



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

We are dedicated to equipping all our students with the tools to live their lives to the full.



Welcome to our wonderful school

Adam Slack, Associate Headteacher, says...

I am delighted to welcome you to Q3 Academy Tipton. Our values of: kindness, ambition, resilience and respect run through Academy life like letters through a stick of rock and we are proud to describe our community with these words.

We acknowledge that we are a school of diversity and celebrate each child for their individualities in preparing them for 'living life to the full'. Our curriculum is broad and challenging and provides opportunities for all students to be successful, building on their prior learning from Primary School and preparing them for life beyond school.

Alongside our supportive, yet challenging curriculum we offer many extra-curricular and wider opportunities to support students' development and experiences beyond the academic. We unashamedly expect the highest of standards from all members of our community and hold our students to account by being: kind, ambitious, resilient and respectful.

Keziah Featherstone, Executive Headteacher, says...

Q3 Academy Tipton in Sandwell is a large, vibrant and diverse school for children aged 11 to 19, with an extremely successful Sixth Form. Established in autumn 2018, our expectations and ambitions are unapologetically high – we want only the best for the children that attend our Academy.

We are dedicated to equipping all our students with the tools to live their lives to the full: to realise their potential, to thrive in the world of work and to make a positive contribution to the local, national and international community.

Our school values are to be kind, ambitious, respectful and resilient; our vision is to equip students to live life to the full in pursuit of what is good, right and true.

Every day, students will be reminded of the ethos and be expected to uphold this at all times too: whilst at the Academy and also travelling to and from the Academy.

Sukhpreet is making excellent academic progress thanks to the high calibre of the teaching staff at Q3 Academy Tipton

Sarbjit and Gurdip live in Tipton with their daughter, Sukhpreet, aged 14, who is now in Year 9 at Q3 Academy Tipton.



Quality teaching

Sarbjit and Gurdip have been very satisfied with the high standard of teaching that Sukhpreet has experienced at Q3 Academy Tipton and with the good progress she is making at the school. Sarbjit says: "We think the school has changed a lot since Sukhpreet first started, when it was under a different name. Every year, it seems to keep getting better because of the excellent staff they recruit."

Good support

Sarbjit and Gurdip chose Q3 Academy Tipton for Sukhpreet because they lived near the school and had heard that it had a good reputation. Sarbjit says: "When Sukhpreet started in Year 7 at the age of 11, it was hard for her in the first couple of weeks because she had moved from a small primary school to a school where there were 300 children in each year. But she was with a lot of other children from her former school, which helped her, and she quickly made new friends as well and had good support from the staff while she was settling in."

Enjoying learning

A lot of the teaching in Year Seven had to be done on line because of Covid 19, but the staff all made themselves very accessible and communicated well with the students while they were studying at home, Sarbjit says. "In Year 8 when she was back in the classroom, Sukhpreet enjoyed her English and Science lessons and we felt that she was taught well. But Year 9 has been the best year so far for her, where she feels she has learnt the most."

Useful guidance

Sarbjit says the staff gave students a lot of help when they were choosing their options for GCSE. Sukhpreet has chosen to do triple Science, Higher Maths, Sociology, French and Religious Studies, in addition to the core subjects of English, Maths and

Science. "She feels she has been well guided while making her choices because they had an assembly for the students where the teachers explained each subject to them separately. They also invited the parents into the school to explain about all the options to them as well."

Offering reassurance

Sukhpreet thinks the staff at Q3 Academy Tipton are all kind and that she can go to them if she ever has any issues with homework. "She feels very confident about approaching her teachers to ask them about things and says they are good at listening and at reassuring students. It is always good to know the staff are happy to speak to students if they have any concerns," Sarbjit says.

Empowering students

"We have found that the school are very good at communicating with parents and we think the student-led conferences that have replaced parents' evenings are a great idea as it give the students the chance to really reflect on how they are doing. The students are given time to prepare for them in advance and can collect their favourite pieces of work in a folder to take with them. Instead of being talked about by the teachers in front of their parents, the students can receive feedback from the staff first hand and raise points and ask questions themselves."

Children say

Sukhpreet says: "Q3 Academy Tipton is an ideal school for anyone who struggles with change because the staff are all very welcoming and help to make the transition from primary to secondary smoother. They have very good facilities, such as the huge football pitch, which is an asset to the school because at events such as sports day, the entire school can fit on there."

