

FEBRUARY 13, 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.

[www.dixonscr.com](http://www.dixonscr.com)

# NEWSLETTER UPDATE

**Dear Families,**

I hope you are all looking forward to the half-term break and have the chance to rest, relax, and rejuvenate. This half term has flown by and has been packed with so many events.

Of course, the most intense and high-stakes event was our Ofsted inspection. I want to be clear that we do not do things for Ofsted – we are confident in what we do at Dixons Croxteth. We are not perfect and we do make mistakes, but we always reflect and always want to improve. I am delighted with the recognition Ofsted have given us, and some of the quotes in the report really reflect the journey we have been on over the last three years.

This half term, I have been especially impressed with the conduct and attitude of our Year 11 students. This is our smallest year group, and those with over 90% attendance are making remarkable progress. I know they will go on to achieve the highest grades in their GCSEs this summer.

One area highlighted in our Ofsted report for improvement is attendance. We know this, and we want to address it – but we need your support. You can support your child by helping them build strong routines: setting alarms in the morning, ensuring uniform and equipment are ready the night before, establishing consistent bedtimes, and making sure they leave the house with plenty of time to arrive at the academy punctually. Please also encourage resilience – students may sometimes feel a little tired or have a mild sore throat, but resilience means being in school. We need your support.

Our attendance team has recently changed, and we will be welcoming a new Attendance Manager after half term to drive this area forward, overseen by Mr Little. To be very direct: if you want your child to achieve the best grades and go on to live happy, purposeful lives, they must be in school consistently.

Next half term, some of our students will be heading to Italy on our skiing trip, and they have been enjoying watching the Winter Olympics at break and lunch for inspiration. We will also be welcoming visitors from schools across the country who want to see what we do at Dixons Croxteth. Mr Makin will also be sharing information about changes to our school uniform for 2026–27, and I will be launching a Meet the Teacher vlog series. In addition, we will be refining some of our processes, particularly around appreciations, communication, and homework, in response to your feedback.

I hope everyone has a wonderful half term and stays safe.

Warm regards,

**Mr Duggan**  
**Principal**



**Mr Duggan**  
Principal

# OFSTED REPORT



As I said at the start of the newsletter, our focus has always been on providing the very best education and care for our students, rather than on Ofsted. Nonetheless, I am pleased to share that Ofsted has recognised the significant and rapid improvements that have taken place at Dixons Croxteth since joining Dixons. Inspectors noted that the school has been on a “rapid journey of improvement” and described the transformation since joining the trust as “commendable”, adding that this is now “a school to which staff, parents and pupils are proud to belong.”

The report highlights the strength of our leadership and the clear moral purpose that drives our work. Inspectors recognised that leaders have worked “tirelessly and successfully to transform this school.” They also noted that the school now has an open and positive culture where students are kept safe and feel safe.

## **Other highlights from the report include:**

- Behaviour is a strength, with “well-established routines” ensuring the school is “calm and orderly.”
- Bullying and discrimination are “not tolerated”, and students understand and meet the school’s clear expectations.
- The curriculum is “broad”, with rising expectations for what students can achieve.
- Students with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported through “thorough and effective systems” that identify needs early and provide appropriate help.
- Staff have strong subject knowledge and adapt their teaching so that students “build knowledge securely over time.”

Alongside this positive feedback, the report is clear— and we agree— that there is more work to do. Inspectors identified outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4 as an area requiring continued focus. They also highlighted the need to address gaps in students’ foundational knowledge so that improvements in teaching fully translate into examination outcomes. We are working hard on this.

The report also comments on attendance. While attendance has improved “exceedingly quickly” from very low starting points, too many students are still not attending as regularly as they should.

The only way we can address this is by continuing to work together as a community. The best place for every student is in school, in the classroom, and learning. We have a clear plan and high expectations that we know are shared by our families. Please continue to support us by ensuring your child attends every day, on time, and ready to learn.

