

NOVEMBER 21, 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,

So much has happened at Dixons Croxteth since we returned from half term! Honestly, I find it hard to pick weekly highlights because every day brings something inspiring and reinforces my commitment to our academy and your children.

Remembrance Day was a truly humbling experience. I was deeply proud of our students as they laid the wreath at the Cenotaph, and the messages we received from the community were heart-warming. Our own service at Dixons Croxteth was equally moving, listening to readings, hearing the Last Post, and seeing everyone take part reminded me why these British traditions matter and why understanding them makes us special.

I have also spoken a lot about Maths Week, and for good reason. It has created real energy and excitement across the academy. As a historian, maths has never been my strongest subject, but seeing the joy on students' faces as they complete daily challenges, share fascinating maths facts, and simply have a go has been amazing.

Our Year 11 students have now completed their mock exams in preparation for GCSEs this summer. These mocks help students understand the process and reduce pressure when the real exams arrive. They also allow us to identify any gaps in knowledge so we can provide targeted support. Students will receive their mock grades soon, which they can use for conditional college offers. Their dedication and commitment during this period has been outstanding.

Last week, staff had data and planning days, and I appreciate families who reached out to ask what this means. At Dixons, we work in three 13-week cycles:

- Weeks 1–7: High-quality teaching
- Weeks 7–10: Testing knowledge
- Weeks 11–13: Using data to intervene and close gaps

We are now in Week 11, and interventions are happening in classrooms to ensure every student achieves their best.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events. Our annual Christmas Pensioners' Party on Thursday 4th December. This is always a lovely occasion. We will serve a traditional Christmas dinner, and this year, our Year 10 and 11 Hospitality and Catering students will work alongside our chef to prepare the food, giving them real-world experience of large-scale cooking! Pensioners will also enjoy festive entertainment and performances from our students. If you know someone who would like to attend, please get in touch.

Our Winter Concert will take place on Thursday 18th December. We listened to your feedback from last year and will host the show here at Dixons Croxteth instead of Broadgreen. It will feature performances from our own students, and we would love for you to join us for some festive cheer (and a mince pie!). More details will follow soon.

Thank you for your continued support, it means so much to us. Have a wonderful weekend!

Warm regards,

Mr Duggan
Principal



Mr Duggan
Principal

COMMUNITY SCHOOL UPDATE

We know this time of year can be challenging for families as the colder months set in, and we want you to know that we are here to support you. Recently, we have met some incredible people who have had the courage to reach out for help, and that is exactly what we encourage.

One need we have noticed is clothing. To help, we are starting a Clothes Bank for families who need support. I have been humbled by the generosity of staff who have already donated items to get us started. If you are able to help, we had be grateful for donations of:

- Children's clothing you no longer need
- School uniform items
- Shoes, trainers, or football boots

All clothing will be cleaned and stored for families who need it. Please drop off any items at reception.

As Dixons Croxteth moves forward, we are excited to begin developing our own Community Hub. This will include food and clothes banks, opportunities to connect with others, and mental health and wellbeing workshops. We are still in the early stages and want to work with existing community groups—not compete with them.

We have already started building links with:

- Cobalt Housing
- La Salle Hotel School
- Clubmoor Community Centre
- GEMS
- NHS and Police

Our goal is to take this to the next level and become a true anchor for the community, working in collaboration with all these fantastic groups.

In the New Year, I will be hosting a Parental Engagement Evening to hear your ideas. What would you like to see?

Access to sports facilities?

Tea and coffee mornings?

Use of our facilities for community groups?

