

JANUARY 16, 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

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Dear Families,

What a start to 2026!

On Monday 5 January, we received a call from Ofsted informing us that we would be inspected under the new framework. We genuinely welcomed this opportunity. We have been eager to show Ofsted what we do at Dixons Croxteth, and had even requested to take part in the pilot phase.

I cannot share the outcomes yet, as the inspection now goes through the quality-assurance process. Once we have the final report, I will hold a special event for parents and families so that we can share the findings together.

I would like to thank all families who completed the Ofsted questionnaire and those who spoke with inspectors. Your kind words brought me to genuine tears during the feedback. Hearing you describe the journey we have been on together was incredibly moving.

As if returning to Ofsted was not enough, the first day back also brought icy, freezing conditions. A huge well done to our students and families for making the effort to attend, your commitment makes us very proud. Attendance is a key priority for us this year. In 2026, we will be working hard to improve attendance and place Dixons Croxteth among the highest-performing schools in the city in this area.

At Dixons, we want to instil self-determination: an intrinsic motivation to do the right thing and to work hard, not for recognition, but to grow. Much of this thinking comes from the book *Drive* by Daniel Pink. I reread it over the break, and we will be working with students to deepen their understanding of the Dixons Drivers:

- **Mastery** – the urge to get better at something that matters
- **Autonomy** – the drive to direct our own lives
- **Purpose** – the drive to connect with something bigger than ourselves

Please ask your child about the Drivers—and most importantly, “How will I be better tomorrow than today?”

I have also set myself some ambitious New Year’s resolutions that I would like to share with you:

1. Improve Dixons Croxteth’s GCSE results again so that we continue to be the most improved school in the city
2. Strengthen our communication with families through more regular vlogs and newsletters
3. Reach out further into our community

We will soon be organising building tours for families and beginning to explore developing our own community hub.

I am really looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Warm regards,

Mr Duggan
Principal

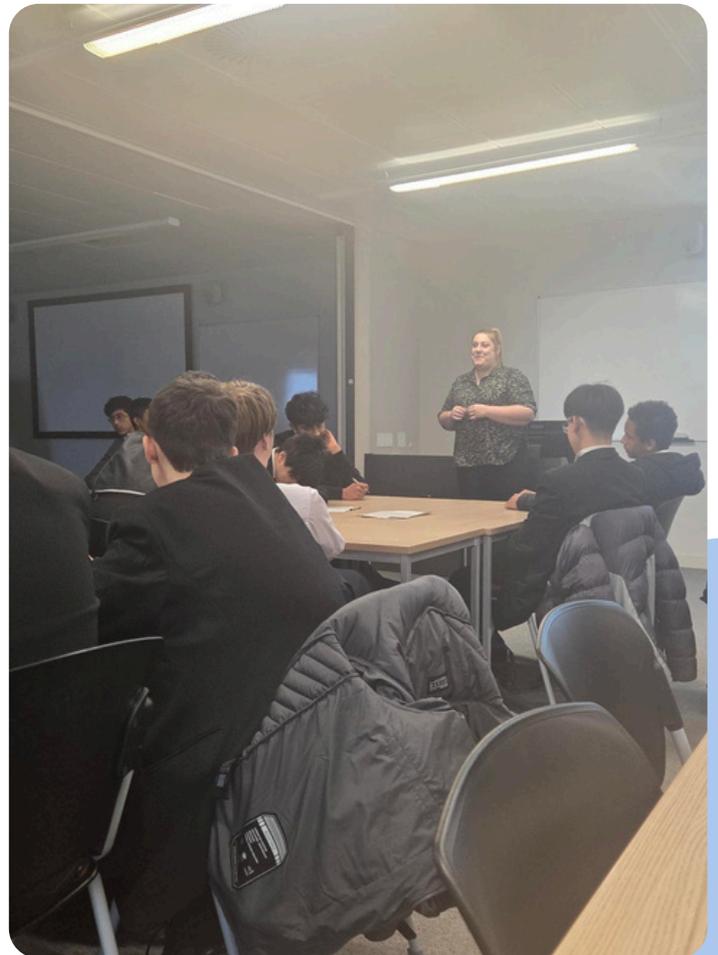


Mr Duggan
Principal

EDGE HILL UNIVERSITY TRIP

Year 10 continued with their careers programme with a visit to Edge Hill University as part of the Shaping Futures programme. Students enjoyed a tour of the impressive campus to gain an insight into university life. Students were amazed to find out the variety of different university courses on offer.

