

MARCH 14, 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

We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits.

I would like to start with some positive news regarding attendance in our academy, especially in Year 11. We are thrilled to share that we achieved an impressive 95% attendance rate in Year 11. Year 11 have been completing GCSE MOCK exams and have shown a real positive attitude towards exams. Year 7 also showed great commitment, hitting a commendable 92%. Your engagement has played a crucial role in these achievements. With the lighter mornings and warmer days now returning, let's hope we can all hit a full week of positive attendance.

This week, we had the honour of welcoming Merseyside Police's MATRIX department into the academy. They led assemblies focusing on gun and knife crime, aiming to educate our students about the dangers and implications of such actions for society. We believe this initiative will help our students make informed decisions and understand the impact of crime on individuals and communities. The Chief Constable, Chris Green (a former De La Salle Student) visited and was complimentary of the staff and students. We would like to further build collaboration with the police moving forward.

A particular highlight of the week was speaking to the students who visited Liverpool Philharmonic in the city centre. They had the wonderful opportunity to get involved with an orchestra, and it was truly a joy to see their enthusiasm and participation. The experience was enriching and inspiring for both the students and the staff.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Together, we are making great strides towards the betterment of our academy and the holistic development of our students.

Next week is particularly busy for our academy. We have a visit from another school in the city that wants to learn from us about school improvement. Additionally, the Trustees of the academy will be visiting to meet staff and students and to challenge the senior leadership team (and myself) on how to further improve. We also have a visit from the Mercia School in Sheffield, the second highest performing school in the country, to challenge us on how to further improve outcomes for students.

I personally am looking forward to year 10 parents evening next week, an opportunity to discuss progress, attainment and attitude to learning of our soon to be oldest year group in school.

Have a great weekend.

**Mr Duggan**  
**Principal**



**Mr Duggan**  
Principal

# OPERATION PROSPECT

On Monday 10 March the academy took part in Operation Prospect, a vital new initiative aimed at reducing serious violence, including knife and gun crime, and raising awareness of exploitation in Merseyside. This initiative is built on the belief that every young person has the power to shape a safer future for themselves, their families, and their community.

Through education and open discussion, Operation Prospect equips students with the knowledge, confidence, and support they need to make responsible choices and contribute to a safer society. The sessions focus on three key messages:

- ◆ Think about the consequences of your actions – Understanding the impact of violence and weapon-carrying on individuals, families, and the wider community.
- ◆ Consider and contribute to community safety – Encouraging young people to look out for one another and make positive choices that promote safety.
- ◆ Have the confidence to speak up – Ensuring students know how to seek help and report concerns to a trusted person.

By taking part in Operation Prospect, our students gained an understanding of the role of firearms officers, the dangers associated with weapons, and the lasting effects of violence. The programme also highlights the importance of joint enterprise and how young people can safely report concerns.

This initiative is a crucial step toward creating a stronger, more connected, and violence-free Merseyside. By taking part, we are committed to empowering our students to make a difference and build a safer future for all.





# PI DAY 2025

On Friday 14 March Dixons Croxteth we revelled in all things pi!

It was a huge team effort by all departments starting with Morning Meeting explaining the principles of pi and the reason for the day of celebration. Pi ( $\pi$ ) represents the ratio of the diameter of a circle to its circumference as 3.14, hence the date). Students then moved onto lessons learning about all sorts of ways that pi relates to each subject including the history of pi from the Babylonians to Archimedes to present day, great circles in geography explaining how these are used in navigation, invention of the wheel in science and much more.

One Y8 student commented that "the story of 'Circumference and the Dragon of Pi' in our English lesson was really enjoyable and made it all make sense" whilst another was fascinated by the beauty of the computer generated artwork created using the digits of pi.

Special thanks go to the catering staff for the delicious pies they served at lunchtime as well as sectors of a circle in their pizza pies.

Other events included fascinating facts about pi and fun quizzes and competitions. There was a real buzz around the school and everyone, staff and pupils alike really got on board to make the day joyful.

We hope that next year's Pi Day will be even bigger and better!



