

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,

What a week at Dixons Croxteth! We have had multiple sporting fixtures across all year groups. There have been some great successes and a few disappointments but it is how we respond to disappointment that truly matters. As I have mentioned previously, we are committed to creating a culture of error and instilling a growth mindset. As long as students have the opportunity to take part and represent our academy, I am happy.

We have now started our Year 11 'sprint'. Most schools begin their GCSE preparation focus around February half term, but we want the best for our students, especially this year group, who have faced multiple disruptions to their education. They deserve that additional push, so we have started early.

The sprint includes:

- Specialist intervention sessions
- Morning mastery classes
- Wellbeing events
- Additional parental communication

This week, we also launched our Facebook page. Families have spoken to me at events about the need for more representation on social media (I will admit, it is not my area of expertise!) but I have listened, and we now have a platform to share messages, vlogs, and updates about what is happening at the academy. Please follow, like, and share!

I am looking forward to our Open Evening next week for Year 6 primary students. With everything happening at Dixons Croxteth, we are quickly becoming the number one provider in the area. We are a small school with only 120 students per year – here, children are a name, not a number. I take pride in knowing every child in this school.

Based on GCSE results, we are also the most improved school in the city over the last two years. If you know someone considering joining us, please encourage them to contact the academy early.

The correlation between attendance and student outcomes is stark. If we want the best results, students must be in the building, in lessons, learning. Attendance has improved year on year, and we are significantly ahead compared to this time last year but this must continue. We must make every effort to get children into school, even as the mornings get darker and colder.

Finally, next Friday we welcome Dan Carden MP into the academy. Please feel free to drop in for a chat with Dan and raise any concerns.

