

OCTOBER 17, 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 reach the end of this half term, I can confidently say it has been one of the strongest I have experienced. There is so much for us to be proud of. I have spent time this week reflecting on our guiding question: How can we be better tomorrow than we are today? We are not perfect, and we do make mistakes but it is what we learn from those mistakes and how we respond that makes us stronger.

I am incredibly proud of our students. One of the highlights of the term for me was spending the day with Year 10 during our annual Wellbeing and Mental Health Day, walking from Leasowe Lighthouse to New Brighton. It was a privilege to get to know this year group better, hear their thoughts, and learn more about them as individuals. Their insights into how we can continue to improve were thoughtful and inspiring.

Another standout moment was the visit from Vicky Beer, Regional Schools Commissioner for the North West. When she last visited, the school was under a closure notice. This time, she toured the building with students, not staff, and was amazed by the transformation. Her feedback was overwhelmingly positive. She encouraged me to invite more people to see what is happening at Dixons Croxteth: councillors, MPs, parents, and educators. It is time to share our story more widely. If you would like a visit please get in touch.

With the school now stable and thriving, I am reaching out more than ever to our community. I have recently visited Wellesbourne and Broad Square Primary, and I have upcoming visits to Emmaus, St Swithin's, and St Teresa of Lisieux. Strengthening links with our local primaries is key to supporting transition, especially as we become oversubscribed. Future visits will include Dixons Croxteth students presenting on life at our school, a great opportunity to showcase their experiences and leadership.

Looking ahead to next half term, we are launching our Attendance Heroes initiative. This aims to raise attendance and recognise students who achieve 100% attendance over the term. With 33 school days (excluding our staff data and planning day), students who attend every day will be invited to a celebration event featuring a silent disco (which I remain sceptical about!), prizes, films, and more. As we move into the colder, darker months, it is more important than ever that students are in school and learning.

We also begin our Cycle 1 assessments, which will help us understand the progress students are making and identify any gaps in learning. To support this, staff will receive two days back to plan meaningful, high-quality interventions that ensure every child can succeed.

I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved half term break. Have a safe and fun Halloween and Bonfire Night.

Warm regards,

Mr Duggan
Principal



Mr Duggan
Principal

PRINCIPALS HIGHLIGHT OF THE TERM



One of my personal commitments is to tour the building three times a day – dropping into lessons, walking the corridors, and being the visible leader I believe every Principal should be. This week, my highlight was visiting our Year 10 Maths lessons. We have three groups in Year 10, and I dropped into each one unannounced to observe the learning taking place. What I saw was exceptional:

- High levels of engagement
- Academic rigour – the level of challenge was outstanding
- Happy students tackling difficult work
- Students making mistakes, correcting them, and enjoying the process
- A real sense of positivity among staff and students

Speaking with students after the lessons filled me with pride. Hearing them talk about the challenge and how the skill of ratio can be applied to everyday life genuinely made my day.

As it is the end of the half term, I am going to be cheeky and include a second highlight!

Recently, a group of Year 9 students asked if we could start a crochet club. They even put together a proposal – which I loved – and I agreed to fund an additional enrichment activity. I dropped in to see the club after school and was amazed by the number of students taking part. They were working together, learning independently from YouTube tutorials, and creating some brilliant pieces. I even had a go myself... but I quickly realised I need a bit more patience!

Seeing the creativity and collaboration in action was wonderful, and I have already ordered more materials to support the group. I hope it continues to grow, it is a fantastic example of student-led enrichment and the kind of culture we're building at Dixons Croydon.

WELLBEING WALKS YEAR 7 OTTERSPOOL



Taking Year 7 on a trip always comes with a bit of nervous anticipation, especially when it involves a long walk! But this Year 7 cohort quickly put our minds at ease. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and their energy carried us all the way from the Pier Head to Otterspool Prom.

From the start, it was clear we didn't need to worry, students ran, climbed, chatted, and made the most of every moment. The walk was more than just a physical journey; it was a chance to explore the theme of belonging. Along the way, students shared what Liverpool means to them. Many spoke fondly of their primary schools and the sense of community they felt there—something we are proud to be building here at Dixons Croxteth.

Football was a popular topic, with students expressing pride in Liverpool's identity as a footballing city. We also heard reflections on music, especially the Beatles, and what makes the city feel like home. From roast dinners made by mums to trips to GEMS with friends, students shared what brings them joy and pride.

We are working hard to shift mindsets at Dixons Croxteth, and this cohort is already showing signs of ambition. Students spoke confidently about their aspirations, from future lawyers and doctors to sports therapists and electricians. It was inspiring to hear their dreams and know that they're beginning to believe in their potential to achieve Grade 9s.

WELLBEING WALKS YEAR 7 OTTERSPOOL

What stood out most was their deep sense of belonging to their families. Every student spoke about the love, care, and protection they feel from mums, dads, brothers, and sisters. It was a powerful reminder of the strength of our community and something families should be incredibly proud of.

When we reached the Pier Head, it was a joy to pause, take in the view, and talk about the city that means so much to them. We captured some lovely photos to mark the moment.

