

MAY 1, 2026

NEWSLETTER

DIXONS CROXTETH ACADEMY



The Dixons Croxteth newsletter keeps our community, including parents, students, staff, and the public, informed with updates on school events, policies, student achievements, opportunities for community involvement, and available educational resources.



Academy's values:

Hard Work: we never give up. We remain positive so that we have the strength to persevere with even the hardest work. We do what it takes for as long as it takes.

Integrity: we do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. We do this even when people are not watching.

Fairness: we play by the rules. We are respectful, polite, and courteous at all times. We treat others in our diverse community as we wish to be treated. When we help others, we help ourselves.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Dear Families,

What a week it has been at Dixons Croxteth Academy.

In last week's vlog, I shared how many visitors we have been welcoming into our Academy – and this week was a perfect example of that in action.

On Wednesday, we were proud to host a national conference for over 80 delegates focusing on Violence Against Women and Girls. This was an incredibly important event, and I was immensely proud that our students played such a central role. They spoke openly to attendees about their lived experiences, and the feedback we have received has been truly incredible.

Standing in front of such a large audience can be daunting, but our students approached the challenge with confidence, professionalism and pride. They embodied our values in every way, and it is an experience they will never forget. I could not be prouder of them.

On the same day, we also hosted the termly Dixons Principals' Strategy Meeting at Croxteth. This is a key Trust meeting where principals from across Dixons come together to reflect on school improvement, share best practice, and discuss what is working well across our schools and where we can continue to improve.

What made this meeting different was that principals took time to tour our building, observe lessons and speak directly with students. I will be honest – I felt a little nervous welcoming colleagues into our school – but the feedback they shared was overwhelmingly positive.

They spoke highly about:

- The strong culture we have created
- The transformation of our building
- The quality of teaching and learning
- The personality, character and confidence of our students

Their feedback was genuinely moving. We know we are not perfect, and colleagues also shared helpful next steps – particularly around strengthening the implementation of our drivers: Mastery, Autonomy and Purpose – which we will continue to develop together.

Finally, we will be launching a new attendance initiative. Strong attendance is crucial – the link between attendance, achievement and future success is clear and powerful. We cannot allow attendance to drop.

I hope the sunshine continues into the weekend. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Have a great weekend.

Warm regards,

Mr Duggan
Principal



Mr Duggan
Principal

TRUST PRINCIPAL'S MEETING

This week, Dixons Croxteth Academy was proud to host the termly Dixons Principals' Strategy Meeting, welcoming principals from across the Trust alongside members of the Executive Team.

Each term, principals meet to reflect on what is working well in schools, consider the national picture, and work collaboratively on how we continue to improve outcomes for young people. These meetings are always focused, challenging and purposeful.

Many principals across Dixons have asked to visit Dixons Croxteth to learn more about the journey we have been on — a journey that has seen our school transform rapidly from receiving a closure notice and an inadequate Ofsted judgement to becoming a strong, stable and improving academy at the heart of its community.

What made this visit particularly special was the time given for principals to:

- Tour our building
- Meet and speak with students
- Observe lessons
- Share direct feedback

Welcoming colleagues from across the Trust — including leaders from some of the highest-performing schools — was daunting, but the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive.

Principals spoke with real pride about:

- The positive and calm culture across the school
- The warmth and respect shown by students and staff
- The transformation of our building into a place students are proud of
- The quality of teaching and learning

The confidence, engagement and pride our students showed when speaking about their school

Several colleagues commented on how clearly our students articulated their experiences and how strongly they represented both Dixons Croxteth and the wider Dixons Trust.

While thoughtful suggestions for further improvement were shared — which we welcome — the day was also a powerful moment to pause and recognise just how far we have come together.

This visit reaffirmed that Dixons Croxteth is on the right path and that the work of our students, staff and families is being seen, valued and celebrated across the Trust and beyond. We are incredibly proud of our school community and grateful for the continued support that makes this journey possible.

LFC FOUNDATION

EARTH DAY

The theme of the event was “our power, our planet” with students learning and discussing the global efforts of address climate change and protect natural ecosystems.

Our students took part in workshops in sustainability, biodiversity and sustainable energy. The students developed the knowledge to understand how environmental actions can have a clear impact at local and global levels.

All students were fully engaged throughout the day in all the activities and were a credit to the academy.



