

6TH FORM



Equipping students
to **live life to the full**
in pursuit of what is
good, right and true.

Sixth Formers at Q3 Academy Tipton are challenged and supported every step of the way.



Welcome to our wonderful Sixth Form

Laura Whitehouse, Director of Sixth Form, says...

I am delighted that you have shown an interest in joining our popular and growing Sixth Form.

Continue your learning and development

Q3 Academy Tipton Sixth Form is a place where you can continue your learning and development; I am very proud to be leading the team that will support you through the next stage in your educational journey.

We are really proud of what we can offer in terms of the breadth of study, quality of teaching, small class sizes, dedicated facilities and staff that really do go the extra mile.

Supported every step of the way

Sixth Formers at Q3 Academy Tipton are challenged and supported every step of the way, both in the classroom and beyond. This is vital because a student's sixth form journey really will fly past in just twenty-two months, from their first day to the Leaver's Party.

Developing our students as individuals

These two years will be rightly challenging but we support our students every step of the way with a strong pastoral team.

Our Sixth Form focuses on developing our students as individuals. We provide opportunities to develop social skills, build confidence and allow you to have a wider sense of responsibility as a young adult.

Helping students stand out from the crowd

Our goal is to develop every student's academic and wider CV to help them stand out from the crowd when they take their next step.

Parent and carer partnerships

Our relationships with parents and carers remain excellent. Although our young people are expected to take responsibility for their learning, attendance and conduct, parents are always kept informed of progress.

Don't just take our word for it

Please see the student and parent case studies within this prospectus, to read about what we really mean to the families that use our Sixth Form.

Come for a visit

We welcome prospective students, parents or carers to visit us and see what we're all about. Please contact us at hello@q3tipton.org.uk, or call the school office on 0121 521 1540.

Finn has his eye on a political future inspired by his studies in the Sixth Form at Q3 Academy Tipton

Donna lives with her son, Finn, aged 17, in Tipton. Finn is now in Year 12 at Q3 Academy Tipton.



Aiming high

Donna is thrilled Finn is enjoying Sixth Form life at Q3 Academy Tipton and is getting so much pleasure from studying Politics for one of his A Levels. She says: "Finn had never done Politics before starting in the Sixth Form, but he has always taken an interest in it. At the Year 11 Prom, he received the award for being the student most likely to go on to become Prime Minister." Finn says: "I am enjoying studying Politics and it is great that there are only five students in the class. I would like to go into Politics as I love Tipton and the Black Country and would like to represent the local people."

Happy outcome

Going to Q3 Academy Tipton was the best thing that could have happened to Finn, Donna believes. "I did not want to send him to the school, which was under another name at the time, even though I had attended it myself and it is only a few minutes' walk from where we live. Therefore, we applied for another school originally, but Finn did not get in. Now, I am glad he ended up going to Q3 Academy Tipton because he has had a brilliant time all the way through."

Academic success

Finn thoroughly enjoyed his time in the main school and was always keen to go each day, Donna recalls. "He never came home and said he had problems. He had friends who went up from his junior school with him, but he made new friends as well. All his teachers have been very good along the way and have been encouraging and supportive and he has done well academically, passing all his GCSEs with high grades."

Great experiences

Donna remembers Finn being given wonderful opportunities over the years and having the chance to do things she could not have provided for him herself. "Finn has enjoyed being a member of the combined cadet forces and is now a corporal in the RAF cadets. He has had the opportunity to go flying over the River Severn and to take videos from the plane."

Friendly teachers

Finn is now studying History and English Literature for A Level, along with Politics. Donna says: "He has the same teacher for History and Politics, who is very good, and he also has a great English Literature teacher. The teachers treat the Sixth Formers like adults and are very relaxed with them. I have always found the school to be friendly and welcoming to parents and I like the fact it is a school where everyone is included." Finn says: "Life is very different in the Sixth Form. The teachers are more laid back and approachable to students. The class sizes are smaller which means students get more direct tutoring, and I feel I am being well prepared for my A Levels."

