

MAY 15, 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,

As Principal, I genuinely believe that if something is important, I need to talk about it often. Over-communicating matters because it shows what we value most.

Right now, I am talking about attendance all the time, with staff and with students. That is deliberate. I am relentless about making Dixons Croxteth the best school in the city, and high attendance is essential if we are to achieve that ambition. Unfortunately, attendance has dipped and we are currently behind some of our rival schools. You will continue to hear from me about attendance as we drive improvement and work to once again be the most improved school in Liverpool.

This week, Year 11 have begun their GCSE examinations and they are now fully underway. The cohort have been brilliant, focused, calm, and determined. Next Friday afternoon (when there are no exams taking place), we will be holding a mental health and wellbeing check-in with Year 11 to ensure they are supported during this intense period. They are showing real passion and diligence, and I wish them every success.

I have also thoroughly enjoyed spending time in lessons this week. It has been a real pleasure to see high-quality teaching and learning across the academy:

- In Maths, I observed excellent challenge and rigour as students tackled percentages and fractions.
- In English, Year 9 students analysing An Inspector Calls were engaged, confident, and eager to express their ideas.
- In History, I loved seeing students' fascination – and shock – as they learned about life and diet in Medieval England.

As a History teacher, I am often less confident in practical subjects but I am delighted to say that Food Technology, Art, Music, Drama and PE are thriving. Our curriculum is stronger than ever, and we will begin to see the impact of this work in future results.

Looking ahead, we have some hugely exciting events coming up:

- Our first ever Dixons Croxteth Summer Fair and Summer Showcase, where I have already seen some amazing snippets of student performances
- We will also be hosting an Academy Trust from London, who are keen to learn about how we have stabilised and improved the academy following the previous closure notice.

Sport continues to play a central role at Dixons Croxteth. Trials have begun for the Dixons Athletics Competition in Manchester next month, which includes over 20 Dixons schools and will take place at the Manchester Athletics Stadium, in the shadow of the Etihad. We will also be competing in our first ever Dragon Boat event in Yorkshire and, of course, holding our now-traditional annual Sports Day here at Croxteth.

As we move into the final week of this half term, let's aim for full attendance all week and finish strongly.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mr Duggan
Principal



Mr Duggan
Principal

SUMMER CONCERT PREP



At Dixons Croxteth, we want joy to be at the heart of school life. We want our students to take part, to belong to teams, to discover their talents, and to truly enjoy their time at the academy.

A few years ago, music was an area that had not been given the attention it deserved, both within the curriculum and as part of our wider extracurricular offer. That never sat right with us. We are a city with rich and powerful links to music and the arts, and we were determined that this should be reflected in the life of our school.

Over the last three years, we have made a real commitment to changing this. Through investment, leadership and passion, music has been brought back to the forefront. Ms Palmieri has led this work with energy and ambition, supported brilliantly by Mrs Unsworth and Miss Rushby, who have organised our Christmas and Summer performances and concerts. Together, they are helping to create something special – moments of pride, confidence and real joy for our young people.

I am incredibly proud to share a photograph of our very first school orchestra. Seeing students come together to make music in this way is a powerful symbol of how far we have come, and I cannot wait to hear them play.

A huge thank you to the staff for their dedication in making this happen, and to our students for their skill, courage and motivation in stepping forward and getting involved. This is what joy at Dixons Croxteth looks like.

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Year 10 GCSE Geography students recently visited the Albert Dock to evaluate the success of an urban regeneration project and consider whether it remains sustainable today.

As part of their fieldwork, students also travelled to Leasowe Bay to investigate changing coastal landforms. During the visit, they analysed beach and sand dune profiles, applying their classroom knowledge to a real-world environment.



YEAR 11 THANK YOUS



Mrs Morgan's Year 11 science class have amassed an impressive 45 hours of guided revision through their weekly after-school sessions every Tuesday and extended masterclasses during each holiday and break. Their commitment and dedication to their studies have been outstanding.

A special thank you goes to our chef Daniel, who ensured students were well-fuelled each week by providing food for the after-school sessions. The boys were keen to express their gratitude for his continued support, which has played an important part in helping them stay focused and motivated throughout their revision journey.

SHAPING FUTURES

At Dixons Croxteth Academy, our Year 7 English reading intervention is designed to shape futures by developing the confidence, fluency and comprehension needed to access the wider curriculum and succeed beyond school. Through targeted support, a small cohort of students receive expert reading instruction through carefully chosen texts.

Students build the foundational literacy skills that underpin academic achievement, personal development and a lifelong love of reading. By closing gaps early and creating positive reading experiences, we empower students to feel a sense of belonging, aspiration and success from the very start of their secondary journey. We are so proud of the hard work that our students display in this session.



TALKING TEENS WORKSHOP



At Dixons Croxteth Academy, we are fortunate to work in partnership with The Centre for Emotional Health through Liverpool City Council. This charity is dedicated to improving and strengthening family relationships by training professionals to deliver supportive programmes for both parents and practitioners.

We are pleased to share that, from September 2026, we will be running their “Talking Teens” programme for parents and carers.

In the meantime, you can find out more about the fantastic work they do by watching the video via the link below.

<https://www.centreforemotionalehealth.org.uk/>

If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact The Centre for Emotional Health directly, or get in touch with the academy and ask to speak to Miss Goodwin from the Pastoral Team.