SNOWDONIA YEAR 8

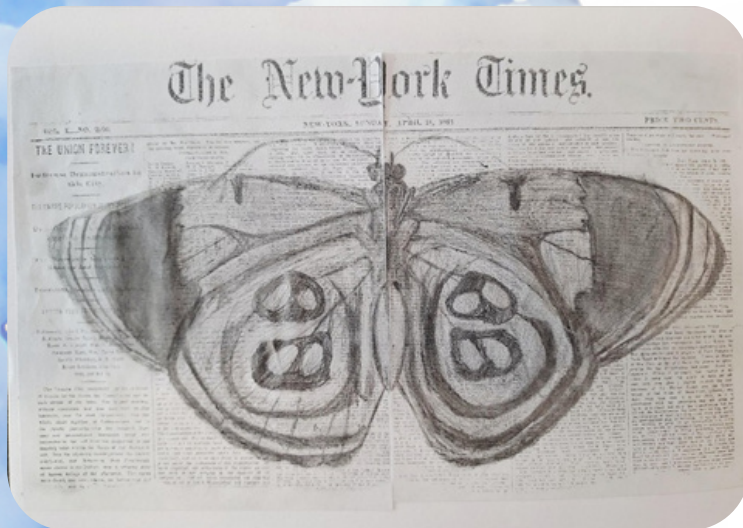
Year 8 visited Cwm Idwal on a geography field trip to investigate whether the landscape had been shaped by glaciers. During the trip, students looked for key evidence of glaciation, such as the steep, bowl-shaped valley (a corrie), sharp ridges, and scattered rocks known as erratics.

They also observed smooth rock surfaces that may have been worn down by moving ice. By recording their observations and comparing them to what they had learned in class, the group gathered evidence to decide whether Cwm Idwal is a glaciated landscape.



ARTISTS OF THE WEEK

HEIDI AND JAIDY, YEAR 7



Jaidy has been working very hard capturing the detail in her symmetrical butterfly drawings, exploring a measured drawing technique and mastering her use of pencil tones- her superb effort on this project has paid off in her final study.

Heidi has clearly demonstrated a keen eye for design and layout in the composition of her artist research pages. She has started to explore colour in her mask designs and will later create her own work in clay. Both artists demonstrate our value of hard work in every lesson and their attitude and commitment has been fantastic. Future illustrators in the making!

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Homework Questionnaire

At Dixons Croxteth, we recognise the important role that homework plays in supporting learning, building independence, and reinforcing classroom knowledge. We also understand that homework can have a significant impact on family life and student wellbeing.

To help us review and improve our current homework approach, we are seeking feedback from parents and carers through a short questionnaire. The aim of this survey is to gather a clear picture of what is working well, what challenges families may face, and how homework is experienced at home.

The questionnaire explores areas such as access to devices and the internet, clarity of homework expectations, workload balance, and the perceived impact of homework on learning and confidence. Parent and carers feedback is vital in ensuring that our homework practices are fair, inclusive, and supportive for all students.

All responses are anonymous and will be used alongside student feedback and staff reflection to inform future developments. By sharing your views, you will help us make informed decisions that strengthen our partnership to support our students' success.

Parent / Guardian Homework Questionnaire



What's on in Liverpool

Summer Term 2026



ADDvanced Solutions Community Network

supports the emotional health and wellbeing of neurodivergent children and young people, their families and the professionals that work with them. **No diagnosis or referral is needed to access the offer.**

BELLE VALE Community Network Group

Tuesday mornings during term time



Join us from **9:30am - 11:30am**

Venue: Belle Vale Children's Centre, Hedgefield Road, Liverpool L25 2RW

No booking needed, just come along

Come along and meet our team, to learn more about neurodiversity from those who can share lived experiences and practical strategies. Our groups create a welcoming, accepting and relaxed environment for parents and carers, you are not on your own.



The centre is located opposite Belle Vale Shopping Centre and on the left of Gateacre School. The centre is accessible by bus via Belle Vale Bus Station.