Thank you for your continued support. Let’s keep working together, in partnership, to ensure your children receive an education that supports them to thrive. If you have any questions about the inspection or the report, please do not hesitate to contact the academy.



**Mr Duggan**  
Principal

# CITIZENS UK ACCOUNTABILITY ASSEMBLY

Students from Dixons Croxteth Academy recently took part in the Citizens UK Accountability Assembly, joining organisations from across Liverpool to call for a fairer and safer city. Guided by our values of fairness, integrity, and hard work, they demonstrated real leadership and purpose.

A Year 10 student delivered a powerful speech about his experience of temporary accommodation, highlighting the challenges faced by many families in Liverpool and showing the importance of young people speaking out. His testimony, along with others from the community, urged local policymakers to take meaningful action on housing and support vulnerable families.

Our involvement with Liverpool Citizens ensures that the voices of ordinary people—especially young people—are heard by those in power. We are incredibly proud of our students for their courage, leadership, and commitment to positive change.



# GOOD LUCK DIXONS CROXTETH ALUMNI



We always say that Dixons Croxteth is a special place. Being part of something bigger than ourselves, building purpose, and leaving a legacy sits at the heart of who we are. Recently, we have seen that legacy shine in a truly inspiring way.

A number of former Dixons Croxteth and De La Salle students are playing key roles in Macclesfield Town's remarkable FA Cup journey. Manager **John Rooney**, assistant coach **Francis Jeffers**, and player **Luke Duffy**—all proud alumni—have been central to one of the biggest FA Cup stories of the last round. Their success has brought real excitement and pride to our community.

What has been especially lovely is hearing how many of our current students have seen John around the community and taken the time to pass on their congratulations and well wishes. They have also been sharing warm messages of support with **Jeanette**, John's mum—one of our brilliant catering team—who has proudly passed them on.

As Macclesfield Town prepare to face Brentford on **Monday night**, we want to send all our very best wishes to John, Franny, Luke, and the whole team. We are incredibly proud of everything they are achieving and the positive example they continue to set for our students.

Good luck, Macclesfield—your Dixons Croxteth family is cheering you on!

# EQUALITY ON BOARD



Last week during Morning Meeting, four Year 9 students spoke about the ongoing issues many pupils face on the buses, from unreliable services to incidents of discrimination. They reminded everyone that staying silent allows these problems to continue. Students were encouraged to share any negative experiences by visiting the library during Reading Mastery, where concerns will be gathered and passed on to the council and Arriva. Their message was simple and powerful: discrimination has no place in our community, and speaking up is the first step toward change.



# ATTENDANCE: HOW YOU CAN HELP US MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

We are constantly inspired by our students and by the dedication of our families in supporting them. However, I need to share a challenge we are facing and ask for your support.

## **The challenge is attendance.**

We have made huge progress over the last three years, but our overall attendance is still below the national average. If we want to be the best school in the city—and in the North—we must work together to change this.

## **How you can help**

We are asking every family to support us by ensuring your child attends school every day possible.

## **Why this matters**

Every day in school means your child:

- does not miss important learning
- stays connected with friends
- builds confidence, independence, and key skills

## **Our promise to you**

We would never want a genuinely unwell child in school. However, if your child is feeling just a little “under the weather” or reluctant in the morning, getting them through the door makes a huge difference. Once they arrive, we can help settle them, support them, and make sure they feel safe and ready to learn.

We prioritise every child’s happiness and wellbeing above all else. We also celebrate improvements—every step forward matters.

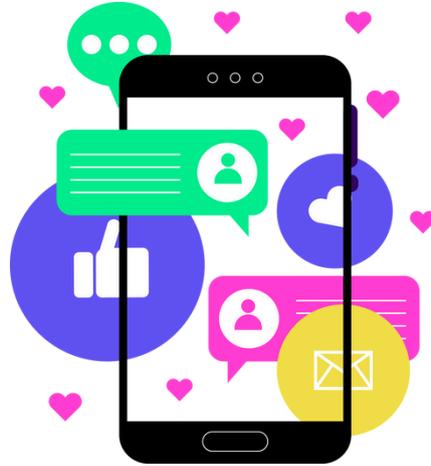
## **Need support?**

If you are finding it difficult to get your child into school, please talk to us. We are here to help, not to judge.