The experience has reaffirmed the view of many students that university is the path they wish to take. It was fantastic to see how enthusiastic and engaged the students were and to see their aspirations for the future in line with our mission of ensuring students succeed at university or a comparable alternative, thrive in rewarding careers, and lead purposeful, happy lives.



A PROUD MOMENT FOR THE DIXONS CROXTETH COMMUNITY



I always say that Dixons Croxteth is a special place. We frequently talk about purpose, about connecting to something bigger than ourselves, and about leaving a legacy. On Saturday 10 January, we saw that legacy shine brightly.

Dixons Croxteth alumni played key roles in one of the biggest FA Cup upsets in the last century. Macclesfield Town—managed by former student **John Rooney**—secured a historic win. His assistant coach, **Francis Jeffers**, is also a former student. On the pitch, **Luke Duffy**, another alumnus, assisted the winning goal. And we cannot forget **Wayne**, who proudly represented us as a BBC pundit during the coverage.

On Monday, students had the chance to rewatch the match at lunchtime with **Jeanette**—John’s mum and one of our wonderful catering assistants. It was a lovely moment to celebrate together and show our appreciation for these former students who continue to make us proud.

We will also be sending our good luck messages to Macclesfield Town as they prepare to face Brentford. We wish them all the very best on the next step of their FA Cup journey.

A LITTLE-KNOWN BUT AMAZING DIXONS CROXTETH FACT

Did you know that Dixons Croxteth is likely one of the only schools in the country to have produced **two England international footballers who played together for their national team at the same time?**

Both **Wayne Rooney** and **Francis Jeffers**—Dixons Croxteth (formerly De La Salle) alumni—lined up as strikers for England on **12 February 2003**. What an incredible achievement, and a remarkable part of our school's history.

Their success is a powerful reminder of the talent, determination and ambition that continues to run through our community. It is something our students can feel genuinely proud of as they shape their own futures.



DIXONS ROWING COMPETITION



A group of year 8 and 9 students took part in an exciting virtual rowing competition against other academies in the trust. Competing remotely, but united by determination and teamwork, our students took to the challenge with enthusiasm and focus.

The event was a fantastic opportunity to represent Dixons Croxteth, engage in friendly competition across the trust, and celebrate the dedication and resilience of our students.

Well done Team Croxteth!!

RESONATE YOUTH ORCHESTRA

13 Dixons Croxteth musicians and 2 Music Technology students attended Resonate Youth Orchestra for a workshop day and Concert on 14 January 2026.

They worked really hard all day to perform - Florence Price's Symphony Number 1 and 'Mambo' selections from West Side Story - Bernstein.

They worked alongside students and tutors from other schools across the district.

The concert was attended well and had a mix of music technology work and live performance.

The students worked really hard on the performance and were a credit to our academy.

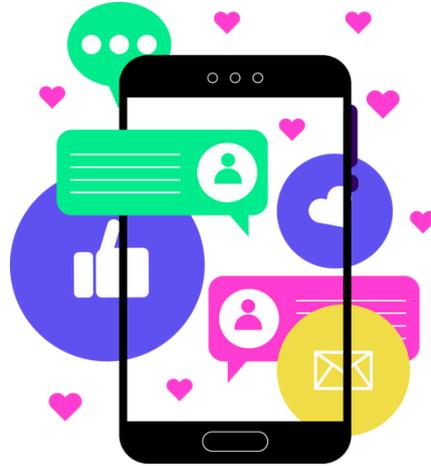


ACADEMY MENU

Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU					
	Italian Meatballs Spaghetti Garlic Bread 	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Katsu Chicken Rice & Broccoli Prawn Crackers 	Mediterranean Grilled Beef New Potatoes Glazed Carrots 	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 Meatballs Spaghetti Garlic Bread 	Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Roasty Veggie Stew Rice & Broccoli 	Baked Potato Baked Beans / Cheese 	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. 				
	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
MENU					
	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Chicken Thigh Yorkshire Pudding-Veg and Gravy 	Chicken Tikka Naan Bread Basmati Rice 	Beef Bolognese Pasta Garlic Bread 	Salt-Peppers Chicken Chunk & Noodles Veggie Spring Rolls
	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 	Macaroni Cheese Garlic Bread 	Salt & Pepper Veggie Singapore Noodles-Broccoli
	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 	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					

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.

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



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



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