# ANTHONY WALKER FOUNDATION



**ANTHONY  
WALKER  
FOUNDATION**

We recently had a session from the Anthony Walker Foundation to support our Year 10 students with identity and diversity in society. As an academy trust, we have worked relentlessly on equality, diversity, and inclusivity (EDI) – EDI is not what we do at Dixons it is everything we do.

This session was aimed at supporting a small cohort of Year 10 students to raise their confidence and be themselves.

AWF commented that 'They are a brilliant group, and we were so happy to spend time with them.'

We are building strong links with the Anthony Walker Foundation and will share further collaboration work with them in the future.



# LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL TRIP

12 year 8 students had the opportunity to attend 'Liverpool Philharmonic' Hall on Monday 10 March to watch the orchestra play music celebrating the culture and diversity through the history of music in Liverpool.

Music from 'England, America, Ireland, India, China and Africa' were all celebrated through medium of music.

One pupil on leaving the building said 'That was wonderful'

The final number was a original composition / song that the whole audience had to participate with and perform with the world famous Liverpool Philharmonic.

What a great opportunity to hear live music on our doorstep.



# YEAR 10 PARENTS EVENING

On Thursday 20 March it is our Year 10 parents evening. This event is crucial for several reasons:

- It provides an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers and discuss their child's progress, strengths, and areas for improvement.
- It also allows parents to gain insights into their child's academic performance and behaviour in school.
- Additionally, it is a chance for parents to ask questions and address any concerns they may have.

All years are important in your child's education. Year 10 is when students have transitioned into Key Stage 4 study and begin their GCSE's. They are soon to be the oldest students in school, and we expect them to model our values and understand our drivers and communicate them to lower year groups.

Mr Owens has worked diligently with this year group and class teachers believe that they will surpass our expectations with regards to results. However, the students need both of our support for this to happen.

At Dixons Croxteth we average 74% attendance at parents evening. We have checked and next Thursday neither Liverpool or Everton play so we are hoping for above 90% attendance.

Your involvement and support are vital in helping your child succeed, and we encourage all parents to attend this important event.

If you cannot attend, please inform your child tutor or Mr Owens, Head of Year.





# COFFEE MORNING

☕ Join Us for a Coffee Morning at Dixons Croxteth Academy!

📅 **Date:** Monday 31st March 2025

🕒 **Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

We warmly invite all parents and guardians to join us for a **Coffee Morning** with the opportunity to:

- **Speak with Teachers** about any concerns or questions you may have
- **Raise Issues or Suggestions** to help improve our school community
- **Connect with Other Parents** and share experiences















This is a wonderful opportunity to engage with our school community, share your thoughts, and enjoy a coffee with us. We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your feedback!



















# LUNCH MENU

Below are the lunch menus for Dixons Croxteth.

   					
Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU					
	Salt & Pepper Chicken Singapore Noodles Broccoli	Beef Chilli con Carne Rice-Nachos Chips	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries	Italian Meatballs Pasta Garlic Bread	Chicken Tikka Naan Bread New Potatoes
	Assorted Baguettes or Wraps CHICKEN-BACON-TUNA-MEATBALL				
	Salt & Pepper Veggie Singapore Noodles-Broccoli	Beans Chilli Rice-Nachos Chips	Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries	Veggie Roasty Pasta Garlic Bread	Veggie Tikka Naan Bread New Potatoes
	Selection of Salads / Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week) Selection Sandwiches: CHEESE-HAM-TUNA				
	Ice-cream	Apple Cake	Brownies	Yogurt	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					
	Roast Chicken Yorkshire Pudding-Veg and Gravy	Chicken Chinese Rice Spring Rolls/ Prawn Crackers	Chicken Burger & Chips	Hungarian Goulash Spaghetti / Pasta Garlic Bread	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries
	Assorted Baguettes or Wraps CHICKEN-BACON-TUNA-MEATBALL				
	Roast Roots Yorkshire Pudding-Veg and Gravy	Veggie Stir Fry Chinese Rice Spring Rolls	Beyond Burger & Chips	Veggie Stew Spaghetti / Pasta Garlic Bread	Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries
	Selection of Salads / Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week) Selection Sandwiches: CHEESE-HAM-TUNA				
	Ice-cream	School Cake	Brownies	Yogurt	Apple Cake

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