

APRIL 17, 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,**

I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing Easter break. I always love this time of year as the days become longer, the weather begins to change, and we can all spend a little more time outside enjoying the fresh air.

Thank you to the families who have been in touch to ask for support and offer ideas to help with attendance. Over the last three years, attendance at Dixons Croxteth has been moving in the right direction. However, we are now beginning to plateau, and I cannot accept this. Our ambition is clear: we want to be the highest-performing school in the city.

There is overwhelming evidence that good attendance leads to strong exam outcomes and long-term success. We have recently shared some simple but powerful strategies with families and students, including:

- Preparing equipment and uniforms the night before
- Setting alarms and morning routines
- Reviewing travel routes to school to ensure they are as quick and reliable as possible
- Working together with friends to support and encourage one another

Good routines make a huge difference, and we must continue to strengthen them.

One of my favourite moments each week has been welcoming students back at the gate on Monday mornings. It has been a joy to hear about the ski trip, favourite Easter eggs, and the places students visited over the break. These conversations remind me just how special our community is.

As we move into the summer term, there is so much to look forward to. Our Year 11 students used the Easter break extremely well, attending revision sessions and showing real commitment to their upcoming GCSE exams. We have been working closely with colleges and employers so students are clear about the grades they need, and they are demonstrating the attitudes of high-performing learners. The first exams begin in just over a fortnight, and we will do everything possible to support them.

This term, we will also be welcoming more visitors than ever to the academy. Schools from across the country will be visiting to learn about the significant improvements we have made over recent years. I will share updates about these visits in upcoming newsletters.

I am also looking forward to sharing final details about changes to our uniform for next year. While I am naturally cautious about such changes, it is important that student voice is heard, this is their school. Please note that footwear expectations will remain the same: plain black trainers. If your child has been wearing alternative footwear this week due to issues over the holiday period, they have until Monday to resolve this.

Finally, I will be sharing a video blog with families next week outlining our priorities for the final term of the year.

As always, if you need anything at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend.

Warm regards,

**Mr Duggan**  
**Principal**



**Mr Duggan**  
Principal

# SKI TRIP 2026

## MONTE BONDONE



What a successful trip this has been! Students returned home on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March following a fantastic ski visit to Monte Bondone, Italy, which proved to be an unforgettable experience filled with achievement, resilience and fun.

The trip began with a strong start on Day 1, as students set off early after breakfast to be fitted with ski equipment before taking part in their first lessons on the slopes. Throughout the day, students demonstrated excellent focus and enthusiasm, quickly learning the foundations of skiing, including ploughing and controlled steering. After a well-earned lunch break, they returned to the slopes for further practice, finishing the day with growing confidence and plenty of smiles.

Conditions were ideal on Day 2, with clear blue skies providing the perfect backdrop for further progress. Students showed impressive determination and perseverance as they advanced onto blue runs, successfully linking turns and developing greater control and technique. Teaching staff were delighted with the level of progress made in such a short time.

Day 3 saw continued improvement across all ability groups. Every student confidently negotiated blue slopes, while the most advanced group took on red runs, skiing through wooded areas and even attempting small jumps. The day highlighted not only the students' rapidly developing ski skills, but also their teamwork, enthusiasm and willingness to challenge themselves.

# SKI TRIP 2026

## MONTE BONDONE

The final day, Day 4, brought more challenging conditions. A severe wind warning across the Trentino–South Tyrol region led to the temporary closure of ski lifts. Despite this, students remained positive and made the most of their final morning by skiing a small accessible section of a blue run. With fresh snowfall covering the mountains, the remainder of the day was filled with laughter, snowball fights and time spent reflecting on the week's achievements, creating lasting memories for everyone involved.

The positive conduct of our students continued on the coach journey home. They were patient and considerate throughout the long journey, demonstrating excellent resilience and maturity. Coach staff and accompanying teachers commented on how well students supported one another and followed instructions, bringing the trip to a calm and well-organised conclusion.

Throughout the visit, students represented the academy exceptionally well, displaying hard work, kindness and resilience at every stage of the trip. The ski visit not only developed their sporting ability but also helped to build independence, confidence and strong personal character.