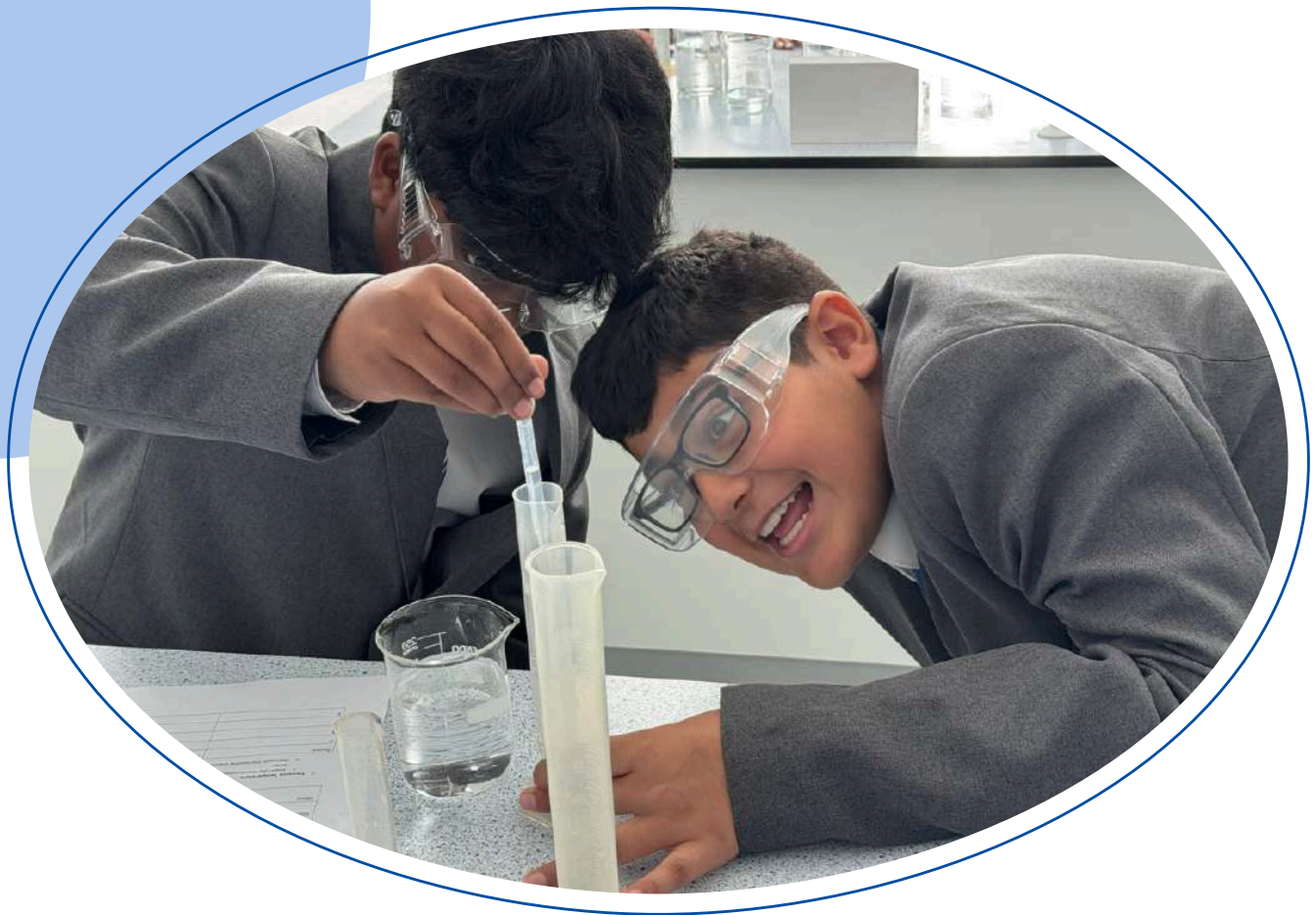
Warm regards,

Mr Duggan
Principal



Mr Duggan
Principal

PRINCIPALS HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK



“While touring the building and observing teaching practice, I came across a Year 7 science practical. The students were fully immersed in their learning, confidently following the rules and routines of the science lab. It was heartening to see how well they supported one another during the practical work. Remarkably, this was only their third week at the Academy, yet their enthusiasm and teamwork were already shining through. Just look at the smiles on their faces!”

Mr Duggan, Principal

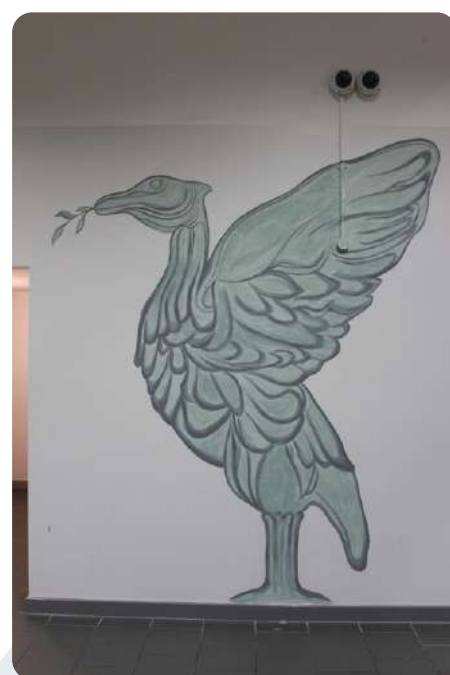
REVITALISING OUR HEARTSPACE: A STUDENT-LED TRANSFORMATION

During the final term of 2024–25, students at Dixons Croxteth shared their thoughts with me about the heartspace — our central area within the school. They asked, “What’s the point of the heartspace?” and commented on how plain and uneventful it felt. More importantly, they asked if they could make it their own.

This feedback prompted reflection and conversations with colleagues across the Dixons network. I learned that every Dixons school has a heartspace, a central hub where students gather, where work is exhibited, and where key messages are shared. These spaces are vibrant, purposeful, and a source of pride.

The students were right: our heartspace lacked character. So, I made the bold decision to ask them directly, “What do you want this space to be?” Their response was clear. They are proud to be part of the city of Liverpool and wanted that pride reflected in the space. They also expressed a deep love for art and a desire to collaborate with Ms Palmieri, who had recently joined our team.

This led to a creative commission: students would design a Liver Bird to represent our school. Ms Palmieri went even further, helping them create two birds inspired by Liverpool’s iconic ‘Bertie’ and ‘Bella’. The enthusiasm didn’t stop there, students wanted to include the city’s two cathedrals on the walls, a project that is still in progress and one I look forward to sharing with you soon.