Topics this term:

Tuesday 14 th April	Helping Neurodivergent Children to Understand their Emotions
Tuesday 21 st April	Understanding and Supporting Autism in Girls
Tuesday 28 th April	Preparing neurodivergent young people for the future
Tuesday 5 th May	We are joined by the Speech and Language Therapy Team
Tuesday 12 th May	Neurodiversity and Anxiety
Tuesday 19 th May	Understanding Puberty for Neurodivergent Young People

Half Term Break

Tuesday 2 nd June	Managing Emotions with Zones of Regulation
Tuesday 9 th June	We are joined by SENDIASS/BARNARDOS
Tuesday 16 th June	Supporting Transition and managing changes
Tuesday 23 rd June	Encouraging Friendships for Neurodivergent Children
Tuesday 30 th June	Preparing for the Summer Holidays
Tuesday 7 th July	Open Session seek advice around any problems

CROXTETH COOKBOOK



CHILLI CON CARNE

A mild, warming minced beef dish cooked with onions and peppers in a rich tomato sauce. Gently spiced to suit family tastes and finished with kidney beans.



PREP TIME
20 MIN



COOK TIME
1 HOUR



SERVINGS
4 SERVINGS

Instructions

1. In a large frying pan, heat the oil and fry the onion and peppers on a low heat for 5 minutes or until softened.
2. Add the beef mince, break up and brown for 5 minutes.
3. Add the fajita seasoning packet and tomato puree plus salt and pepper and mix until well combined. Cook for another 2-3 minutes until fragrant.
4. Add the tomatoes, kidney beans, stock cube. Fill the tomato tin with water and add to the pan, mix well and bring to the boil.
5. Reduce to a simmer and cook uncovered for 1 hour, adding a little extra water if the mixture gets too dry.
6. Once the chilli is cooked, serve with rice.

Notes:

- For a tasty extra, add sour cream and cheese.
- For a vegetarian option use quorn mince.

Ingredients

- 1 Tbsp oil
- 1 Onion, diced
- 2 Peppers, diced
- 500g Minced beef
- Tesco fajita seasoning 30g packet
- 1 Tbsp tomato puree
- 400g Tin chopped tomatoes
- 400g Tin kidney beans
- 1 beef stock cube

Tesco Price list

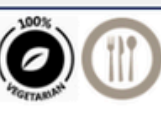
- Onion, loose - 12p
- Pepper, loose x2 - £1.40
- Tesco lean beef mince 5% Fat 500g - £5.19
- Tesco fajita seasoning 30g - 95p
- Tesco tomato puree 200g - 70p
- Tesco italian chopped tomatoes 400g - 47p
- Tesco red kidney beans in water 400g - 39p
- Tesco beef stock cubes - £1.10

Total - £10.32

ACADEMY MENU

   TERM 5 MENU					
Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU					
	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Fried Potatoes 	Sausages (Beef-Pork-Chicken) Beans & Hash 	Salt-Peppers Chicken Chunk & Noodles Veggie Spring Rolls 	Nigerian Stew African Fried Rice Macedoine Veggie & Sweetcorn 	Fish & Chips Baked Beans / Peas 
	Hot Sandwiches Chicken-Cheese & Garlic Mayo 	Jumbo Sausage Roll 	Hot Sandwiches BBQ Chicken & Cheese 	Jumbo Sausage Roll 	Hot Sandwiches Spicy Italian 
	Mix Vegetables Pizza Fried Potatoes 	Veggie Pasta Bake Garlic Bread 	Salt & Pepper Veggie Singapore Noodles-Broccoli 	Beef Minced Savoury Basmati Rice Macedoine Veggie & Sweetcorn 	Curry Sauce, Basmati Rice & Chips 
	Salad Bar: Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Peppers, Sweetcorn / Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week) Selection Sandwiches: Cheese, Ham, Tuna / Paninis: Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken, Bacon / Wraps: Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken. 				
	Mixed Muffins 	Sugar Ring Donuts Topping Sauce 	School Cake 	Ice-Cream 	Chocolate Cake 

Any special order or allergy than the main menu please ask the kitchen before 10:30 am

   TERM 5 MENU					
Week 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU					
	Italian Chicken Pasta Garlic Bread 	Tandoori Chicken Naan Bread Basmati Rice 	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Fried Potatoes 	Beef Chilli Con Carne with Rice & Nachos Chips 	Chicken Burger & Chips 
	Hot Sandwiches Italian Meatball Melt 	Jumbo Sausage Roll 	Hot Sandwiches Spicy Italian 	Jumbo Sausage Roll 	Hot Sandwiches Deli Meat (Pepperoni, Turkey, Cheese) 
	Veggie Pasta Garlic Bread 	Chicken / Veggie Tikka Naan Bread Basmati Rice 	Mix Vegetables Pizza Fried Potatoes 	The Mexican Burritos Yellow Rice & Nachos Chips 	Beyond Burger & Chips 
	Salad Bar: Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Peppers, Sweetcorn / Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week) Selection Sandwiches: Cheese, Ham, Tuna / Paninis: Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken, Bacon / Wraps: Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken. 				
	Ice-Cream 	Sugar Ring Donuts Topping Sauce 	Chocolate Cake 	Mixed Muffins 	School Cake 