The ski trip to Monte Bondone was a fantastic success, and staff are incredibly proud of every student who took part. It was truly a week to remember, and one that will be spoken about fondly for years to come



# VISITING 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM FOOTBALL MATCH



The year 11 football team hosted a touring 6th form team from Vancouver Island, BC, Canada on Tuesday 24th March. The school have developed a relationship with the Canadian school and hosted fixtures over a number of years. The game was played in the right spirits with some entertaining football from both teams despite some terrible weather. The academy put on some refreshments for our guests and exchanged some mementos of the experience. We look forward to hosting our friends from Canada again in the future.

# YEAR 11 REVISION SESSIONS



Over the half-term break, a group of dedicated Year 11 students attended additional Science revision sessions to support their GCSE exam preparation. Students worked hard on key scientific concepts, exam skills and tackling challenging questions, showing excellent focus and determination throughout.

To recognise their commitment and effort, students were rewarded at the end of the session with a delicious homemade cake, kindly baked by Mrs Morgan's son. The treat was very well received and provided a well-earned moment to celebrate their hard work together.

Well done to everyone who took part — a fantastic example of resilience and ambition in Science.

# TOGETHER ST HELENS



What a fantastic evening we shared recently at St Helens Parish Church. The event was a wonderful celebration of music, culture and community, and the students were absolutely outstanding, bringing energy, enthusiasm and talent to every part of the evening.

The event truly reflected the strength of our school community, with parents, siblings and families fully getting involved. It was lovely to see the wider school family joining in, whether through music, movement or supporting one another, making the evening feel inclusive and joyful for all.

A real highlight of the night was the incredible food provided by Café Laziz, which showcased flavours from around the world. Students and families enthusiastically explored world cuisine, trying new dishes and embracing the experience with curiosity and excitement. The food added an extra layer of cultural celebration to the evening and was enjoyed by everyone.

The students also took part in West African drumming, which brought the church alive with rhythm and sound. Their confidence and teamwork shone through, and the performance added a vibrant, interactive element that truly engaged the audience.

Overall, it was a memorable evening that celebrated creativity, cultural diversity and community spirit. A huge thank you to everyone who attended, supported and contributed to making the night such a success. It was an event we can all be very proud of.

# RIVER ASSEMBLIES



On Tuesday 14th April, our students took part in a series of important workshops delivered by River, focusing on ketamine, cannabis and alcohol awareness. These sessions form a vital part of our ongoing commitment to supporting students' health, safety and wellbeing.

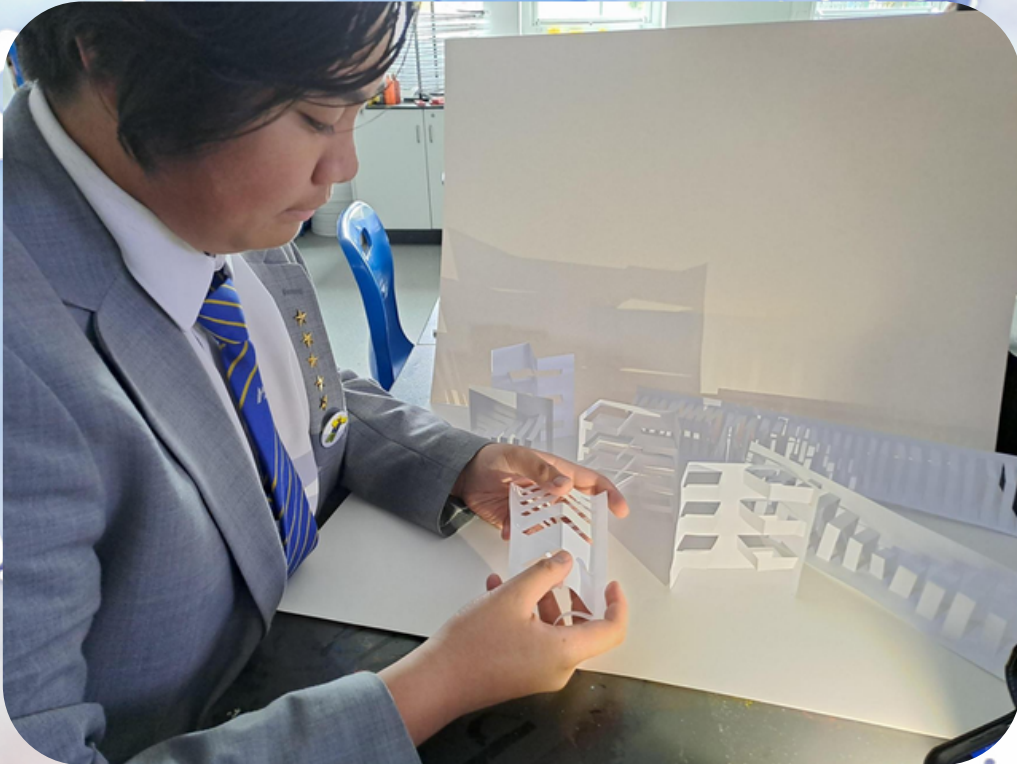
The workshops provided honest, accessible and age-appropriate information about the risks and realities of drug and alcohol use. Students learned about how substances such as ketamine can affect both the body and the mind, how to recognise signs of harm, and how to make safer, more informed choices.

