

JUNE 13, 2025

# 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,**

As we approach the final weeks of the academic year, I would like to begin by looking ahead to next week's Year 11 Leavers' Assembly. This will be a significant and emotional moment for our students, and we are committed to making it a memorable occasion. Mr Makin and Ms Redmond are working hard to ensure it is a fitting celebration of their journey and we will be sharing pictures and messages with families.

While we have had several requests from parents to attend, the Year 11 boys have asked that this event remain student-only, as they feel more comfortable without an audience. We completely respect their wishes. However, we look forward to welcoming families back for Results Day in August, and again next year for the formal GCSE Certificate Presentation.

Last Thursday, we had the pleasure of welcoming families of our GCSE Art students to the academy for EMERGE25 exhibit, a stunning showcase of their work. The exhibition had the feel of a professional gallery—more Tate or Walker than school Heart space! The creativity and talent on display were truly inspiring, and we are proud to be using student artwork to bring our building to life. Well done to all involved—you can see photos from the event in this newsletter.

Looking ahead, we are now deep into planning for the next academic year. We are excited to welcome our new Year 7 cohort (currently Year 6) for their transition day next month. As a growing and improving school, we are pleased to be fully subscribed for Year 7, with a waiting list that changes weekly. If you know of any families who are still hoping for a place, please encourage them to contact our reception team.

In terms of staffing, we are fully staffed for September and have made some exciting additions to strengthen our team. We are delighted to welcome an experienced Performing Arts teacher, and we are thrilled that Mrs Unsworth will be staying with us in Music for another year. I am passionate about seeing Performing Arts flourish at our school, and I am already looking forward to both the Christmas Concert and the Collaboration Concert later this month.

As part of our planning for next year, we will be making some changes to the school day. I will share full details in a separate letter. One change I am particularly excited about is the introduction of 'Reading Mastery', a dedicated 25-minute daily reading session for all year groups. Each year group will read a shared book together in their advisor classes. I firmly believe that "the literacy gap is the attainment gap", and helping our students become confident, independent readers is essential to their success and let's be honest, who doesn't love a good book?

Finally, we have a number of exciting events coming up, including a Science visit to the University of York, Dixons Croxeth Sports Day, and our Trust-wide Sports Event. It is a busy and exciting time, and we are proud of everything our students are achieving.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



**Mr Duggan**  
Principal

**Mr Duggan**  
Principal

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



# LITERARY LOUNGE TRIP TO WATERSTONES



Sam, Year 8, also chose a book related to science:

'I chose 'Parallel Worlds' by Machio Kaku because I was drawn to the name and it made me want to find out if there is another planet with life that hasn't been discovered. This book is absolutely impossible to overlook; it's mind-blowing!'

Jiro, Year 9, chose to read 'The Book of Bill' by Alex Hirsch because he is a member of the fandom the book is related to: 'It falls into the genre of fantasy / mystery, and it breaks the fourth wall. It is also interactive, with many codes that you need to decipher to find secrets and has funny and horrifying images which make it really appealing.'

The boys hope to swap their books when they have finished so that they have the opportunity to read twelve different books they perhaps wouldn't have considered previously.

On Thursday 22 May, regular attendees of the Literary Lounge, who topped the leader board for achieving 'Bibliophile', 'Voracious Reader' and 'Literary Lounge Legend' status, were taken to Waterstones, Liverpool, to select a book to take home and read.

Twelve students from Years 7, 8, and 9 spent a joyous afternoon perusing the Young Adult, History and Science sections, choosing books which reveal their love of specific genres and reflect their diverse interests, hobbies and talents.

Lawrence, Year 8, chose the book 'On the Origin of Time' by Thomas Hertog:

'I chose this book because science interests me and I like to learn about the world. This book is about quantum physics: the body of scientific laws that describe the wacky behaviour of photons, electrons and the other subatomic particles that make up the universe. It is also about black holes and the Big Bang.'



# EMERGE25 GCSE ART EXHIBITION



We celebrated our end of year exhibition in style with our EMERGE25 exhibition showcasing the work of our year 11 artists. Within the show there was a mix of illustration, painting, printing, collage and book art with students responding to many themes including Narrative, Graffiti and Emotions. Each student exhibition was accompanied by their biography which spoke of their inspiration, future destinations, best memories and advice.

The evening was an absolutely fantastic showcase of their creative talents and brought our Heart space to life as students, parents and staff came together to appreciate the work. Awards were presented by Mr Duggan in the following categories:

High Achieving & Ambition – Harry W  
Creativity & Awe – John B  
Refined & Resilient – Barry M  
Committed and Conscientious – Chris B G



# EMERGE25 GCSE ART EXHIBITION



The evening was a huge success and was made even more special as we were lucky enough to sample Ms Redmond and Mrs Kewley canapes whilst we had the pleasure of our music students from year 7 and 8 who added to the atmosphere with musical accompaniment from Mrs Unsworth.

