to get excellent opportunities in a variety of work based settings. The Academy's membership of the CBI and The Black Country Chamber of Commerce adds further strength to our work with business.

Linking in education

We have strong relationships with Higher Education providers too.

Our close relationship with local universities such as the University of Birmingham and University of Wolverhampton, offers many collaborative opportunities for staff, students, parents, and the local community. Our work with the Sandwell North Collaborative of Secondary schools, and Great Barr Cluster of Primary schools is gaining momentum all the time.



CCF RAF Detachment

Our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Royal Air Force (RAF) Detachment, is led by Mrs Wilde as Contingent Commander, supported by Mr Stabler, Mr Burlace and Miss Bloomfield. More staff are waiting in the wings to train and develop as the detachment grows.

The CCF (RAF), along with the Air Training Corps (ATC), forms the Air Cadet Organisation (ACO), better known as the Air Cadets. The CCF (RAF) is the Air Cadets section of the Combined Cadet Force. There are 202 RAF Sections with approximately 9,500 cadets and 550 adult volunteers. The CCF (RAF) aims to offer an exciting and challenging cadet experience, based around flying and aviation and so inspiring young people to learn and develop new skills.

The Air Cadet Organisation's aims are to:

- Promote and encourage a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force among young people;
- Provide training which will be useful in the Services and civilian life;
- Encourage the spirit of adventure and develop qualities of leadership and good citizenship.

Membership of the CCF (RAF) is exciting, rewarding, and above all fun.

Students have the opportunity to challenge themselves with adventurous training, including the Air Cadet Leadership Course.

Every year the CCF (RAF) provides cadets with approximately 36 flying scholarships, with every cadet having the opportunity to have at least one flying lesson with a qualified RAF pilot.

Some of the key CCF activities such as first aid, navigation, leadership and drill will be undertaken by cadets from all sections of the CCF. However, each service will also have specialist activities.

Cadets parade on Wednesdays, 4-6pm and will be based in the new Grace Payne Inspiration Centre. They are supported by RAF Cosford and their team.



Designed Differently

Bespoke Design Centre

This truly creative feature of the Academy opens up tremendous potential for our students. Exhibits and promotions ensure our ethos benefits the students of the Q3 Academies Trust and the local community.

State of the art environments

A state-of-the-art lecture theatre, science laboratories, and a performance theatre. These are just three of the environments that ensure learning at the Academy is fit for the 21st century.

The brief of the Academy was clear: be different, be creative, and be world class. The facilities at Q3 Academy Great Barr not only aim to meet these demands, but surpass them.



Academy Life

Excellence is achieved in an encouraging atmosphere and with a high degree of personal motivation.



A Day or Year of Learning

The Q3 Academy Great Barr year

The year is divided into six half terms which includes four assessment and reporting cycles.

The summer term is extended by one week to facilitate 'Transition Week' with the Autumn term reduced by one week.

The Q3 Day

8.00am	Academy opens
8.15am	Breakfast available (toast and juice: no charge) Learning Solutions Centre open for support/ access to ICT
9.00am - 9.15am	Tutor Time/Assembly
9.15am - 10.15am	Period 1
10.15am - 11.35am	Period 2 (To include a 20 min Break)
11.35am	Period 3
12.35pm	Period 4 (To include three separate lunch sittings each of 30 minutes)
2.05pm	Period 5
3.05pm	Period 6 for Years 11, 12, and 13 (Wednesdays only)
3.05pm - 5.00pm	Extended Activities (inc. Learning Solutions Centre, access and study support sessions)



Dressed For Success

Business Item	How to be worn/other information
Company identity badge	To be worn on jacket lapel and visible at all times. If lost a charge will be levied for a replacement
Pin badge	To be worn on jacket lapel and visible at all times. If lost a charge will be levied for a replacement
Navy pin striped suit (Trousers or skirts for females)	
White shirt (M) or white blouse (F)	Tucked in
Company tie (M) or Company cravat (F)	Tie at correct length with the logo clearly visible
Plain black or navy outdoor coat	Not to be worn inside the building
Q3 Academy Great Barr jumper No hooded tops, denim jackets, sweatshirts, cardigans, or track suit tops	Over the shirt and below the Business Dress jacket (This garment is optional)
Black, polishable lace-up or slip-on shoes (M) Black low-heeled sensible style shoes (F) The following are not allowed: Boots, trainers, trainer-style shoes, canvas shoes or suede shoes.	Polished, without logos
Dark coloured plain socks (M/F) or navy opaque/ flesh-coloured tights (no patterns)	

Jewellery, piercings, and unusual hair styles/colours are not permitted. Further information is available on the Academy's website.

The Academy operates a strict Business Dress policy and all students attending Q3 Academy Great Barr must conform to it. The uniform (referred to as Business Dress) helps to instil a sense of pride, reflecting a modern, successful and thriving environment.



How To Apply

Q3 Academy is part of the Sandwell Admissions Scheme. You will need to complete a Local Authority application form, available from your child's primary school or from the Local Authority of the borough in which you live. Return the form to the Local Authority by the closing date shown.

For admission into Year 7, applicants will need to be aged 11 by September 1st in the year of entry and will be expected to meet the entry criteria. Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admissions number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below.

After the admission of students with an Education, Health & Social Care plan where Q3 Academy Great Barr is named on the plan, the criteria will be applied in the following order:

- a) Children in public care.
- b) The admission of students whose siblings (brother, sister, stepbrother and stepsister) currently attend the Academy (including Sixth Form) and who will continue to do so on the date of admission.
- c) The admission of students whose parent/carer has been employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made, or the parent/carer has been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- d) The admission of students on the basis of proximity to the Academy using straight line measurement from the main entrance of the Academy to the main entrance of the child's home.

Contacting the Academy

There may be queries, positive issues, and sometimes concerns about which parents and carers may wish to express their views.

There are a number of ways to do this:

- A written comment in the student's Learning Diary;
- A letter to the Personal Tutor;
- Telephone or email contact.

If an issue needs to be dealt with urgently please contact the Academy Receptionist who will ensure that you are referred to the appropriate member of staff.

In the unlikely event that an issue has not been resolved by the Head of School to your satisfaction you may contact the Chief Executive (in the first instance) or the Chair of Governors:

Dr Caroline Badyal Chief Executive Q3 Academies Trust Wilderness Lane Great Barr Birmingham B43 7SD	Ms O. Amartey The Chair of Governors C/O Q3 Academy Great Barr Wilderness Lane Great Barr Birmingham B43 7SD
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**The Grace
Charitable Trust**

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the schools, students and
teachers network

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sandwell
well-being
charter
mark



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www.q3academy.org.uk

 facebook.com/q3greatbarr

 [@q3academy](https://twitter.com/q3academy)

Design and Enterprise Academy
maintained directly by the DFE

Sponsor:
The Grace Charitable Trust
Mr Eric Payne

Chief Executive: Dr Caroline Badyal
Head of School: Mr Mark Arnall