Any special order or allergy than the main menu please ask the kitchen before 10:30 am

CORRECTIONS AT DIXONS CROXTETH

A POSITIVE APPROACH TO BEHAVIOUR

At Dixons Croxteth, we believe in high expectations and a culture of continuous improvement. When a student breaks one of our six learning habits, we don't view it as a failure, but as an opportunity to reflect and grow. Our approach is rooted in the key question we ask all students:

"How will I be better tomorrow than I was today?"

What is a Correction?

A correction is a short, purposeful intervention designed to help students reflect on their behaviour and make better choices moving forward. It is not a punishment, but a chance to reset and improve.

20 minutes for breaking **1 learning habit**

40 minutes for breaking **2 learning habits**

60 minutes for breaking **3 or more learning habits**

We aim to complete corrections on the same day so that the behaviour is fresh in the student's mind and they can meaningfully reflect on how to improve.

Our Approach

- **No corrections were issued during the first week of term**, as we gave all students a reset period after the summer break.
- Due to a delay in communication, corrections are only now being implemented. We appreciate your understanding and support as we embed this system.
- **Corrections are not negative** – they are a positive step towards accountability and growth.
- Every day is a fresh start. We do not hold grudges.

Why Your Support Matters

We ask for your full support if your child receives a correction. Removing a child from a correction undermines the three-way partnership between school, student, and family. Together, we can help your child succeed.

A Helpful Analogy

Think of it like speeding in a car. Most of us try to stick to the 30mph limit, but occasionally, we might unintentionally go slightly over. If we're caught doing 34mph, it's frustrating – but we accept the consequence and adjust our behaviour. Corrections work the same way: they help students recognise when they've gone off track and give them the tools to get back on.

HOME LEARNING AT DIXONS CROXTETH

At Dixons Croxteth Academy, we build a partnership between carers, students, and teachers that puts learning first. We help our students value learning by teaching them to take ownership of their own success. Home learning activities play a significant role in a pupil's educational journey and wider development.

Why is Home Learning so Important?

When our long-term memory is altered, we have learnt something. However, when we are exposed to new information, we instantly begin to forget it. Over time, the amount of original information retained significantly reduces unless it is revisited often.

Our home learning strategy is designed to allow students to frequently revisit powerful knowledge, interrupting the forgetting process.

There are three strands to our Home Learning Strategy:

Read. Cover. Write. Check. (RCWC): This is a paper-based task.

Sparx Maths: Online.

Seneca Learning: Online.

Expectations – Y7 and Y8

Up to 60 minutes per day of:

Seneca

Sparx Maths

RCWC

Expectations – Y9 and Y10

Up to 90 minutes per day of:

Seneca

Sparx Maths

RCWC

Completion of past GCSE examination questions

Expectations – Y11

A minimum of 90 minutes per day of:

Seneca

Sparx Maths

RCWC

Completion of past GCSE examination questions

Accessing revision sites

Excellent additional resources can be found at:

Learn Dojo

BBC Bitesize

Save My Exams

Oak National Academy

Free Science Lessons

ACADEMY LEADERS

Senior Leadership roles at Dixons Croxteth



Mr Duggan
Principal



Anish Morgan
Vice Principal
Teaching and Learning



Ian Makin
Vice Principal
Student Experience



Mark Little
Assistant Principal
Designated Safeguarding Lead

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

If you are worried or have a concern please speak to one of the members of staff below or email: dcr_safeguarding@dixonscr.com



Mr I Duggan
Principal



Mr M Little
Safeguarding lead
Assistant Principal



Mr I Makin
Vice Principal



Mr Owens
Safeguarding officer



Mrs C Watson
Safeguarding officer



Miss R Kayll
Safeguarding officer



Mr Boswarva
Safeguarding officer



Ms T Redmond
Safeguarding officer



Miss L Cox
Safeguarding officer



Miss R Bowers
Safeguarding officer



Miss P Goodwin
Safeguarding officer