A key strength of the sessions was the open and supportive approach taken by the facilitators. Students were encouraged to ask questions, take part in discussions and reflect on real-life situations they may encounter within the community. This helped create a safe space for conversation and learning.

By increasing awareness and understanding, these workshops empower students to look after themselves and support their peers, helping to reduce risk should they ever be exposed to substance use. We are grateful to River for delivering such impactful and informative sessions, which play a crucial role in equipping our young people with the knowledge and confidence to make positive decisions.

# ARTIST OF THE WEEK

JIRO, YEAR 10



This week's Artist of the Week is Jiro in Year 10, who has produced a fantastic range of kirigami samples in response to his environment project. Jiro has explored the theme of pattern and repetition within architecture, taking inspiration from the work of artist Ingrid Siliakus.

Through careful cutting and layering, Jiro has created intricate and imaginative designs that show a strong understanding of structure and form. These samples demonstrate great creativity and technical skill and provide an excellent foundation for further development of his ideas.

# AT HOME THIS WEEK

## Getting Ready for GCSEs: Simple Revision Tips for Home

As GCSE examinations approach, a calm and consistent approach to revision at home can make a big difference. Developing good habits now helps students feel more confident, organised and prepared.

- **Create a regular routine**

Encourage students to revise at the same time each day. Short, focused sessions (30–45 minutes) are often more effective than long periods of cramming. Planning revision little and often helps reduce stress and builds confidence over time.

- **Choose the right environment**

A quiet, well-lit space away from distractions such as mobile phones and television can help students stay focused. Keeping books, notes and stationery close to hand also saves time and avoids interruptions.

- **Use active revision techniques**

Reading notes alone is not always effective. Students should try testing themselves with practice questions, creating flashcards, drawing mind maps or explaining topics out loud. These methods help knowledge stick.

- **Focus on areas for improvement**

Revision time is best spent on topics that feel challenging. Tackling weaker areas early allows time to ask teachers for help and build understanding before exams.

- **Take regular breaks**

Short breaks are important for concentration and wellbeing. After 25 minutes of revision, a five-minute break to stretch, move or get some fresh air can help maintain focus.

- **Look after wellbeing**

Good sleep, regular meals and staying hydrated all support memory and concentration. A healthy routine is just as important as the revision itself.

With encouragement and the right support at home, students can approach exam season feeling prepared and positive. Small, consistent steps really do add up.

**[CLICK HERE FOR THE ULTIMATE GCSE EXAM  
REVISION GUIDE WITH BBC BITESIZE](#)**

# CROXTETH COOKBOOK



## 3 INGREDIENT PIZZAS

*Kids will love making these easy pizzas. They use a packet of pizza base mix and are topped with plum tomatoes and torn mozzarella for an easy snack or dinner.*



PREP TIME  
5 MIN + 10 MIN  
PROVE TIME



COOK TIME  
12 MIN



SERVINGS  
4  
SERVINGS

## Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to gas 7, 220°C, fan 200°C. Empty the pizza base mix into a mixing bowl and stir in 100ml lukewarm water, following pack instructions.
2. Mix to a soft dough, then knead well on a lightly floured surface for 5 mins until smooth.
3. Divide the dough into 4 even pieces and roll each out into a circle about 16cm in diameter.
4. Place the 4 circles on a large greased baking sheet and leave to stand in a warm place for 10 mins to prove.
5. Meanwhile, empty the tin of tomatoes into a bowl. Season lightly, then mash the tomatoes with your hands until broken up.
6. After the proving time, spread 1 tbsp of tomato sauce onto each pizza base, leaving the edges empty (save any remaining tomato sauce in the fridge for another day). Evenly tear over the mozzarella.
7. Place in the preheated oven for around 12 mins until bubbling and golden.

