

JULY 18, 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 approach the end of the academic year, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support, encouragement, and feedback. Dixons Croxteth is on a journey, and this year, we have taken some huge strides forward.

At Dixons, we often use the analogy of climbing a mountain. This year, we have climbed higher than ever. There have been moments where we have stumbled and needed support, but we are undoubtedly stronger now than we were in September. Before we look ahead to the next stage of the climb, I would like to reflect on some of the highlights from this year.

We began the year with our Wellbeing Walk, a powerful reminder of the importance of mental health and connection. Stepping outside the building to walk, talk, and enjoy each other's company set the tone for the year ahead. It was such a success that we plan to make it an annual tradition.

We also welcomed a number of new staff members, and I am proud to say that the quality of teaching and learning has significantly improved. Our staff team is now more stable, and lessons are becoming more focused and engaging. Thank you for your trust and support as we have built this strong foundation.

In the lead-up to Christmas, our students took part in the Collaboration Concert at Dixons Broadgreen, a truly special event. The talent, enthusiasm, and pride on display were inspiring, and I am excited to say we will be hosting our own Christmas show next year.

After Christmas, our focus turned to Year 11 and their GCSE Sprint. Their determination, resilience, and focus have been nothing short of inspiring. They leave us with their heads held high, and they have set a powerful example for future cohorts.

As we moved into the summer term, we launched a series of recognition events to celebrate attendance, values, and teamwork. From trips to Alton Towers, Waterworld, Moel Famau and the cinema, to our Traditional Sports Day, it has been a joy to see students supporting one another and celebrating their achievements.

We ended the year with our Recognition Award Evening, my personal highlight. We were honoured to welcome back a special guest, Alex Quigley, who began his journey at this very school in 1993. Now a published author and a well-known figure in the education world, Alex shared his experiences with our students and families. The evening was filled with student performances, heartfelt reflections, and a celebration of the incredible achievements of our young people. I was genuinely moved by the kind words and appreciation from families, thank you for making it such a memorable occasion.

Of course, we have not got everything right. I have worked hard to improve communication and clarity around decisions, and I will continue to do so. I have also welcomed many families into the building this year, but I want to do even more of this. I want you to see first-hand how focused and engaged our students are.

Looking ahead, we are making some exciting changes:

- A whole-school reading strategy will launch in September.
- We will be competing in more sporting fixtures.
- Extra-curricular activities will be built into the school day for Years 7 and 8.
- And we will continue to live our mission and uphold our values every single day.

Thank you once again for being part of our journey. I wish you and your families a safe, restful, and joyful summer holiday.



Mr Duggan
Principal

Mr Duggan
Principal

www.dixonscr.com

COLLABORATION CONCERT



13 music students from Dixons Croxteth have been working really hard in their preparations for the Dixons Collaboration Concert performance in Bradford on the 14th July.

They performed with Dixons Broadgreen and Dixons Fazakerley students in a Beatles showcase including soloists Nudrah and Esme from year 8.

The students were supported by the Art Department students and Ms Palmieri on a 'Yellow Submarine' design to add a great visual to a vocal performance.

Students mixed well with students from the other schools and were great ambassadors for the school.



ALL EARS POETRY EXPO



On Friday 4 July our poetry club attended the All Ears Poetry Expo, the event began with an emotional tribute to Liverpool by Joseph Roberts who explained his desire, as a native to our great city, to give the young people of Merseyside agency and choice through the power of the spoken word.

The event was attended by Merseyside police, representatives from publishing houses, recording studios, Everton Football Club, Merseyrail and so many more people who had come together to build a beautifully crafted experience.

Our school did not disappoint with the energy and joy the students showed. They threw themselves into every event area. They sat, they wrote, they engaged with poets and actors, police officers, public servants and the Right Worshipful Mayor of Liverpool. We even found someone willing to publish our students' poems.