This walk was a celebration of belonging, ambition, and togetherness. Year 7 were a credit to the school and we are excited to walk alongside them as they climb their own mountains to success.



WELLBEING WALKS YEAR 8

DELAMERE FOREST



Delamere Forest has always been a place I have found peaceful and relaxing but taking a cohort of energetic Year 8 students, I expected anything but calm! However, before we set off, we spoke to the year group about the why behind the walk. This was more than just a day out, it was an opportunity to reflect, build relationships, and strengthen our sense of belonging.

Students looked back on their Year 7 journey, celebrating successes and thinking about their next steps. We talked about how we can achieve our goals together, and how belonging to a community like Dixons Croxteth can help us climb our own mountain to success.

The walk itself was enjoyable, though at times students were more captivated by the nature and sculptures than the conversations! It was lovely to see their curiosity and creativity sparked by the forest surroundings. We even began imagining how we could bring some of that warmth and inspiration into our own school environment.

As we walked, students shared personal achievements from the half term, improved attendance, reduced U codes, and top spots on platforms like Sparks and Seneca. We also had some light-hearted discussions, including the urgent need to improve the Year 8 football team (though we did not dwell on that for too long!).

WELLBEING WALKS YEAR 8 DELAMERE FOREST



One of the most powerful moments came when students reflected on what it means to belong to Dixons Croxteth. They spoke fondly of last year's wellbeing walk and how they now look forward to it as an annual tradition. They appreciated the introduction of co-curricular activities and even suggested new options, which we will certainly explore.

We also learned more about the diverse lives our students lead outside of school. From Air and Army Cadets to Croxteth ABC, amateur dramatics, football clubs, and church groups—our students belong to a wide range of communities that enrich their experiences and help shape who they are. And in a surprising twist, we discovered that Mr Evans was once a professional handball player!

This walk was a celebration of belonging, growth, and connection. We hope the conversations sparked in the forest will continue to build a stronger sense of community as we support each other on the journey ahead.

Year 8 were a credit to the school, and we are proud to walk alongside them as they continue climbing their mountain to success.

WELLBEING WALKS YEAR 9

RIVINGTON PIKE



For many students, Rivington Pike was a completely new destination, and it quickly became clear that we have some work to do in developing geographical awareness! Explaining where it is and what to expect sparked curiosity and excitement, especially as this year group prepares to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award later this year.

While some students found the walk challenging, their resilience grew with every step. The steep climb was a real test, but it was heartening to see students encouraging one another—true Team Croxteth spirit in action. With lunch mostly eaten on the bus and sweets shared generously along the way, energy levels stayed high throughout.

A highlight for many was the impromptu “silent disco” demonstration—students were eager to show us what it is all about, and their joy was infectious. Along the walk, we talked about how we can be even better next half term. Students were keen to hit 100% attendance as part of the Attendance Heroes challenge and were already looking forward to future events.

The theme of belonging was woven into our conversations. Students spoke proudly about their inspirations, from sports stars to staff members who have sparked a love for their subjects. It was wonderful to hear how they are beginning to connect their passions to future careers, whether in law, medicine, sports therapy, or the trades.

WELLBEING WALKS YEAR 9

RIVINGTON PIKE

Equally moving were the reflections on family and community. Students spoke with warmth about their families—mums, dads, siblings—and the love and support they feel at home. They also shared their pride in being part of Liverpool, talking about their favourite places to eat, shop, and spend time with friends.

The most powerful moment came at the summit of Rivington Pike. As we took in the views and snapped photos, students spoke about their pride in being part of Dixons Croxteth. They understand the journey we are on as a school and are determined to help us reach the “top table.” Their competitive spirit shone through as they spoke about wanting to be “top of the league” in achievement and progress.

This walk was more than just a day out, it was a celebration of ambition, belonging, and togetherness. We are incredibly proud of this cohort and excited to see them continue climbing their own mountains to success.



WELLBEING WALKS YEAR 10 LEASOWE LIGHTHOUSE



Year 10 took to the Wirral for their wellbeing walk this term, and while some students seemed surprised (and slightly amused!) that the Principal was joining them, it did not take long for the group to settle into the spirit of the day.

This year group holds a special place in our hearts, they were in Year 7 when Dixons Croxteth began its journey of transformation, and they have grown alongside the school. The bus journey was lively, with cheers and boos as we passed Goodison Park, and plenty of curiosity as we travelled through the Mersey Tunnel.

Once we arrived at Leasowe Lighthouse, the atmosphere was brilliant. Students walked, talked, and genuinely enjoyed themselves along the scenic, easy-going footpaths. Many even stopped to chat with members of the public, proudly explaining the purpose of the walk and sharing who we are, this was a joy to witness and a real testament to their confidence and pride in our community.



WELLBEING WALKS YEAR 10 LEASOWE LIGHTHOUSE

As we walked, students shared thoughtful ideas about how we could continue improving the academy (though sadly, an Astroturf pitch isn't in the budget just yet!). Some ran across the beach and up the sand dunes, and we paused halfway for a fantastic 'Team Croxteth' photo.