Notes:

- For a delicious twist add a serving of pepperoni or some vegetables such as peppers or sweetcorn.

## Ingredients

- 145g Tesco pizza base mix
- 400g Tin peeled plum tomatoes
- 240g Ball mozzarella, drained

Optional

- Tesco Pizza Pepperoni 120g (optional)

## Tesco Price list

- Tesco pizza base mix - £1.00
- 400g tin peeled plum tomatoes - 47p
- Creamfields Mozzarella 210g - 69p

Optional

- Tesco Pizza Pepperoni 120G - £1.09 (optional)

Total = £2.16 (with pepperoni £3.25)

# ACADEMY MENU

|    <b>TERM 5 MENU</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | TUESDAY                                                                                                                           | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                           | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                    | FRIDAY                                                                                                                       |
| MENU                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                  |                                                                    |                                                                          |                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                         | Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza<br>Fried Potatoes<br>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Sausages (Beef-Pork-Chicken)<br>Beans & Hash<br> | Salt-Peppers Chicken<br>Chunk & Noodles<br>Veggie Spring Rolls<br> | Nigerian Stew<br>African Fried Rice<br>Macedoine Veggie & Sweetcorn<br>  | Fish & Chips<br>Baked Beans / Peas<br>    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                         | Hot Sandwiches<br>Chicken-Cheese & Garlic Mayo<br>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jumbo Sausage Roll<br>                           | Hot Sandwiches<br>BBQ Chicken & Cheese<br>                         | Jumbo Sausage Roll<br>                                                   | Hot Sandwiches<br>Spicy Italian<br>       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                         | Mix Vegetables Pizza<br>Fried Potatoes<br>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Veggie Pasta Bake<br>Garlic Bread<br>           | Salt & Pepper<br>Veggie Singapore<br>Noodles-Broccoli<br>         | Beef Minced Savoury<br>Basmati Rice<br>Macedoine Veggie & Sweetcorn<br> | Curry Sauce,<br>Basmati Rice & Chips<br> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                       | Salad Bar: Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Peppers, Sweetcorn / Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week)<br>Selection Sandwiches: Cheese, Ham, Tuna / Paninis: Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken, Bacon /<br>Wraps: Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken.<br> |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                       | Mixed Muffins<br>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Sugar Ring Donuts<br>Topping Sauce<br>         | School Cake<br>                                                  | Ice-Cream<br>                                                          | Chocolate Cake<br>                      |

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

|    <b>TERM 5 MENU</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                        | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                            | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                          | FRIDAY                                                                                                                                              |
| MENU                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                             |                                                   |                                                              |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                             | Italian Chicken<br>Pasta<br>Garlic Bread<br>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Tandoori Chicken<br>Naan Bread<br>Basmati Rice<br>          | Pepperoni / Cheese<br>Pizza<br>Fried Potatoes<br> | Beef Chilli Con Carne<br>with Rice & Nachos<br>Chips<br>     | Chicken Burger<br>& Chips<br>                                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                             | Hot Sandwiches<br>Italian Meatball Melt<br>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Jumbo Sausage<br>Roll<br>                                   | Hot Sandwiches<br>Spicy Italian<br>               | Jumbo Sausage Roll<br>                                       | Hot Sandwiches<br>Deli Meat (Pepperoni,<br>Turkey, Cheese)<br> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                             | Veggie Pasta<br>Garlic Bread<br>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Chicken / Veggie<br>Tikka<br>Naan Bread<br>Basmati Rice<br> | Mix Vegetables<br>Pizza<br>Fried Potatoes<br>     | The Mexican<br>Burritos<br>Yellow Rice & Nachos<br>Chips<br> | Beyond Burger &<br>Chips<br>                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                             | Salad Bar: Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Peppers, Sweetcorn / Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week)<br>Selection Sandwiches: Cheese, Ham, Tuna / Paninis: Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken, Bacon /<br>Wraps: Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken.<br> |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                             | Ice-Cream<br>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Sugar Ring Donuts<br>Topping Sauce<br>                      | Chocolate Cake<br>                                | Mixed Muffins<br>                                            | School Cake<br>                                                |

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 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: [dc\\_r\\_safeguarding@dixonscr.com](mailto:dc_r_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