

MARCH 20, 2026

NEWSLETTER

DIXONS CROXTETH ACADEMY



The Dixons Croxteth newsletter keeps our community, including parents, students, staff, and the public, informed with updates on school events, policies, student achievements, opportunities for community involvement, and available educational resources.



Academy's values:

Hard Work: we never give up. We remain positive so that we have the strength to persevere with even the hardest work. We do what it takes for as long as it takes.

Integrity: we do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. We do this even when people are not watching.

Fairness: we play by the rules. We are respectful, polite, and courteous at all times. We treat others in our diverse community as we wish to be treated. When we help others, we help ourselves.

www.dixonscr.com

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Dear Families,

As final preparations take place for our Italy ski trip next week, I wanted to share how excited I am for the students involved. From my very first day, I have been passionate about ensuring our students have opportunities to take part in expeditions, broaden their horizons, and experience real joy through school life. Trips like this create memories that last a lifetime. Looking ahead, we have already begun planning an expedition to Morocco and a sporting trip to the Netherlands next year, and I am incredibly proud of the experiences we are able to offer our young people.

Last week was exceptionally busy, with so much to celebrate across the academy. We officially began our transition programme and were delighted to welcome our new Year 6 cohort into the building on Thursday. Transition is a key priority for us, and this year we will be doing more than ever to support students as they become familiar with our routines, expectations, and learning environment, ensuring they feel confident and excited about joining Dixons Croxteth.

Within this newsletter, you will see how we celebrated World Book Day, which was a truly joyful occasion. This year's theme was belonging, and staff shared books that were meaningful to them and linked to this theme. Staff fully embraced the day by dressing as characters and celebrating reading alongside students, creating a wonderful atmosphere across the academy.

Following World Book Day, we celebrated Pi Day on Friday, helping to promote the importance and excitement of mathematics. The day included mathematical challenges, a Pi-themed lunch, and discussions about the infinite nature of Pi. Both events brought energy, joy, and excitement into the school, and it was a pleasure to see students enthusiastically competing to recall the most digits of Pi and enjoying seeing their teachers come to life as book characters.

A particular highlight for me last week was a conversation with a year 9 student about the book I am currently reading. Across Dixons Croxteth, all staff display the book they are currently reading on their classroom or office door. As an avid historian with a fascination for the Vietnam War, this sparked a thoughtful discussion with a student who shared interesting facts he had learned from films. Once I finish the book, I will be passing it on to him. This simple but powerful interaction came directly from our emphasis on promoting reading, and moments like this make me incredibly proud of our school community.

Thank you to families for the feedback you have shared on recent additions to the newsletter. I particularly enjoyed tasting some of the banana bread students brought in and seeing the photographs that have been shared. While we did not see the increase in attendance from 'At home this week' that we had hoped for, we will continue to persevere with strong routines, as consistency is key. Thank you also to Miss Gregson, who shared her vlog on reading interventions at Dixons Croxteth. We are also extremely proud that Miss Gregson has had a blog published nationally on the introduction of Reading Mastery.

As we approach the Easter holidays, it is vital that we maintain momentum with our Year 11 students. We are confident that GCSE results will continue to rise, but this final period is crucial. Staff will be running interventions over the break, and we know students will be using this time to revise and prepare for success in the summer.

I will be sharing an end-of-term blog on Friday. In the meantime, I wish our skiers a safe and enjoyable trip, and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mr Duggan
Principal



Mr Duggan
Principal

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026



On Thursday 12 March we celebrated World Book Day at Dixons Croxteth with the theme of Belonging, and it was a genuinely joyful day across the academy. There was a real sense of shared purpose as both staff and students embraced the opportunity to celebrate reading, stories and the powerful idea that everyone has a place within our community.

Across KS3 English lessons, students explored the theme of belonging through books and stories. Lessons centred on how literature helps us understand identity, community and connection. It was wonderful to see students engaging so thoughtfully with texts and sharing their own reflections about where they feel they belong. To recognise their participation, students were awarded certificates, celebrating their contribution to the day and their engagement with reading.

A highlight of the day was a collaborative art installation led by Ms Palmieri and our talented art students. Together they created a striking "Belonging Mountain."