Excellent facilities

Finn remembers the Sixth Form home base being a closed off area when he was in the main school and found it very satisfying to finally be able to access the area in Year 12. He says: "The facilities in the Sixth Form are great and we were all given a lap top to work on in school and at home. I have some friends at college who regret choosing to go there now and would like to come to Q3 Academy Tipton instead. I think it is easier to maintain existing friendships if you go the Sixth Form at your own school. Everyone in the Sixth Form knows everyone else because it is a smaller environment than a college and I would certainly recommend Q3 Academy Tipton to other students."

What we stand for

The Mercian Trust aims to:

Prepare pupils in all its schools to enjoy life to the full, inspiring them to:

- realise their full potential;
- thrive in the world of work;
- make a positive contribution to the local, national and international community.



THE MERCIAN TRUST

At Q3 Academy Tipton, we aim to:

Support and develop young people who:

- pursue what is **good, right and true**;
- are enthusiastic learners and achieve **excellent outcomes**;
- lead happy, confident and safe lives;
- **thrive** in the world of work and within their families and communities.

At Q3 Academy Tipton we aim to achieve this through ensuring:

- there is a **brilliant** teacher in every classroom;
- our school is a community where all feel **safe, valued, enriched** and are proud to belong;
- all students to enthusiastically participate fully in a seven-year **ambitious and aspirational learning** journey;
- all students, staff, families and the community **matters**, that we **care** about one another unreservedly and with mutual positive regard.

Pursuing what is good, right and true.

Billy is flourishing and enjoying sport and good friendships in the Sixth Form at Q3 Academy

Kerry and Gary live in Tipton with their sons, Harry, aged 20, and Billy, aged 17. Billy is in Year 12 at Q3 Academy.

Prom King

Kerry and Gary are pleased with how happy Billy has been at Q3 Academy and how many good friends he has made at the school. Kerry says: "The highlight for Billy was probably when he became Prom King at the end of Year 11. All the students had to vote and the result was announced during the Prom, which was held at the West Brom ground. Billy had no idea he was going to win beforehand and he was over the moon that he had been chosen by the other students and was presented with a trophy that night."

Making friends

Billy started in Year 7 at Q3 Academy. Kerry says: "It was the nearest school to where we live, his two older brothers had gone there, and I had also attended it myself. Billy was apprehensive when he first started, but he settled in well. He made a whole new group of friends, who had been at different primary schools, and he has stayed friends with them all the way through."

Academic success

Billy has done well academically during his time at the school and has won awards along the way, Kerry says. "He did well in his GCSEs and he is now studying for A Level English and for a BTEC in Sport and a BTEC in Business Studies. Sport is his favourite thing and he absolutely loves doing PE."

Encouraging teachers

Billy has always had a good relationship with the staff and, now he is in the Sixth Form, he likes the way they treat the students as adults. Kerry says: "The teachers are very good, at what they do, particularly the English teachers. It is because they are so encouraging and inspiring that Billy wanted to carry English on to A Level."



Billy says: "Being in the Sixth Form offers a much more personal experience in being able to focus on the subjects you plan on pursuing. Sixth Form also offers a much more direct relationship between students and teachers, who give us encouragement and provide us with an extra incentive to do well."

Good support

Kerry is glad the staff are all very supportive to the students and good at communicating with the parents. "When the students were moving up to the Sixth Form, they invited parents to come in and discuss all the subjects with them. They also communicate well with students and set them clear deadlines for when work must be in." Billy says: "My teachers use support and enthusiasm to encourage not only me, but the entire class, setting goals and deadlines to ensure I reach where I need to be. My favourite thing about being in the Sixth Form is the flexibility with lessons and having time to complete work in my own time and at my own pace."

Great school

Kerry says Billy is now planning to go to university to study Sport and is considering going into teaching. "Harry, and Billy's other brother, Jack, who is 26, also both did well at Q3 Academy. Jack is now working, and Harry is at Wolverhampton University. They both enjoyed their time at the school and so I would wholeheartedly recommend it to other families." Billy says: "I would recommend Q3 Sixth Form as it offers a much more personal experience than lower school, allowing you to pursue subjects you have a great interest in. Sixth Form also allows you to stay in a familiar environment with the same teachers and friends, offering you much better support than you would receive at a college."