ARTIST OF THE WEEK

SORENA, YEAR 10



Our artist of the week is Sorena from year 10. He has made a fantastic start to the development section exploring new processes and materials for his portfolio. His stitch and thread samples are inspired by the work of Happy Red Fish. You can see the combination of contrasting colours carefully stitched into his photographs from our Liverpool drawing day trip demonstrating how he has moved from visual research and observation of architecture into a complex technique and process of layering stitch showing perspective as his chosen contextual research. A successful set of samples Sorena, keep up the hard work.

AT HOME THIS WEEK

Mental Health Awareness Week

This week, Dixons Croxteth Academy is supporting Mental Health Awareness Week, highlighting the importance of emotional wellbeing for all students. Through sessions and discussions in school, we are encouraging open conversations and helping students develop positive ways to understand and manage their feelings.

Talking to Your Child: Simple Tips

- Choose the right moment

Pick a time when your child feels relaxed and comfortable, such as during a walk or car journey, rather than when they feel under pressure.

- Listen without judgement

Give your child your full attention and allow them to speak freely. Try not to interrupt or immediately offer solutions—feeling heard is often what matters most.

- Ask open questions

Gentle questions like “How have you been feeling lately?” or “What’s been on your mind?” can help your child open up more naturally.

- Reassure and validate

Let your child know that their feelings are important and that it’s okay to feel a wide range of emotions. This helps build trust and confidence.

- Seek support if needed

If you have concerns about your child’s wellbeing, please contact the school. We are here to support and can help guide you to further resources if needed.

Supporting mental health is a shared effort. Together, we can help our young people feel safe, understood and supported.

CROXTETH COOKBOOK



CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA

This quick and easy curry recipe uses just a handful of ingredients and is on the table in 20 minutes.

Serve with your choice of naan or rice (or both) for a winner dinner!



PREP TIME
10 MIN



COOK TIME
20 MIN



SERVINGS
4 SERVINGS

Ingredients

- 650g Chicken mini fillets
- 3 tbsp Tikka Masala Spice Paste
- 15g Coriander, roughly chopped
- 300g Cherry tomatoes
- 200g Tesco Greek-style yogurt

Tesco Price list

- 650g Chicken mini fillets - £4.95
- Pataks tikka masala paste - £3.25
- Tesco fresh cut coriander 30g - 50p
- Tesco cherry tomatoes 300g - £1.00
- Tesco greek style yogurt 500g - £1.15

Total - £10.85

Instructions

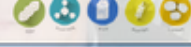
1. Heat 1 tsp vegetable oil in a large, nonstick frying pan over a high heat.
2. Add the chicken and fry for 6-8 mins, turning occasionally, until evenly golden.
3. Add the spice paste to the pan, stir to evenly coat the chicken, then add the tomatoes and 100ml boiling water. Bring to the boil and simmer for 10 mins, stirring occasionally, until the chicken is cooked through, the tomatoes have started to break down and the sauce has reduced by roughly a third.
4. Remove from the heat and mix in 120g yogurt and the coriander, saving a little to garnish, until you have a thick, creamy sauce.
5. Serve sprinkled with the remaining coriander, yogurt and a generous grind of black pepper.

Notes:

- Serve with rice and naan bread

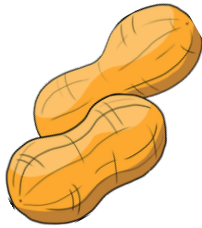
ACADEMY MENU

YEAR 11 CELEBRATION MENU

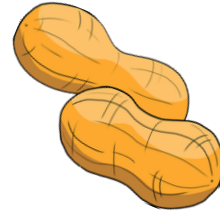
   Celebration Menu Year 11 2026					
Week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU					
	Chicken Fajitas Yellow Rice & Nachos Chips 	Salt & Pepper Chicken Egg Fried Rice / Prawn Crackers 	Piri-Piri / Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Chicken Tikka Naan Bread Basmati Rice 	Chicken Burger & Chips 
	Assorted Baguettes or Wraps CHICKEN-BACON-TUNA-MEATBALL 				
	The Mexican Burritos Yellow Rice & Nachos Chips 	Salt & Pepper Veggie Egg Fried Rice 	Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Veggie Tikka Naan Bread Basmati Rice 	Beyond Burger & Chips 
	Selection of Salads / Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week) Selection Sandwiches: CHEESE-HAM-TUNA 				
	Homemade Puff Pastry Cinnamon Roll 	Ice-cream 	Brownies 	Yogurt 	Chocolate Cake 
Any special order or allergy than the main menu please ask the kitchen before 10:30 am					

2026

A FRIENDLY REMINDER WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL



NUT-FREE REMINDER



A gentle reminder that Dixons Croxteth Academy is a nut-free school to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our students.

If you are bringing in any food items, treats, or biscuits, please ensure that they are completely nut-free. Products labelled as “may contain nuts” must not be given to students due to the risk they pose to those with severe allergies.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep our academy a safe environment for everyone.



DIXONS
CROXTETH
ACADEMY

COME & JOIN US FOR OUR

SUMMER FAIR

FRIDAY 10 JULY 26

AT DIXONS CROXTETH ACADEMY

2:30PM - 4:00PM

FREE ENTRY

CALLING LOCAL BUSINESSES!

We're inviting local businesses and community organisations to be part of our Summer Fair by hosting a stall.

If you'd like to showcase your products or services and support our school community, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact us on 0151 332 6780 or via email on info@dixonscr.com



PROUDLY PRESENTS

MAGIC OF THE MUSICALS

*Join us for a magical evening
celebrating the joy of musical theatre.*

THURSDAY 16 JULY 2026

AT 5PM

TO BOOK YOUR FREE TICKETS

CALL US ON 0151 332 6780

OR EMAIL US AT

[INFO@DIXONSCR.COM](mailto:info@dixonscr.com)

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