REVITALISING OUR HEARTSPACE: A STUDENT-LED TRANSFORMATION



As part of the reimagination of the heartspace students have also written their own poems relating to Bertie, Bella and our city. We will be presenting some of these alongside our very own Liverbirds.

Today, our heartspace is a warm, welcoming centre of the school, a place where students and staff come together for both formal and informal moments. It showcases student creativity and reflects the pride we have in our school and community. The transformation has been entirely student-led, and the result is a space we are incredibly proud of.

Our students are bursting with creative talent. When you visit, please take a moment to experience this incredible space, it truly reflects the heart of Dixons Croxteth.

EMPOWERED: PAGES OF IMAGINATION

CELEBRATING OUR YOUNG POETS



We are incredibly proud to share that several of our students have been recognised in a national writing competition titled “Empowered.” Their powerful and imaginative poems impressed the judges and have now been published in a special anthology.

This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to their creativity, talent, and hard work. To see our students’ words in print is truly inspiring, and we are delighted that their voices will be read and enjoyed by so many others.

Congratulations to our young poets – you are imaginative writers with a bright future ahead!

Miss Gregson

CULTURE OF ERROR

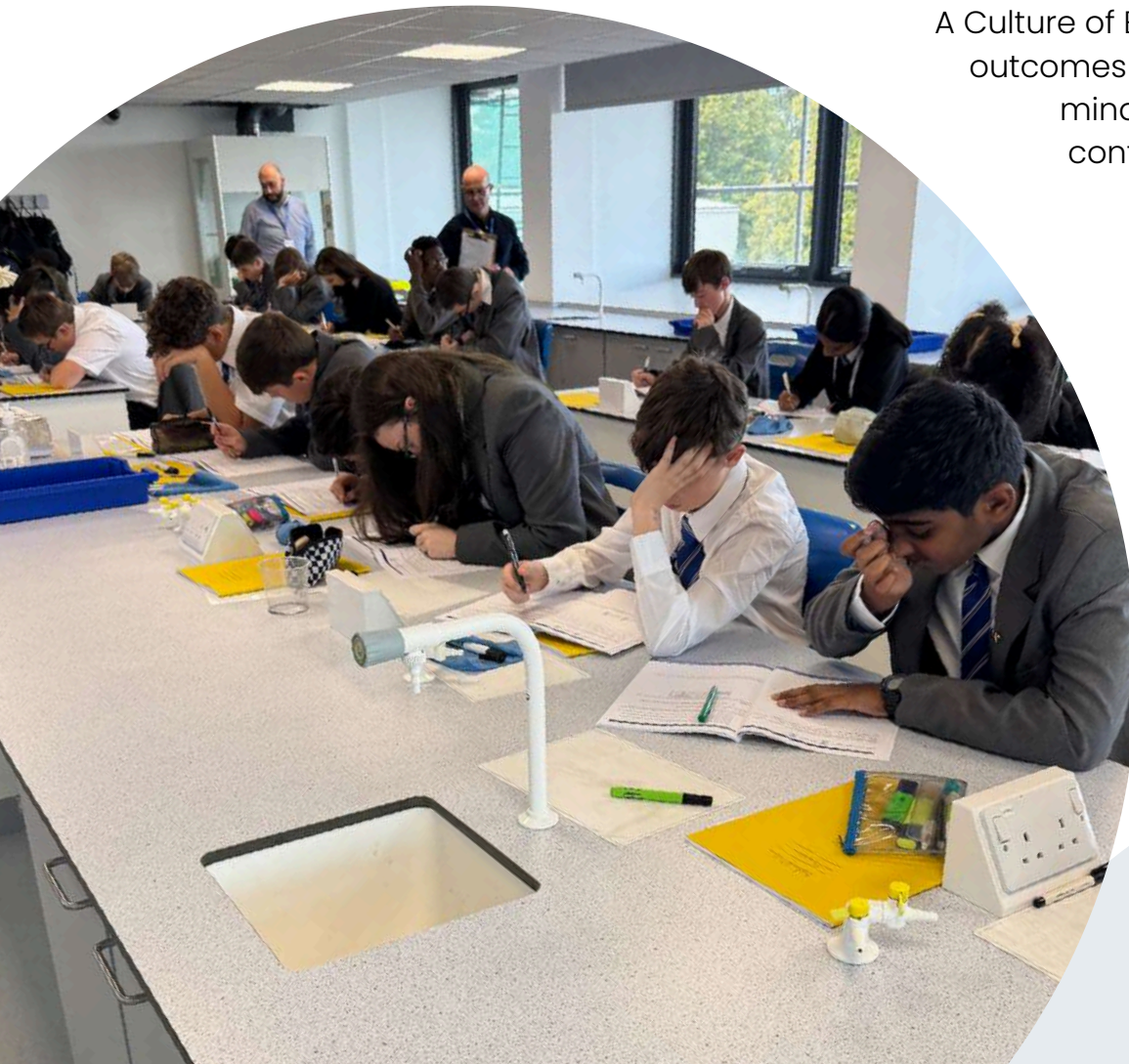
On Friday 12th September, we welcomed teaching colleagues into the academy for a focused review of teaching and learning in Science. It was a brilliant day where academy leaders immersed themselves in lessons, observed classroom practice, questioned students, and gained a deeper insight into what is really happening in our classrooms.