Pastoral care: additional support for students and their families

Dedicated extra support

We know that for many children and their families, Sixth Form is more than just a place of learning. Therefore, we employ a range of additional staff to further support anyone who needs additional support or care. As well as a large special educational needs team and SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), the wider team includes:

- **Student Counsellor:** a full-time employee to help students experiencing upset and difficulties.
- **Refresh Champion in the Refresh Room:** a dedicated member of staff supporting the learning of children who, for a short time, may struggle to be part of a larger class.
- **Welfare Team:** two full-time members of staff to help with safeguarding and other social issues.
- **Ethos Team:** working in conjunction with the charity Grace Foundation, three members of staff provide additional care for our community. These include a Family Worker and a Youth Worker, and they are all-year-round members of the team.
- **Anti-Bullying Champion (ABC):** to support children who may experience bullying at Sixth Form; also leads a team of student anti-bullying champions.
- **Attendance Team:** two full-time members of staff to help ensure that every child attends Sixth Form well; no child can learn and thrive if they're not in school.

Supporting all Sixth Formers to excel in their studies.

Academic Support

Helping students achieve their very best

Here at Q3 Academy Tipton Sixth Form we support all of our students to achieve their very best.

House Director

To help them to achieve this we offer academic support in the form of 1:1 meetings with their designated House Director, who will talk through their progress and help to identify any perceived obstacles to success and how to overcome them. We also provide subject specific intervention sessions with experienced members of staff throughout the year.

Parent evenings

We hold regular parents' evenings throughout the two years of study so that teachers can share academic progress and offer insights into how you can improve further.

Student led conference

Our Student Led Conferences (SLCs) provide a unique opportunity for one-to-one meetings with students, parents and a member of staff to focus on specific target setting and identifying how each student can develop themselves holistically.

Beyond the curriculum

We keep our students apprised of relevant programmes from external providers that will develop their subject knowledge beyond the curriculum and help them make links with universities and other institutions, supporting their applications for future study.

Helping students to develop subject knowledge that goes beyond the curriculum.

Promoting academic excellence, leadership and independence.



Enrichment

Core Knowledge

Wide range of Sixth Form enrichment opportunities

We have developed a wide range of Sixth Form enrichment opportunities that promote academic excellence, leadership and independence. They include trips in the UK and abroad and opportunities for students to take on positions of leadership and responsibility.

Extra responsibility

There are many opportunities for students to take on extra responsibility and all students are encouraged to get involved in the life of the school in some way, such as assisting with mentoring younger pupils.

This not only helps those in receipt of Sixth Formers' time but also adds significantly to the standing of Sixth Form in the Academy and wider community.

Personal Statement

On a more practical level, it enhances a student's C.V. and Personal Statement, and we would refer to it in a student's final reference. Some of our other opportunities include:

- House Captains
- Senior Prefects
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Combined Cadet Forces programme
- Reading volunteer at local primary school
- Anti-bullying mentors
- Change Your Mind (delivering health and wellbeing workshops in local primary schools).

Sophie is thriving and confident in her own abilities now thanks to supportive sixth form teachers at Q3 Academy Tipton

Tina and Michael live in Tipton with their daughters, Sophie, aged 17, and Molly, aged 13. Sophie is now in Year 12 at Q3 Academy Tipton.

Speaking up

Tina and Michael are delighted with how confident Sophie has become at school and how much she is enjoying life in the sixth form at Q3 Academy Tipton. Tina says: "When we go to student-led conferences, Sophie does all the talking. We do not have to ask much ourselves, because she controls the meeting."

Inspiring staff

Sophie's favourite subject is English Literature, which she is studying at A level along with Business Studies and Criminology. Tina says: "She has two teachers for English Literature and Sophie thinks they are both amazing. They encourage her to believe in herself and to do as well as she can." Sophie says: "The staff encourage us to fulfil our academic potential by giving us tests to see the progress we are making, and from this they can tell us how to improve. They also use encouraging words and affirmations to boost my confidence."