Throughout the day, students placed their fingerprints onto the mountain, symbolising that each individual plays a part in shaping our academy community. The final piece is a powerful visual reminder that belonging is something we build together.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

Alongside the student activities, staff also came together for a professional growth session focused on reading across the curriculum. We explored the importance of reading in every subject and reflected on how we can continue to strengthen disciplinary reading so that every student has access to the language, knowledge and ideas within our curriculum.

Students also took part in a book quiz, celebrating their knowledge of stories and characters, before attending a special assembly exploring the theme of belonging through *The Jungle Book*. The story provided a powerful lens to discuss identity, community and the human need to feel part of something bigger than ourselves.

Days like this remind us why reading matters so much. Stories allow students to see themselves, to understand others and to feel part of a wider world of ideas and experiences. At Dixons Croxteth, we believe that reading builds not only knowledge, but also belonging – and this event was a wonderful celebration of both.



PI DAY 2026



On Friday 13 March, we celebrated Pi Day (one day early!).

Pi Day is celebrated on 14 March around the world, based on the digits 3.14 in the American date format.

The maths department were heavily supported by all staff in areas of the curriculum and beyond with fun and interesting facts about how and why circles of the digits of Pi can work within their subjects or the wider world!

Without the discovery of Pi, the world of construction, architecture, quantum mechanics, computer graphics and GPS to name but a few, would not be as advanced as they are today.

We also celebrated in the canteen with delicious cheese pie and circular quiche with apple pies for dessert.

The whole school contributed and students were eager to talk about what they had learned about Pi across the curriculum and how it all linked. Huge thanks to all involved and a special mention to all those students who learned Pi to many digits – Charley in year 8 appears to be the reigning champion at almost 30 digits long!

NEW INTAKE WELCOME EVENT

On Thursday 12 March, we were delighted to welcome our new cohort of Year 6 families as we formally began our transition process. The evening was extremely positive and marks another important milestone in our journey as an academy.

We are now full in Year 7 for September. This is a significant achievement and is a clear indication that Dixons Croxteth is becoming the provider of choice within our community.

During the event, we shared:

- The journey the academy has been on
- What the Dixons Difference looks like in practice
- Our Ofsted outcome, results and improving attendance
- How we support students and families through the transition to secondary school

A key reflection for us is that we want to start the transition process earlier. Every day we ask how we can be better, and we believe welcoming our new cohort into our community as early as possible is the right thing to do.

As part of this, our new Year 6 students will be invited to take part in:

- The Summer Fayre
- Summer Concert
- Sporting events
- Transition Day

If you are aware of any families joining us next year who were unable to attend the event, or families who are interested but have not yet secured a place, please encourage them to contact the academy. Additional tours will be arranged to ensure everyone has the opportunity to visit and feel part of Team Croxteth.

This is a moment to be proud of and reflects the collective work of staff in building a strong, trusted and welcoming school community.



LFC FOUNDATION INTERVIEW PANEL



On Friday 13 March a group of Year 8 students supported Liverpool Foundation during a day of interviews at Anfield.

The students participated in a practical assessment for the prospective candidates. The students really enjoyed the day and got to take part in a stadium tour.

The staff at Liverpool said the students were a credit to the academy and thanked them for their support during the day.