One particularly interesting observation was how quickly teachers responded when students gave incorrect answers or said they didn't know. While well-intentioned, this instinct can unintentionally discourage risk-taking. We must move away from this. At Dixons Croxeth, we want our students to build resilience in their learning and understand that it's OK to get it wrong.

We use the metaphor of climbing a mountain to describe the learning journey. At times, we all need support to climb our own mountain – and each mountain looks different for every student. From a teaching and learning perspective, we'll be doing lots of work with staff around the idea of a **Culture of Error**. For this to thrive, we need safe and secure learning environments, and an atmosphere of support from both teachers and peers.

A Culture of Error supports student outcomes by fostering a growth mindset and encouraging continuous improvement.

This is a really exciting time at Dixons Croxeth, and we're proud to be building a culture where mistakes are seen not as setbacks, but as stepping stones to success.

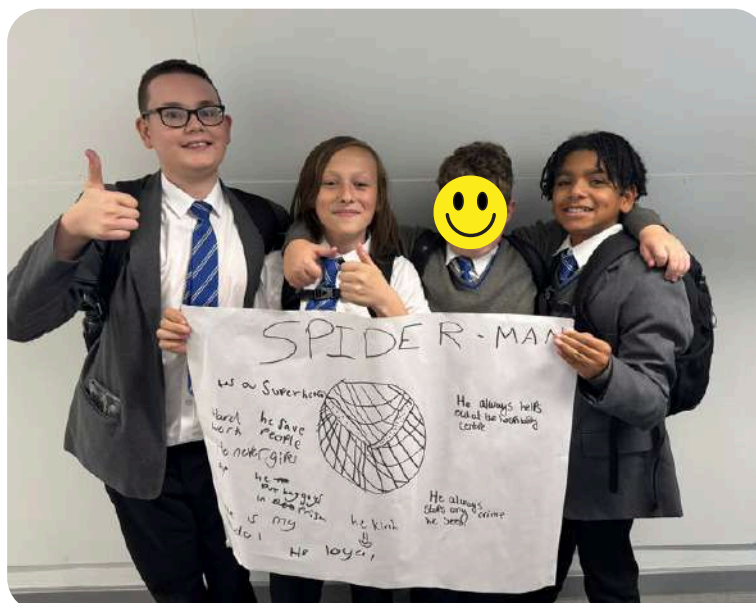


CITIZENS UK



Last week, a group of our students took part in a Citizens UK training session to learn how communities create positive change.

They discovered that true leadership is about listening, including others, and empowering people to act, not just giving instructions. The workshop inspired them to think about local issues, from the environment to neighbourhood support and how they can bring people together to make a difference.



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.