Helpful head of year

Tina and Michael chose Q3 Academy Tipton for Sophie when it was under a different name and leadership. "It was the local school that I had attended myself," Tina says. "Sophie started in Year 7, at the age of 11, having attended a small primary school. She found it difficult to settle because it was a large school with 1500 pupils and there was a lot of disruption in her lessons. I spoke to the head of year about it and he moved her to another set where she was much happier."

Improved school

"At the end of her first year, the school changed its name and brought in a new head teacher and things improved a lot. They recruited good permanent staff and Sophie started getting more homework and working at a higher level. From Year 8 onwards, she had much better teaching and her confidence in her own abilities improved and she used to come home happier," Tina says.



Music opportunity

"Sophie began to make more progress because the new staff made all the pupils realise they had to be more attentive. Sophie began to enjoy going to school more and started to learn the trumpet and play in the school band and perform at concerts. After Molly started at Q3 Academy Tipton, she had issues with another pupil. However, she also found the staff to be very supportive and she is now very happy there and doing well academically," Tina says.

Sixth form life

"Sophie made some wonderful friendships at school and even though pupils have gone on to do different things, she has stayed in touch with many of them. Sophie passed 10 GCSEs with good grades and is now a senior prefect. Sophie absolutely loves being in the sixth form and comes home every day and says she has had a great day." Sophie says: "I am now treated like an adult. Teachers are able to give you responsibilities that you wouldn't be able to do in younger years. For example, if you don't have a lesson, you can help a teacher set something up for a class or event, which you wouldn't be able to do in lower school."

Good accommodation

Sophie loves the fact that the sixth form have their own home base. She says: "This means we have a space where we can go to study or revise whenever we need to. I would recommend the Q3 sixth form to other students as the teachers are very eager for you to succeed and will try their hardest to help you in any way. Class sizes are also usually small, compared with colleges, meaning the learning can be more suited to everybody's needs."

Navigating next steps with the Careers and Aspirations Centre.



Future Pathways

Careers and Aspirations Centre

Every student will meet individually with our Careers and Aspirations Leader at least twice in their first year with opportunities for as many follow up meetings as are required depending on how much support you require. The Careers and Aspirations Centre is right next to the Sixth Form Centre.

Bespoke advice

Your bespoke advice may include applying for a top UK Russell Group university such as Oxford, Cambridge or University of Birmingham; international universities as well as university applications more generally; it might be that you choose to follow an apprenticeship path instead – we are here to help YOU as an individual rather than make any assumptions about you.

Furthermore, our Inspire Curriculum will advise students where to find both university and apprenticeship opportunities and how to act on these.

Work experience

All Sixth Formers undertake at least one week’s work experience during their course. If it is appropriate, many combine additional work experience with regular volunteering to develop their skills and CV.

The support our students receive includes:

- Independent and impartial careers guidance from our Careers and aspirations leader.
- Collaborative work with employers and apprenticeship providers.
- Annual visits to UCAS convention.
- Workshops and seminars for students which shed light on the university and apprenticeship application process, students finance and alternative post-18 pathways.
- Exploring Unifrog (a platform delivering information about Universities and Apprenticeships) in guided sessions to ensure students make informed choices about their future.
- Seminars on how to use search platforms such as The National Careers Service and Gov.uk.
- Partnership work with universities.
- Free visits to universities such as Oxford and more local universities.
- I When needed, one-to-one mentoring for you to prepare you for interviews.
- UCAS, apprenticeship and employment application support; including mock interviews.



Ambitious
Kind
Committed
Determined
Hard Working

What Makes A
Q3 Academy
Tipton Sixth Form
Student?

Dressed for success

Team Player
Resilient
Respectful
Pro-Active

6TH FORM

How do I apply?

Application forms can be downloaded from www.q3tipton.org.uk.

Applications remain open throughout the academic year. However, if you wish to receive timely information and guidance, including the offer of a guidance meeting with a Director of Sixth Form, applications need to be submitted by 31st January.

For all enquiries, please contact l.whitehouse@q3tipton.org.uk



Follow us on twitter for information and events @[Q3Tipton_6form](https://twitter.com/Q3Tipton_6form)



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