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.



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.

Ella is being motivated to make good progress thanks to the commitment of the staff at Q3 Academy Tipton

Kelly and David live in Tipton with their daughter, Ella, aged 15. Ella is in Year 10 at Q3 Academy Tipton.

Inspiring teachers

Kelly and David have been very satisfied with the high standard of teaching at Q3 Academy Tipton. Kelly says: "We think the staff are what make the school as good as it is. We have been very impressed with how well they teach and care for the pupils. The staff get to know all the pupils individually and can understand what works best for them. They motivate the children to want to do well and we have found Ella always wants to work hard for her teachers."

Good preparation

Kelly and David are very pleased with how well Ella is progressing. Kelly says: "Ella has just done her mock GCSEs and is being well prepared to take them next year. Her favourite subject is PE, and it is perhaps her strongest subject, but she also enjoys Art and History. She is good at English and loves Science. Maths isn't her favourite subject, but she tries hard with it, as she does with everything, because she is encouraged by her teacher. Ella has also enjoyed staying after school to play football and to learn to be a referee and the PE staff have supported her and encouraged her to do well."

Caring Executive Headteacher

When Ella was due to go up to secondary school, Kelly and David considered a few schools in the area. "We got a nice feeling when we looked round Q3 Academy Tipton and thought the staff were very welcoming. Ella liked the school as well and was keen to go there after she had seen it. It was handy for us as it is not far from where we live. The Executive Headteacher really impressed us with the way she focused on ensuring the children had a smooth transition from primary school and we were reassured to see the care that was taken," Kelly says.



Maintaining focus

"Ella settled in well when she first started and had no issues. She went up with quite a few of her friends from primary school and made friends with children who had come from other schools," Kelly says. "Unfortunately, a lot of Year 7 was taken up with Covid 19, but the staff were all very supportive to the children and Ella got used to doing on line lessons. We were pleased with how well the staff coped and felt that they did their best for pupils. Things did not get back to normal until Year 9, when the children were finally able to get back into the classroom, and the teachers did all they could to get them back on track with their education."

Working as a team

Kelly says over the years they have had only minor issues to raise with the school but have always found it easy to contact the staff, who have dealt with anything brought to their attention very well. "We have always had full confidence in the teachers and found that they not only look after the children well, but they maintain good relationship with the parents of their pupils. We have always felt we have been able to work together with the teachers."

Friendly environment

"We love the way that the school is at the heart of the community in Tipton and that there is a friendly atmosphere because all the parents know each other well and we are delighted to have seen the school get better and better every year."

Children say

Ella says: "I have really enjoyed my time at Q3 Academy Tipton. I know I can always approach the staff who will help me no matter what the problem. I love PE and the staff have gone out of their way to support me both in and out of school."

Student Voice

Everyone has a voice

Student voice is very important to us.

Student Observers

Student Observers learn how to observe lessons and give constructive feedback to teachers.

Student Council

Student Council liaises between the students, the Senior Leadership Team and the staff to listen to suggestions and deal with any concerns.

Improving school life

Together we work as a team on solutions to any problems, to improve school life for everyone.

Ensuring all students have a voice and are heard.

Transition

Transition

We do our very best to settle in new students as quickly as possible. We understand that it can be very daunting to start in a new school.

Transition comic

To help ease any worries, we produce a transition comic that we hand out to all incoming students, which is based around their key concerns.

Pastoral Team

We have a strong, pro-active Pastoral Team that focus on developing good relationships and provide support to all our new students.

Taster days and getting to know students

We offer students a taster day in the Summer Term, and the Head of Year 7, Mrs Kumari, visits primary schools to get to know the students and meet their teachers.



Starting a day early

To help new students settle into their new environment, the new term will start a day early before the rest of the school. On the first day there will be lots of fun activities which enable new students to make friends and get to know our staff.

Tutor Groups and Houses

All new students join one of our mixed ability tutor groups with a dedicated and committed personal tutor. Students and tutors start every day with one another, and tutors are on hand to support children with any problems that need resolving.

House

Each tutor group is part of a House structure and children join one of five special learning communities. Each House has its own identity, logo, ethos and mascot! Each House is led by a dedicated House Director who will support and guide your child throughout their time with us to achieve their potential.