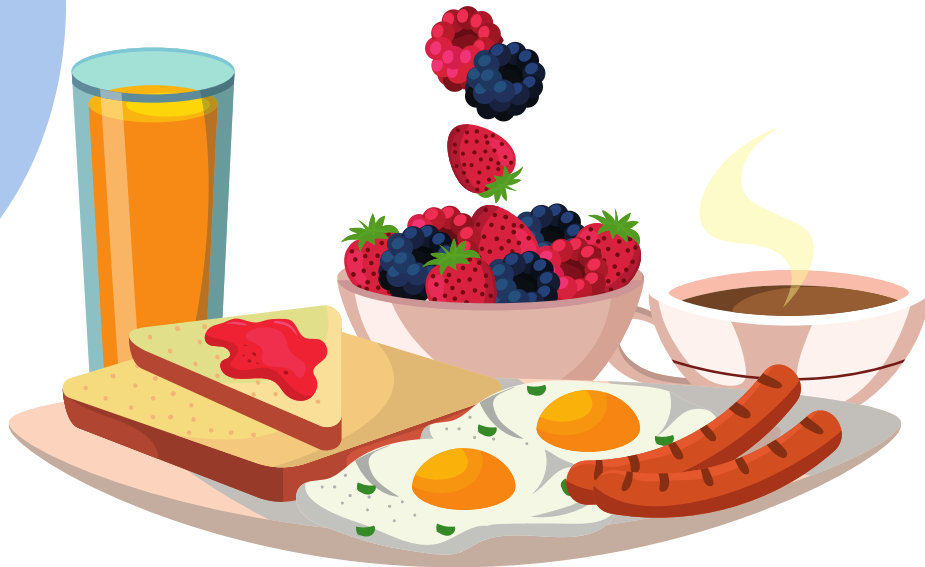
Why Your Support Matters

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.

ACADEMY BREAKFAST



We are delighted to share the continued success of our Friday Breakfast initiative at Dixons Croxeth. As part of our commitment to student wellbeing, we offer a free breakfast every day in the canteen from 7:45am.

From Monday to Thursday, students can enjoy:

- Bagels and toast
- Cereal and fruit

To make Fridays a more joyful occasion, we provide a cooked breakfast for all staff and students. This includes:

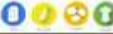
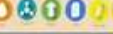
- Bacon or sausage sandwiches
- Eggs and tomatoes
- Vegetarian and halal options
- Cereal and fruit still available

Due to the high number of students accessing breakfast on Fridays, we are adjusting the timing slightly to ensure a smooth start to the day. Friday breakfast will now be served from 7:30am to 8:10am. Students may continue eating until 8:15am, but service will stop at 8:10am.

Please encourage your child to arrive early if they would like to enjoy the free breakfast.

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					

HATE CRIME MONTH OF ACTION

HATE CRIME

Over the coming month, Merseyside Police Safer Schools Officers and school staff will be delivering assemblies and classroom sessions focusing on Hate Crime. This initiative aims to help pupils understand what hate crime is, how it affects individuals and communities, and what they can do if they experience or witness it.

HATE



Topics covered in session

- Understanding what constitutes a hate crime
- Protected characteristics and their importance
- Online hate crime – recognising abusive or threatening behaviour on social media, gaming platforms, or messaging apps, and understanding its consequences
- What to do if targeted online
- How to report hate crime

IF YOUR CHILD EXPERIENCES ONLINE HATE

- Block the person or people responsible on all platforms
- Keep evidence – take screenshots, save messages, and note dates/times
- Report the abuse to the social media or online platform where it occurred
- Tell a trusted adult such as a parent, teacher, or youth worker
- Report to police if the behaviour is threatening, abusive, or otherwise criminal



What is a Hate Crime?

A hate crime is any criminal offence motivated by hostility or prejudice towards a person's:

- Race or ethnicity
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Gender identity

These are known as protected characteristics under UK law

Examples of Hate Crime

Hate crimes can happen in person or online and can include:

- Verbal or physical abuse
- Intimidation and threats
- Criminal damage
- Harassment
- Incitement to hate

Example: If someone is verbally abused in the street because of their religion, or receives threatening messages online because of their disability, this would be classed as a hate crime.

VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES

If you, your child, or someone you know experiences hate crime, there are local organisations that can offer specialist help:

- **Anthony Walker Foundation** – Support for victims of race and faith-based hate crime (www.anthonwalkerfoundation.com)
- **Citizens Advice Liverpool** – Support for LGBT+ communities (www.citizensadvice.liverpool.org.uk)
- **Daisy UK** – Support for people with disabilities (www.daisyuk.com)
- **Victim Care Merseyside** – General victim support services (www.victimcaremerseyside.org)



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REPORTING OPTIONS

- **Merseyside Police** – Call 101 (or 999 in an emergency)
- **Fearless** – <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/what-is-fearless>
- **Stop Hate UK** – <https://www.stophateuk.org/>
- **Report Remove** – <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>
- **CEOP** – <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

- Talk with your child about what they have learned in these sessions
- Reassure them that it is always right to report hate crime, whether they are a victim or a witness
- Remind them that online abuse is just as serious as face-to-face abuse

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the sessions or would like further information on hate crime, please contact your designated safeguarding lead within your school, who may be able to assist, or speak to your Safer Schools Officer on your behalf.



HATE CRIME MONTH OF ACTION

24 APPS PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

This list is not exhaustive, and will be updated each year to reflect new risks and dangers

THESE APPS CAN EASILY BE USED AS GROOMING TOOLS BY ONLINE PREDATORS LOOKING TO MEET UP & SEXUALLY ABUSE CHILDREN. (UPDATED 2021)



FACEBOOK



FACEBOOK allows you to connect with others and share comments, photos and videos. You can add friends, write on people's pages and posts, join groups and play games.

SNAPCHAT



SNAPCHAT is one of the most popular apps in recent years. Whilst the app promises that photo's, videos and stories disappear, others can take screenshots of private photo's.

INSTAGRAM



INSTAGRAM Kids are creating fake accounts to hide content from their parents, according to police. Messages are also deleted once a user leaves a conversation.

WHATSAPP



WHATSAPP allows you to send messages, images and videos in 121 and group chats with your contacts. You can choose to share your live location for up to eight hours with one contact or a group.

KIDSCHAT



KIDSCHAT.NET is a free online messaging app for children. You can talk to people you don't know on public forums and via private message. You can access the site as a guest.

SKYPE



SKYPE is a platform and app that lets you make audio and video calls to other people around the world. You can also send instant messages.

WHISPER



WHISPER is an anonymous social media app that promotes sharing personal secrets with strangers, (new people). It reveals a users location so people can meet up

CALCULATOR %



CALCULATOR % is only one of SEVERAL social media apps disguised as a calculator, the app is actually a secret photo vault to hide photos, videos, files and browser history.

HOT ON NOT



HOT ON NOT Strangers rate a user's 'attractiveness' with the aim of real-world meet ups in your local area.

ASK.FM



ASK.FM An app where users can anonymously ask questions and receive answers. The app has been featured in a number of cyber bullying cases.

YUBO



YUBO Similar to Tinder, the app is designed to allow teens to flirt with each other.

KIK MESSAGING Kik



KIK MESSAGING Kik is a messaging app that allows content normally filtered on a home computer.

BURN BOOK



BURN BOOK Anonymous rumours can be posted about people through audio messages, texts and photos.

WISHBONE



WISHBONE This app allows users to compare kids and rate them on a scale.

GRINDR



GRINDR Is a dating app geared towards gay, bisexual and transgender people. The app allows people to chat, share and meet up in person based on a GPSS location.

SKOUT



SKOUT is a location based dating app and website. Whilst people under 17 are unable to share private photo's, Children can easily create fake accounts.

MEET ME



MEET ME is a dating social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. The app encourages people to meet in person.

TIK TOK



TIK TOK is one of the most popular apps in recent years used for sharing short videos with very limited privacy controls users are vulnerable to explicit material.

TELLOYMN



TELLOYMN anonymous messenger app. It calls itself "the most honest place on the internet." Age controls are inconsistent and sexual explicit material can be found.

Zoomerang



Zoomerang is a popular app that looks like a harmless messaging app however it allows private anonymous messaging and is location enabled.

BUMBLE



BUMBLE is a location based dating app and website. Whilst people under 17 are unable to share private photo's, Children can easily create fake accounts

FACEBOOK MESSENGER



FACEBOOK MESSENGER is one of the most popular message apps in the world. It has already heavily been used by predators and the end-to-end encryption will make it even more unsafe.

BADOO



BADOO is a location based dating app and website. Whilst people under 17 are unable to share private photo's, Children can easily create fake accounts.

OMEGLE



OMEGLE is a video chat website where users are matched randomly with strangers.



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