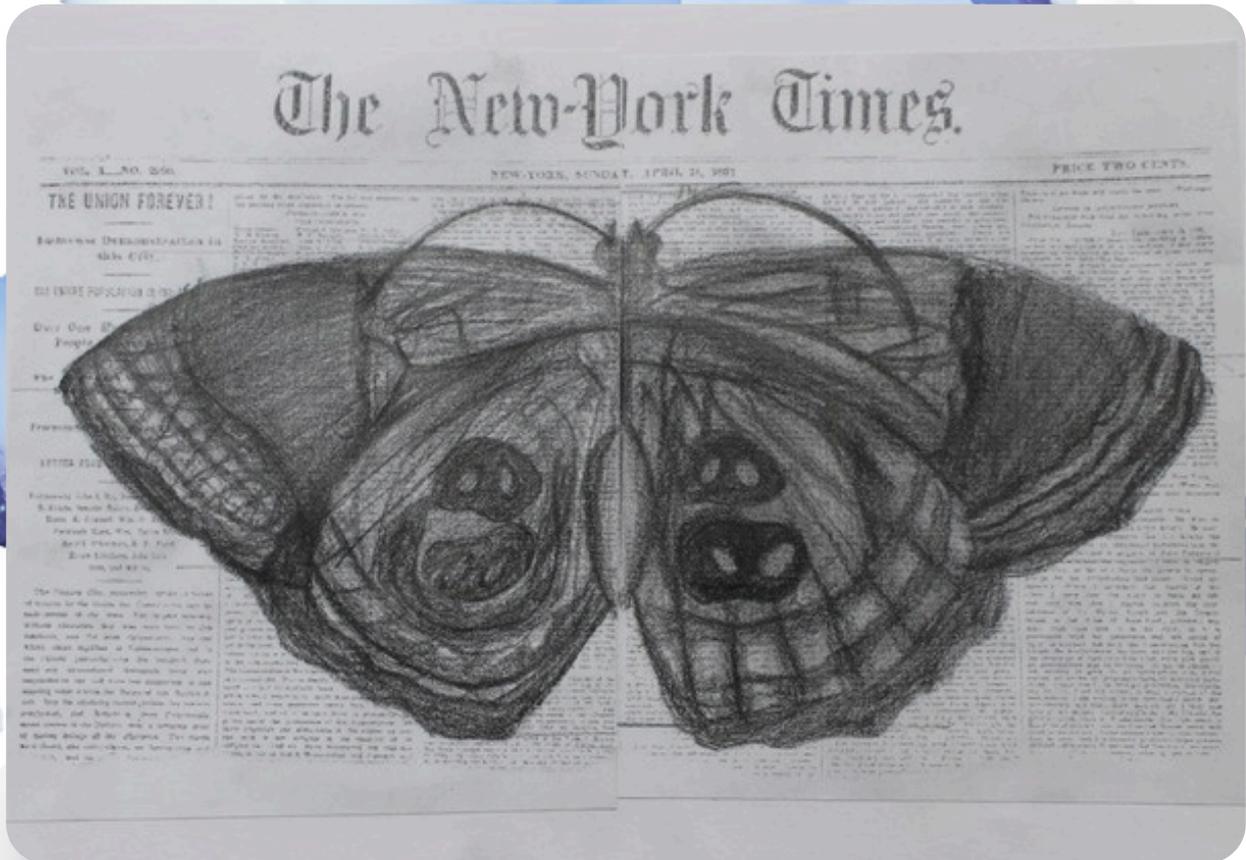


Foundation

THE CLUB'S OFFICIAL CHARITY

ARTIST OF THE WEEK

SHAANLY, YEAR 7



Shaanly has been developing his observational and accuracy skills by practicing measured drawing. Within his symmetrical butterfly study you can see accuracy when recording line and tone- a fantastic effort for Shaanly practicing and presenting his skills.

AT HOME THIS WEEK

National oral health day!



World Oral Health Day (Friday 20 March) is a great reminder that a healthy smile starts with simple daily habits. Brushing twice a day, flossing regularly, choosing water over fizzy drinks, and keeping up with dental check-ups can make a huge difference. Looking after your teeth doesn't just help your smile, it supports your overall health and confidence too. Small changes today can help protect your smile for years to come!

Oral Health Tips for Teens

- Brush twice a day to keep your smile fresh and bright.
- Floss once a day—it only takes a minute and makes a big difference.
- Go easy on fizzy drinks and sugary snacks (your teeth will love you for it!)
- Drink more water to stay hydrated and keep your mouth clean.
- Wear a mouthguard during sports to protect your smile.
- Visit your dentist regularly to stay on top of your oral health.

CROXTETH COOKBOOK



HOT CROSS BUN ROCKY ROAD

Use up chocolate mini eggs and hot cross buns in this fun Easter twist on rocky road. This is a brilliant no-bake treat for all the family to help make (and eat)

PREP TIME
15 MINS



SETTING TIME
2 HRS



SERVINGS
20 SERVINGS

Ingredients

- 100g butter
- 150g milk chocolate, broken up
- 150g dark chocolate, broken up
- 2 tbsp golden syrup
- 2 hot cross buns, halved and toasted
- 100g digestive biscuits, broken up
- 74g chocolate mini eggs, chopped

Tesco Price list

- Tesco British Unsalted Butter 250G - £1.99
- Tesco Milk Cooking Chocolate 150G - £1.80
- Tesco Dark Cooking Chocolate 150G - £1.80
- Tesco Golden Syrup 680G - £1.70
- Tesco Hot Cross Buns 4 Pack - £1
- Ms Molly's Digestive 400G - 59p
- Cadbury Mini Eggs 74g - £2.00