Settling children in

In addition, each year group is led by a Head of Year who is supported by an Assistant Head of Year. House Directors, Heads of Year and Assistant Heads of Year are on hand to ensure all students are settled, happy and learning. These incredible professionals build strong relationships with students and their families, encouraging hard work and tackling concerns.

We are dedicated to ensuring that the transition from primary to secondary school is as positive and reassuring as it can possibly be.

Our vision for learning is simple: we will educate the whole child and ensure that no child is left behind.

Curriculum

Core Knowledge

The curriculum at Q3 Academy Tipton is based around 'Core Knowledge'. Core knowledge is vital to long term learning. If students know the basics, they can apply it to more challenging problems and this will lead to good retention.

National Curriculum

At Key Stage 3 our Core Knowledge is based around the National Curriculum. At Key Stages 4 and 5, it is based on a wide number of courses which are most appropriate to students' needs. Key Stage 4 starts in Year 10 with students being able to select subjects alongside a strong academic base.

Creative curriculum

Our creative curriculum exposes students to a wider variety of subjects and allows opportunities for students to showcase their work to parents and carers.

Literacy and oracy

We place a strong focus on literacy and oracy across the Academy and in all subjects, from the opportunity to read and comprehend across all lessons to the way students and staff interact around the building.

Homework

Independent Learning (homework) is essential to support students' progress. This is set regularly, and parents/carers are able to monitor its setting and completion via the ClassCharts website/app.

High expectations

All our dedicated staff are committed to making a difference. We know that our children have one chance at an education; this responsibility is a genuine privilege. There is a culture of high expectations in our school – for both staff and students. Staff must demonstrate to students on an everyday basis what is expected at Q3 Academy Tipton.

Lifelong learners

We wish to inspire lifelong learners that will always strive to work hard and do their best. Sometimes students will find learning difficult – our purpose is to identify the barriers to learning and work in partnership with you and your child to find ways to overcome these.

Rasa is being encouraged to aim high in the motivating environment of Q3 Academy Tipton

Dhruti and Hitesh live in Dudley with their daughters, Rasa, aged 16, and Raya, aged 7. Rasa has just finished Year 11 at Q3 Academy Tipton.

Supportive teachers

Dhruti and Hitesh believe the staff are the main strength of Q3 Academy Tipton. Dhruti says: "Rasa has enjoyed her last two years at the school and is now looking forward to going into their sixth form and then on to university to study Medicine. We have been very pleased with the way the teachers have encouraged Rasa to push herself to achieve her best work."

Good goals

"At parents' evening, the teachers told us Rasa is a top student and doing very well. We are pleased with all the help the staff have given her so far. We think the school has been a very supportive environment for her and we are glad she has been encouraged to aim to go to medical school and to become a doctor," Dhruti says.

Suitable subjects

Rasa started in Year 10 at Q3 Academy Tipton after the family moved from London to live in Dudley. Dhruti says: "She is very bright and she was doing triple science for GCSE at her previous school. We were offered a place for her at a school where she would not have been able to continue with all three sciences, so we looked for another school that would give her that opportunity and we chose Q3 Academy Tipton."

Kind classmates

"Although Rasa was not happy at first because she had come from an all-girls high school and was not used to a co-educational school, she eventually settled in well. She was helped a lot by the kind staff and the children in her class who all welcomed her," Dhruti says.

Helpful guidance

Rasa had spent some time out of school after the family moved to the West Midlands but, after she started at Q3 Academy Tipton, the staff gave her great support, Dhruti says. "They could

see she is very bright and, with their guidance, she soon caught up with her studies. In Year 10, Rasa studied Psychology for the first time and she became very interested in the subject, but her passion for science grew rapidly and in the end, she decided to study Physics, Chemistry and Biology for her A Levels."

Thoughtful pupils

"We were very happy with the way the teachers supported and advised Rasa and delighted that she made some lovely friends there. After she first started at Q3 Academy Tipton, the other children would come up to her and talk to her so that she was not on her own," Dhruti says.

Enthusiastic student

"Science is Rasa's passion and she has found studying the subject very interesting at Q3 Academy Tipton. The atmosphere she has learnt in has been very motivating and the staff have pushed her to go beyond her limits. They will help her whenever she needs it, which was the main reason she felt well- prepared to take her GCSEs at the end of Year 11," Dhruti says.