The day ended with emotional public performances of the poems composed before and after the event by visiting schools. Mrs Odell and three brave Dixons Croxteth students performed one of their poems with confidence.

SHAPING FUTURES



Students in Year 7 completed a 12 week reading programme and have improved their reading ages, confidence in interpreting texts and reading fluency. The Shaping Futures programme is delivered by delegates from The University of Liverpool and they have attended the academy each week to run the sessions in our library. Our students have worked diligently and have represented our academy with their passion, hard work and good manners.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH



On Thursday 10 July and Friday 11 July, our year 9 students completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. They displayed our value of Hard Work and were very resilient in the heat which made the trek much more difficult. They worked together brilliantly, swapping equipment around to ensure that everyone shared the load. The students worked in teams at the campsite assigning each other jobs; some put tents up, some cooked and others cleaned, a great display of fairness and teamwork.

The students acted with integrity throughout the trip, whether that was on their own navigating their way to camp, or all in a big group at the ice-cream shop where we chose to stop, rest and recover in the shade for a while. They were a credit to themselves and to the school, it was lovely to hear such positive feedback from the public about our boys also, about their manner and polite behaviour. Well done boys, we are very proud of you and the attitudes you displayed.

GEOGRAPHY JOY COMPETITION



The Geography joy competition was open to all students and well done to all students who participated.

The winning students showcased a place and were able to express ideas why this location was special and important to them.

DIXONS CROXTETH AWARDS



It was a real privilege to attend our first Dixons Croxteth Annual Awards Evening. The award winners and their families turned up in great numbers and there was a genuine sense of pride in the room from students, parents and staff alike. The evening got off to a prompt start with an address from Mr Duggan, followed by an introduction to our special guest and former De La Salle pupil, Mr Alex Quigley. Alex spoke candidly about his life experiences, both good and challenging, and how just being a good person, resilience and hard-work is all it takes to make a successful path in life. Anything is possible. He then presented the academic awards to our wonderful students. Each subject gave two awards per year group - one for displaying excellence within the subject and one for personal progress for those students who had overcome barriers within the subject.

We were treated to musical interludes from students Jake and Nudrah on piano and Brandon from our current year 11 came back to address parents and students about his experience as a De La Salle/DCR student. His message was clear and poignant - believe in yourself, follow the rules and work hard. We were all so proud of him. The final accolades of the evening were presented to one person in every year group who always displays our school values. There were awards for Hard Work Integrity and Fairness and then a final overall Principal's Award. All students and their families should be incredibly proud, we know we are. The refreshment afterwards and mingling with families brought a lovely evening to the perfect end.

END OF YEAR TRIP

PLAZA CINEMA



On Tuesday students across year 7-10 participated in a recognition trip to the Plaza Cinema in Crosby.

The trip was to recognise the students who have consistently lived out our learning habits throughout the academic year. The students who attended thoroughly enjoyed the trip where they watched the new Jurassic Park movie. It was a pleasure to recognise the students who consistently live out our values and are ambassadors for our academy.

END OF YEAR TRIP

MOEL FAMAU



In staggering contrast to the heatwave of the previous weekend, 24 students and 4 staff braved the driving rain and squally wind to climb Moel Famau as one of our summer rewards trips. Despite the demanding weather conditions, morale was high and all students embraced the challenge, with many saying they much preferred this trip to going to Alton Towers! Unfortunately, visibility at the summit was poor and some students were nearly blown away by violent gusts; however, the resilience, camaraderie and sense of accomplishment exhibited by the students was a joy to behold.



YEAR 10 EFFECTIVE REVISION STRATEGIES



This week, Year 10 took part in revision masterclasses which looked at high utility strategies they can employ when reviewing their learning. These included the Leitner Flashcard System, Cornell Note Taking, the Deconstructed Essay, the Pomodoro Technique and Elaborative Interrogation.

To allow students to practise these strategies over the summer, each was given a notebook, highlighters and flashcards to revise the content they have learnt this year. A huge thank you to the students for their self-reflection, active engagement and pertinent questioning.