By the end of the walk, tired legs were setting in, but not enough to stop Mr Pendergast from taking part in a student-teacher race (which he lost, graciously!). Back at school, students compared the shells they had collected, and Ms Gregson has even turned some into a beautiful picture frame, complete with a poem from the day.



This walk wasn't just about fresh air and fun, it was a celebration of how far this year group has come. We have no doubt they will achieve an outstanding number of Grade 7+ results in their GCSEs. They were an absolute credit to the school, and we couldn't be prouder.

We are all climbing our own mountain to success, and this walk was another step forward, together.

WELLBEING WALKS YEAR 11

MOEL FAMAU



This year, we were proud to be the first bus to set off on the wellbeing walk. From the moment we arrived, students were full of energy and enthusiasm—many even requested the more challenging routes up Moel Famau to really “test” us! While some of us (slightly older!) staff had our reservations, we were determined to complete the expedition together.

The weather was perfect, and with pockets full of sweets and spirits high, we took on the toughest walk: Moel Famau. Along the way, conversations flowed easily. It was a joy to hear students reflect on their time at Dixons Croxteth. As one of the final year groups to have experienced The De La Salle Academy, they spoke warmly about the transformation they have seen and how they now feel part of a thriving, supportive community.



WELLBEING WALKS YEAR 11

MOEL FAMAU

One of the most inspiring moments was hearing students share their aspirations. Many have already met with our careers advisor, Leona, and have clear plans for college. They spoke knowledgeably about T-Levels and the opportunities available at different institutions, some had even attended open evenings already!

The walk was more than just a physical challenge, it was a celebration of how far we have come together. Each step up Moel Famu was symbolic of the journey we are all on. Whether it is preparing for college, planning for the future, or gearing up for MOCK exams, we are all climbing our own mountain to success.

Here's to the next challenge—and to continuing the climb, together.



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIPS



Our Year 11 GCSE geography students investigated urban change in Liverpool City Centre. Students collected and presented data on the urban environment, before making conclusions on how the environment impacts on the people who live and work in the city.

LITERACY AWARDS

On Thursday 2nd October, We attended the Annual Virtual School Achievement Awards at St George's Hall. It was truly an inspirational night filled with joy, pride and celebration and it was an amazing achievement for one of our year 9 students, Lawrence, to be selected as one the nominees for the Literacy Award.

Curious about writers' depictions World War One and complex scientific theory, Lawrence is an excellent advocate for reading in his year group, pushing himself to read challenging fiction and non-fiction texts across a range of subjects.

We are so proud of Lawrence and how he always strives beyond his comfort zone to develop himself both personally and academically.



YEAR 11 REVISION

Year 11 Science revision has been attended by Mrs Morgan's full class each week- showing great commitment to their studies drive to succeed.

The sessions are guided revision - pupils have learnt how to make flash cards and Cornell notes for different topics as well as practising past examination questions.

Mrs Morgan said "They worked so hard - I am so impressed and I know year 11 have been attending lots of other after school interventions and have been working equally as hard."



YEAR 11 AWARDS

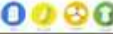
Rewards assembly for Year 11 today, huge number of pupils with 100% attendance .

Subject awards linked to our values and a celebration of the incredibly positive attitude Year 11 have demonstrated towards their studies this half term.



ACADEMY MENU

Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU					
	Beef Ragu Sauce Pasta Garlic Bread 	Pepperoni / Cheese Paninis Potatoes Fries 	Chicken/Pork Teriyaki Rice Broccoli 	Sausages (Chicken-Pork) Hash Brown Roasted Tomatoes & Baked Beans 	Chicken Burger & Chips 
	Hot Sandwiches Italian Meatball Melt 	Hot Sandwiches BBQ Chicken & Cheese 	Hot Sandwiches Spicy Italian 	Hot Sandwiches Chicken-Cheese & Garlic Mayo 	Hot Sandwiches Deli Meat (Pepperoni, Turkey, Cheese) 
	Veggie Roasty Pasta Garlic Bread 	Mix Vegetables Paninis Potatoes Fries 	Egg Fried 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 	Fruit Custard 	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 Tikka Masala Basmati Rice-Naan Bread 	Roast Turkey/Pork Roast Potatoes-Veg and Gravy 	Beef Fajita Wrap with Cheesy Wedges 	Salt-Peppers Chicken Strips & Chow Mein Prawn Cracker 
	Hot Sandwiches Chicken-Cheese & Garlic Mayo 	Hot Sandwiches Italian Meatball Melt 	Hot Sandwiches BBQ Chicken & Cheese 	Hot Sandwiches Deli Meat (Pepperoni, Turkey, Cheese) 	Hot Sandwiches Spicy Italian 
	Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Veggie Tikka Masala Basmati Rice-Naan Bread 	Roasted Vegetable Roast Potatoes-Veg and Gravy 	Veggie Fajita Wrap with Cheesy Wedges 	Veggie Chow Mein Veggie Cracker 
	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 	Mixed Muffins 	School Cake 	Fruit Custard 	Choc-Ice 
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



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