Whether your child is experiencing anxiety, reluctance, or there are challenges at home, our pastoral and attendance teams can work with you to find solutions.

Together, we can make sure every child gets the education they deserve.

# PHONE POLICY AT DIXONS CROXTETH



At Dixons Croxteth, we keep our policies simple and consistent.

Our phone policy is straightforward:  
**“Seen or heard – it is confiscated.”**

If a student’s phone is seen or heard during the school day, it will be confiscated and a 20-minute correction will be issued.

We know that many schools are moving towards completely banning phones on site, and some use systems where phones are collected in secure pouches.

While we understand these approaches, we believe students should have autonomy and learn to make the right decisions. We also recognise that phones are often needed for safety on the journey to and from school and that owning a phone is a social norm.

However, phones can cause significant issues in school, including problems linked to social media apps, which take staff time away from supporting teaching and learning. For this reason, we will continue with our current policy.

**A reminder:** If a phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated. If a student needs to contact a family member during the school day, they can do so by speaking to Reception or their Head of Year.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a focused and safe learning environment.

# ACADEMY MENU

Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>MENU</b>					
	Italian Meatballs Spaghetti Garlic Bread 	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Katsu Chicken Rice & Broccoli Prawn Crackers 	Mediterranean Grilled Beef New Potatoes Sweetcorn / Glazed Carrots 	Chicken Burger Chips Coleslaw 
	Hot Sandwiches Italian Meatball Melt 	Jumbo Sausage Roll Or Cheese Onion Roll 	Hot Sandwiches Spicy Italian 	Jumbo Sausage Roll Or Cheese Onion Roll 	Hot Sandwiches Deli Meat (Pepperoni, Turkey, Cheese) 
	Veggie Meatballs Spaghetti Garlic Bread 	Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Roasty Veggie Stew Rice & Broccoli 	Baked Potato Baked Beans / Cheese 	Beyond Burger & Chips 
	<b>Salad Bar:</b> Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Peppers, Sweetcorn / <b>Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week)</b> <b>Selection Sandwiches:</b> Cheese, Ham, Tuna / <b>Paninis:</b> Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken, Bacon / <b>Wraps:</b> Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken. 				
	Twin Lollies Ice 	Choc Chip Flapjack 	Chocolate Cake 	Mixed Muffins 	School Cake 

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

Week 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>MENU</b>					
	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Chicken Thigh Yorkshire Pudding- Veg and Gravy 	Salt-Peppers Chicken Chunk & Noodles Veggie Spring Rolls 	Chicken Tikka Naan Bread Basmati Rice 	Cheeseburger (Beef/Chicken) Chips / Coleslaw 
	Hot Sandwiches Chicken-Cheese & Garlic Mayo 	Jumbo Sausage Roll 	Hot Sandwiches BBQ Chicken & Cheese 	Jumbo Sausage Roll 	Hot Sandwiches Spicy Italian 
	Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Veggie Pasta Bake Garlic Bread 	Veggie Tikka Naan Bread New Potatoes 	Baked Potato Baked Beans / Cheese 	Salt & Pepper Veggie Singapore Noodles-Broccoli 
	<b>Salad Bar:</b> Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Peppers, Sweetcorn / <b>Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week)</b> <b>Selection Sandwiches:</b> Cheese, Ham, Tuna / <b>Paninis:</b> Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken, Bacon / <b>Wraps:</b> Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken. 				
	Mixed Muffins 	Choc Chip Flapjack 	School Cake 	Twin Lollies Ice 	Chocolate 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 do not 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 are caught doing 34mph, it is frustrating – but we accept the consequence and adjust our behaviour. Corrections work the same way: they help students recognise when they have 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](mailto: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