Total = £10.88

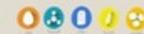
Instructions

1. Line a 20cm square tin with baking paper.
2. Place a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water and melt together the butter, chocolates and golden syrup. Stir well, then take off the heat.
3. Tear the hot cross buns into small pieces, then stir into the chocolate mix, along with the digestive biscuits and most of the mini eggs.
4. Scrape the mixture into the tin and use the back of a spoon to spread it into the corners. Scatter over the reserved mini eggs.
5. Transfer to the fridge for at least 2 hrs (or up to 24 hrs) to set.
6. Cut into 20 (4 x 5cm) pieces to serve. They'll keep in a sealed container for up to 3 days.

Notes:

- They will keep in a sealed container for up to 3 days.

ACADEMY MENU

  						
Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
MENU						
	Beef Bolognese Pasta Garlic Bread 	BBQ Chicken Strip Roll Potatoes Fries-Coleslaw 	Salt-Peppers Chicken Chunk & Noodles Veggie Spring Rolls 	Beef Stroganoff Rice & Roast Veggie 	Chicken Burger & Chips 	
	Hot Sandwiches Italian Meatball Melt 	Jumbo Sausage Roll 	Hot Sandwiches Spicy Italian 	Jumbo Sausage Roll 	Hot Sandwiches Deli Meat (Pepperoni, Turkey, Cheese) 	
	Veggie Pasta Garlic Bread 	Homemade Pastrami Deli Roll Potatoes Fries-Coleslaw 	Salt & Pepper Veggie Singapore Noodles-Broccoli 	Chicken Enchilada Yellow Rice & Nachos Chips 	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. 					
	Ice-Cream 	Sugar Ring Donuts Topping Sauce 	Chocolate Cake 	Mixed Muffins 	School Cake 	
Any special order or allergy than the main menu please ask the kitchen before 10:30 am						

  						
Week 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
MENU						
	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Tandoori Chicken Naan Bread Basmati Rice 	Sausages (Beef-Pork-Chicken) Beans & Hash 	Chicken Grilled Jollof Rice Macedoine Veggie & Sweetcorn 	Chicken Burger & Chips 	
	Hot Sandwiches Chicken-Cheese & Garlic Mayo 	Jumbo Sausage Roll 	Hot Sandwiches BBQ Chicken & Cheese 	Jumbo Sausage Roll 	Hot Sandwiches Spicy Italian 	
	Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Chicken / Veggie Tikka Naan Bread Basmati Rice 	Veggie Pasta Bake Garlic Bread 	Beef Minced Kebabs Jollof Rice Macedoine Veggie & Sweetcorn 	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. 					
	Mixed Muffins 	Sugar Ring Donuts Topping Sauce 	School Cake 	Ice-Cream 	Chocolate Cake 	
Any special order or allergy than the main menu please ask the kitchen before 10:30 am						

HPV ONLINE WEBINAR



The HPV vaccine is safe, quick and protects young people against several cancers

NHS
Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

To find out more, join Paula for a short webinar on Tuesday, 24 March from 7pm to 7.20pm

Complete the registration form: bit.ly/hpv-registration

The Mersey Care School Aged Immunisation Team is inviting parents and carers to a short online information session about the HPV vaccine, which is offered to all young people in Year 8.

Webinar details:
Tuesday 24 March
7pm to 7:20pm
Online via Microsoft Teams

Includes a 10 minute presentation followed by 10 minutes for your questions. The session is designed to help you feel confident and informed about the HPV vaccine. If you are curious about the vaccine, want to know more, or would like the chance to speak directly to a healthcare professional, this webinar is a great opportunity.

[Click here to register for the webinar](#)

Once you sign up, you will receive confirmation of the webinar link and joining instructions.

The HPV vaccine protects against several cancers caused by the Human Papilloma Virus. The nurses will explain how the vaccine works, why it is recommended, and what happens on vaccination day in school. If you have questions, you would like our nurses to answer during the session, you can submit them on the booking form.

We hope you find this session helpful and reassuring.
Kind regards,

Mersey Care School Aged Immunisation Team
<https://www.merseycare.nhs.uk/imms>

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: dcr_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