# VOCAL WORKSHOP



On Thursday 10 June, Dixons Croxteth hosted a vocal workshop run by Sharon Stacey a vocal teacher from the trust. This was to run a session with the pupils who have been attending extra curricular singing sessions.

We extended this sessions to the vocalists from Dixons Fazakerley and Dixons Broadgreen to help prepare for our collaboration concert in July. As all three schools will be singing together in celebration of the Liverpool Heritage having a theme of the 'Beatles'. It was really something to hear over 50 voices singing together from the three schools.

All three schools will also feature soloists at the event as well as coming together in collaboration to sing a Medley of Beatles songs.

Pupils worked well together and are looking forward to further rehearsals and the event on the 14th July.



# TALKING TEENS

The Centre of Emotional Health has developed a 4-week course focusing on relationships, communication and brain development. Sessions last for 2 hours and this will run once a week for 4 weeks for parents.

The programme consists of four sessions, developed with Dr John Coleman, to increase parents' understanding of teenagers' feelings and behaviour, and deliver key strategies for maintaining and improving relationships. Based on the most recent research on adolescence, and consistent with the principles of the Nurturing Programme

Key topics:

- Exploring the importance of parents for teenagers
- Developing parents' understanding of teenage development and the influence of brain development on behaviour
- Developing parents' understanding of the importance of listening, verbal and non-verbal communication
- Promoting positive approaches to boundary setting and problem-solving
- Providing an opportunity for parents to share their experience with others

Dates are:

19/06/2025 @ Cobalt Housing - 10am-12pm

26/06/2025 @ Dixons Croxteth Academy - 10am-12pm

10/06/2025 @ Cobalt Housing - 10am-12pm

17/06/2025 @ Cobalt Housing - 10am-12pm



The course is free and refreshments will be provided.

If you are interested in signing up or would like more information please contact :

**Kate Toutountzi via email [kate.toutountzi@cobalthousing.org.uk](mailto:kate.toutountzi@cobalthousing.org.uk)**

**Pip Goodwin via email [pgoodwin@dixonscr.com](mailto:pgoodwin@dixonscr.com)**

Or contact the academy on **0151 332 6780**

# DIXONS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP

Dixons Croxteth can't wait to take part in the Dixons Athletics Championship!



**DIXONS ACADEMIES TRUST**

**Be part of the  
Dixons Athletics  
Championship**

**Monday 30 June**  
Manchester Regional Arena

Part of the **DIXONS CUP**

Your chance to compete for your academy  
at the Home of the British Olympic trials!

Free entry, live samba band, DJs.  
Lunch and transport provided.

Get to the starting line!  
Ask your PE teacher for more details.



# LUNCH MENU

Below is the our spring menu

   					
Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU					
	Beef Meatball or Bolognese Pasta Garlic Bread 	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Stir Fry Chicken & Egg Fried Rice & Broccoli 	Chicken Burger & Chips 	Beef Enchilada Yellow Rice & Nachos Chips 
	<b>Assorted Baguettes or Wraps</b> CHICKEN-BACON-TUNA-MEATBALL 				
	Macaroni Cheese Garlic Bread 	Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Vegan Nugget Egg Fried Rice & Broccoli 	Beyond Burger & Chips 	Veggie Enchiladas Yellow Rice & Nachos Chips 
	<b>Selection of Salads / Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week)</b> <b>Selection Sandwiches: CHEESE-HAM-TUNA</b> 				
	Ice-cream 	Yogurt 	Mixed Muffins 	Choc-Ice 	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
MENU					
	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Chicken/Pork Meatballs Mash-Veg and Gravy 	Indian Beef Curry Basmati Rice-Neen Bread 	Roast Chicken/Pork Yorkshire Pudding-Veg and Gravy 	Chicken Goujons Singapore Noodles Prawn Cracker 
	<b>Assorted Baguettes or Wraps</b> CHICKEN-BACON-TUNA-MEATBALL 				
	Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Vegetable Meatballs Mash-Veg and Gravy 	Indian Veggie Curry Basmati Rice-Neen Bread 	Roasted Vegetable Yorkshire Pudding-Veg and Gravy 	Vegetable Singapore Stir Fry Noodles Veggie Cracker 
	<b>Selection of Salads / Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week)</b> <b>Selection Sandwiches: CHEESE-HAM-TUNA</b> 				
	Ice-cream 	Mixed Muffins 	School Cake 	Yogurt 	Choc-Ice 
Any special order or allergy than the main menu please ask the kitchen before 10:30 am					

# 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



**Jacqui Varkulis**  
Vice Principal  
Behaviour and Culture



**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**  
Assistant Principal  
Designated Safeguarding Lead



**Mr I Makin**  
Vice Principal  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Ms J Varkulis**  
Vice Principal  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Miss R Bowers**  
Safeguarding officer



**Miss L Cox**  
Safeguarding officer



**Ms T Redmond**  
Safeguarding officer



**Mr R Owens**  
Safeguarding Officer



**Mrs C Watson**  
Safeguarding Officer