Smart facilities

"As parents, we have always been made to feel welcome at the school and we think it has a lovely atmosphere. We were new to the area and felt the staff also showed us good support. The site and the building are very smart and the pupils have good facilities there. Rasa has been very comfortable and happy at Q3 Academy Tipton and we would certainly encourage other families to apply to the school."

Children say

Rasa says: "I have enjoyed studying all the different subjects for my GCSEs and I think the school is amazing. My favourite thing about Q3 Academy Tipton is the staff and the good teaching I have had there and I have loved all my time at the school."



We are passionate about how we can build students’ cultural understanding.

Extra-curricular enrichment

Cultural capital

Widening our pupils’ horizons is fundamental to our ethos. Extra-curricular activities provide an excellent opportunity for students to do and experience more. Our extra-curricular offer is board and changes depending on the time of the year. We run a number of trips which support academic progress but also allow students to experience more outside of their local area. Recent trips have included:

- Disneyland Paris.
- Berlin.
- Drayton Manor.
- Auschwitz Poland.
- London.
- Alton Towers.

Clubs and activities

Recent extra-curricular clubs and activities have included:

- Football.
- Art Club.
- School Band.
- Boxing.
- Mechanics Club.
- Further Maths.
- Basketball.
- Library and Homework Club.
- Air Cadets.
- Netball.
- Contemporary Dance.
- Badminton.

- French Club.
- Cooking Club.
- School Choir.
- Sparx Homework Club.
- Design Technology Club.
- Guitar Club.
- Cheerleading.

Building character, integrity, resilience and judgement

We believe these are the core skills that we can give to our students which will put them in a position to excel in their future endeavours. For this reason, we offer a broad range of high quality programmes in which our pupils can develop and apply these attributes. Some examples include:

- Duke of Edinburgh’s Award.
- Various trips abroad.
- Combined Cadet Force (CCF).

Mentoring

We work with various mentoring providers providing support externally and internally to students to help build confidence, resilience, academic support.

Our dedicated lessons form part of a whole school approach to supporting students to be safe, happy and prepared for life beyond school.



Preparation for life

Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

RSHE is taught at Key Stage 3 through weekly lessons which focus on age appropriate topics to widen students’ understanding of themselves, others and the world around them.

Citizenship and religion

Through this curriculum, students are also taught about citizenship and religion (alongside weekly Religious Studies lessons) and how different people may view RSHE concepts in other ways.

Activities

Our Ethos team provide regular opportunity to supplement the RSHE curriculum with focused days and activities, including activities building healthy relationships, identity workshops, self-esteem and confidence and personal values workshops.

British Values

Daily tutor time helps prepare students for the day ahead, checking standards and supporting our high expectations. We use this as an opportunity to explore the Fundamental British Values through the use of Picture News.

World of work

Opportunities to enable our pupils to fulfil their potential and make informed decisions about their future, we provide a wide range of opportunities for our pupils to learn about, interact with and experience the world beyond. Examples include:

- Careers Fairs.
- University visits.
- Work experience.



More than just a place of learning.

Additional support for students and their families

Dedicated extra support

We know that for many children and their families, school 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 school; also leads a team of student anti-bullying champions.
- Attendance Team: two full-time members of staff to help ensure that every child attends school well; no child can learn and thrive if they're not in school.

Partnerships

We also work in partnership with a large range of external agencies, companies and charities to support all of our young people.

Partnership with parents and the community

Parent/carers partnerships

Parents/carers are an important part of our Academy Community and we look to involve them as far as possible. In Year 7, opportunities to engage with students' work is key to our curriculum plan and support successful transition.

Parent/carers evenings

There are regular opportunities to review students' progress throughout the year with Parents' Evenings and Reports home.

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.

Engaging with the wider community

Do you engage in any ways with wider community, rent out your gym or pool, hold community consultations etc?

Community Liaison

A police officer is based at the Academy one day a week to provide police and community liaison.

Mayor

We have close links with both the Mayor and Local MP who also attend events at the Academy.

We are active members of the wider community.



Our Sixth Form focuses on developing our students as individuals.



Sixth Form

Continue your learning and development

Q3 Academy Tipton Sixth Form is a place where you can continue your learning and development. 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.

Students as individuals

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.

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."



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