

24th June 2019



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support this year. I feel we have shifted the Academy forward substantially although there is plenty more to do. It is only in collaboration with yourselves that we can make a lasting change and ensure all our children receive the best quality education that we can. In order to ensure that you are kept up to date, we are posting this letter home with your child's latest Progress Report, and we will also share via our emailed newsletter and place on the Academy website.

Student Led Conferences

Student led conferences are held between each individual child, an invited parent/carer and a member of staff. They are 20-30 minutes in length and focus on the achievements and learning of each child through the year. On Monday 22nd July we are running Student Led Conferences for all students in Years 7 to 9. Invitations to parents/carers will be sent out shortly to indicate the best time to attend and all students would have methodically prepared their review of the year in advance. Students need only attend on this day for the duration of their Conference. It is a wonderful opportunity to come and celebrate your child's year and is designed to be both positive and useful.

Times of the Academy Day

We consulted with parents, carers and staff on this proposed change a few months ago. Obviously there were a number of valid concerns but the vast majority were in favour of the posed changes. Therefore we are proceeding with this shape of the Academy day from September 2019.

Years 7-9

8:40am	Arrival to the Academy
8:50 – 9:00am	Registration
9:00 – 10:00am	Lesson 1
10:00 – 10:15am	Break with breakfast
10:15 – 11:15am	Lesson 2
11:15 – 12:15pm	Lesson 3
12:15 – 1:45pm	Lesson 4 & Lunches
1:45 – 2:45pm	Lesson 5
2:45 – 3:05pm	Life Lessons in Tutor Groups
3:05 – 3:25pm	Interventions

Years 10-13

8:40am	Arrival to the Academy
8:50 – 9:00am	Registration
9:00 – 10:00am	Lesson 1
10:00 – 11:00am	Lesson 2
11:00 – 11:15am	Break with breakfast
11:15 – 12:15pm	Lesson 3
12:15 – 1:45pm	Lesson 4 & Lunches
1:45 – 2:45pm	Lesson 5
2:45 – 3:05pm	Life Lessons in Tutor Groups
3:05 – 3:25pm	Interventions

Interventions will be compulsory for students who have missed chunks of learning during the Academy day (e.g. through being late, not completing required work in lessons, etc.); it is also

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compulsory for all Year 11 students Monday to Thursday, we will focus on revision skills and preparing for Post-16 choices during this time. All other children will be allowed to leave early.

Provisional Term Dates 2019-20

As I'm sure you appreciate, sometimes these dates change should something important crop up. However, we do our best to avoid this and always provide plenty of notice to parents and carers.

Term 1: Monday 2nd September to Friday 25th October 2019

- INSET Days: Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd September, Thursday 24th & Friday 25th October
- New students parents' evening: Monday 23rd September 3:30 – 7:00pm

Term 2: Monday 4th November to Friday 13th December 2019

- Parents' Evening for Year 8, Year 11 and Year 13: Monday 2nd December 2019

Term 3: Monday 6th January to Friday 14th February 2020

- INSET Days: Monday 6th January 2020
- Student Led Conferences for all Year Groups to be held 10th –14th February 2020

Term 4: Monday 24th February to Friday 3rd April 2020

- INSET Days: Friday 3rd April 2020
- Parents' Evening for Year 9 and Year 12: Monday 9th March 2020

Term 5: Monday 20th April to Friday 22nd May 2020

- Bank Holiday / VE Day Celebrations: Friday 8th May 2020

Term 6: Monday 1st June to Friday 24th July 2020

- INSET Days: Friday 3rd July 2020
- Parents' Evening for Year 7 and Year 10: Monday 8th June 2020
- Transition Week (including Work Experience for Year 10): Monday 20th to Friday 24th July 2020

When do students return in September?

All students will return to the Academy on Wednesday 4th September 2019.

- 8:30am – arrival for Year 7 and Year 11 students
- 9:00am – arrival for Sixth Form students
- 9:30am – arrival for Years 8, 9 and 10

Business Wear

During the 2019-20 academic year, all students in Years 7 to 9 must wear the blue pinstripe business wear available from A. Oakes, 174-180 Vicarage Rd, Oldbury B68 8JB. Students in Years 10 and 11

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may continue to wear the plain black uniform so long as they have a Q3 Academies logo on their blazer breast pocket. Sixth Form students wear smart business dress, the same as staff.

A full breakdown of what is and isn't allowed to be worn to the Academy is available in the Student Information Booklets and is on the Academy website. Sports Kit is also listed here and is only available from MACRON.

Cycling to and from the Academy

We support students if they wish to cycle to and from the Academy. However, students MUST wear a cycle helmet from September 2019 and will not be allowed through the gates in either direction unless wearing one. All bikes brought onto the site must be securely chained and we cannot be held responsible for any losses or damage.

Homework

We will not be providing homework planners next academic year. Instead, ALL homework will be logged by teachers on ClassCharts – a free website/app that both students and parents/carers can download onto phones or tablets for quick and easy communication.

Mobile Phones

We do not allow mobile phones on site. If you require your child to have a mobile phone with them, it must be switched off and at the bottom of their bags throughout the whole day. Phones will be confiscated if seen. Please do not phone or message your child during the Academy day and do not respond to calls or messages sent by them. If there is an emergency, Reception should be used and our staff should know about it.

Keeping in Contact

It is essential that we have up to date and working phone numbers for parents and carers of every single child in the Academy. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to keep the Academy updated of contact names, addresses and phone numbers. Should there be an emergency in the Academy for your child (such as a broken leg) we must be able to contact you without delay. If you need to update us, please phone 0121 521 1540 or email hello@q3tipton.org.uk

It is also important for all parents and carers to note:

- Q3 Academy Tipton is a busy place of work and simply turning up and demanding to speak to someone is not acceptable – please make appointments;
- Please expect calls and emails to be responded to within 24 hours – it is not always possible to respond faster;
- If you gain no response, please forward your original email to hello@q3tipton.org.uk and we will action as a priority;

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- The person you may wish to speak to may not be the best person to speak to and you may be directed to the most appropriate member of staff to deal with your enquiry;
- Senior leaders, and particularly the Head of School, only get involved when all other avenues have been exhausted.

The Importance of Reading

Research has shown that students who read for pleasure are more successful in their Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 qualifications, and then in life after school, than students who don't read. Please encourage your child to read for at least 20 minutes every day. It doesn't really matter what children read so long as it challenges them – so it doesn't have to be a lengthy book. If you have a child in Year 7 or 8 then they are participating the Accelerated Reader scheme. They have reading progress logs in which they should complete a task to show their understanding of what they have read every time they read. Please support us by checking that your child is using the log and reading at least three times a week.

Apologies for such a long letter – but it is essential that communication is as strong as it can be. If you have not yet signed up to our weekly emails, please do so by finding the link on the website www.q3tipton.org.uk

Have a fantastic summer.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Keziah Featherstone
Head of School

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