BRASS DAY



Some of our music students who have taken up 'Brass' peripatetic lessons this year had the experience of attending a Brass day involving students from 6 other schools from the Liverpool City Region – run by the Valley Brass Band.

This involved a full day workshop with tutors learning 4 pieces of music:

Mini March

The Vengabus

We Will Rock You

500 Miles

This had a finale concert at the 'World of Glass' St.Helens – this was supported by the Valley Brass Band.

This was supported by the parents of the students involved who came and supported the evening event everybody involved enjoyed the showcase and what a wonderful experience it was for our students and look forward to working with the community group more in the coming years.

The students also had a chance to have a look and enjoy some of the artwork on display at the venue with Ms Palmieri.

TOP TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR BIKE

M **Mark your bike**

Attend a free bike marking event advertised by Merseyside Police. These are advertised on the local Merseyside Police social media channels. Your make is 83% less likely to be stolen if it is both marked and registered.

A **Awareness**

When you are out on your bike be aware of your surroundings and don't let thieves try to steal it. When out on the street leave your bike in a well lit area where it can be seen by passers by. Lock both wheels and the frame to a cycle stand, or an immovable object. Make sure the lock goes through the frame, wheel and the post you are securing it to. Take any removable items with you.

R **Register your bike**

Register your bike for free by visiting The National Cycle Crime Database/BikeRegister. Merseyside Police are now actively checking bikes on the National Cycle Database. If your bike is stolen, this will significantly increase the chances of you getting your bike back. Scan the QR code (to the right) to register your bike on BikeRegister.

SCAN ME



K **Keep out of view**

When at home store your bike in a shed or garage. Don't leave the bike unattended outside the front of your house. Remember to secure it to an immovable object.

I **Insure**

If you have invested a significant amount of money into your bike, consider specialist bike insurance or check your home insurance covers you for theft away from home.

T **Top bike lock**

A decent bike lock is worth its weight in gold. A heavy-duty bike lock can make thieves jobs more difficult, often meaning they want to steal aa bike that is less secure. Make sure you buy a Sold Secure Diamond or Gold Lock.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PIT STOP

Give your health a tune-up

- Friday, 18th July 2025
- Drop in between 10am - 12pm
- Cobalt Community Hub,
199 Lower House Lane,
L11 2SF

FREE
Health Checks & Support



Liver Health Scan

A Fibro Scan liver bus will be on-site offering free liver checks



Quit Smoking

Seek support with Smoke Free



Dementia Awareness

Learn warning signs and support with the Dementia Alliance team



Dental health

Help for children with the Tiny Teeth team

And many more partners offering advice for your personal tune up!

**LEARN
MORE**

To learn more, scan the
QR code or visit: cobalthousing.org.uk/news

SCAN ME



TALKING TEENS

The Centre of Emotional Health has developed a 4-week course focusing on relationships, communication and brain development. Sessions last for 2 hours and this will run once a week for 4 weeks for parents.

The programme consists of four sessions, developed with Dr John Coleman, to increase parents' understanding of teenagers' feelings and behaviour, and deliver key strategies for maintaining and improving relationships. Based on the most recent research on adolescence, and consistent with the principles of the Nurturing Programme

Key topics:

- Exploring the importance of parents for teenagers
- Developing parents' understanding of teenage development and the influence of brain development on behaviour
- Developing parents' understanding of the importance of listening, verbal and non-verbal communication
- Promoting positive approaches to boundary setting and problem-solving
- Providing an opportunity for parents to share their experience with others



The course is free and refreshments will be provided.

If you are interested in signing up or would like more information please contact :

Kate Toutountzi via email kate.toutountzi@cobalthousing.org.uk

Pip Goodwin via email pgoodwin@dixonscr.com

Academy information email info@dixonscr.com

Or contact the academy on **0151 332 6780**

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: dc_r_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