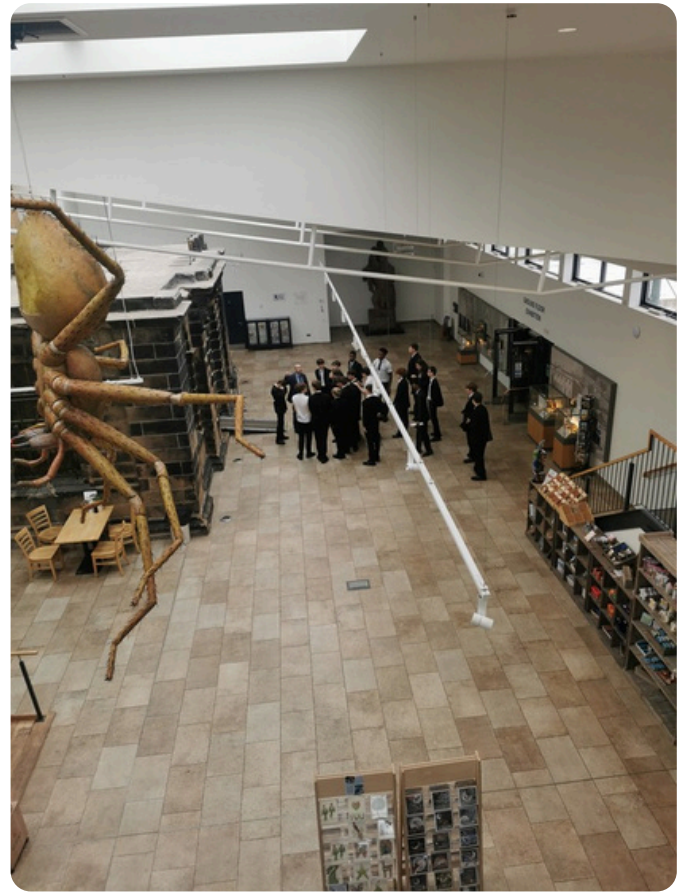
Adult learning support?

Please have a think and share your feedback, we want this to be shaped by you. This is an exciting time as we grow into not just a school for students, but a school for the whole community.

Finally, I would like to thank one of our Year 9 parents who has been instrumental in reaching out and helping us understand what is already available locally.

Thank you for your continued support.

NORTON PRIORY HISTORY TRIP



On Friday 7 November, our year 11 History GCSE class took a trip to Norton Priory as part of their OCR History project visit. They visited the building, parts of which have been in existence since 1115. It is the most excavated site in the whole of Europe and has a wealth of artefacts that gives us clues to how it functioned as a building. From 1115 up until 1536 it served as a Monastery and an Abbey until it was closed down under Henry VIII and his Reformation. It then became a family estate and was rebuilt from its Tudor origins to become a Georgian Mansion. It was sold in the 1920's before falling into disrepair.

The building is now run by the National Trust, and it was magnificent to see the students gaining a real insight into how people used to live their lives. From the excavated grounds to the self-contained museum the students were able to see and feel how life at this building had moulded and changed lives. There was a real uplift in the Cultural Capital of the students and it gave them an alternative look at the past.

The students were fantastic Ambassadors for the school, and we look forward to making further trips with other year groups moving forward.

SHARPS SYSTEM – KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE



At Dixons Croxteth, our number one priority is always the **safety and wellbeing of our students**. Over the past three years, we have worked hard to create a strong culture of safeguarding, and all staff receive regular training to ensure this remains at the heart of everything we do.

Because of this culture, students often feel comfortable speaking to us directly—and that is exactly what we want. However, we understand that some students may find it difficult to talk face-to-face. That is why we have the SHARPs system.

What is SHARPs?

SHARPs is a confidential online platform where students can report any concerns they have—big or small. Every report goes straight to the Heads of Year and our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Little, and every concern is investigated.

How can families help?

Please check in with your child at home to make sure they know about SHARPs and how to use it. Encourage them to share this information with friends too, sometimes a simple conversation can make a big difference.

Where to find SHARPs:

The SHARPs link is available on the school website, at the top right of the homepage.

If you have any questions about safeguarding or the SHARPs system, please contact the academy. Together, we can make sure every student feels safe and supported.

CAREERS FAIR 2025



On Thursday 20th November, we were thrilled to host our annual Careers Fair in partnership with Career Connect, and what an inspiring day it was! This year, we welcomed over 25 exhibitors from a wide range of industries, all eager to share their expertise and passion with our students.

Every year group from Year 7 to Year 11 had the opportunity to explore the different stalls, meet professionals, and ask thoughtful questions about career paths, daily routines, and the skills needed to succeed. It was fantastic to see our students engaging so confidently – their curiosity and ambition shone through as they discovered new possibilities and learned what it takes to join these exciting professions.

Events like this are at the heart of what we do at Dixons Croxteth. We believe in broadening horizons and raising aspirations, ensuring every student understands the wealth of opportunities available to them. For some, the fair confirmed their determination to pursue a chosen career; for others, it opened their eyes to paths they had not considered before.

We have already reflected on how to make next year's event even better. One key focus will be supporting students to understand the true cost of university and the financial options available, so that money is never a barrier to ambition.

At Dixons Croxteth, we are committed to preparing our students for life beyond school – and our Careers Fair is just one of the many ways we help them dream big and plan for success.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PENSIONERS' PARTY



DIXONS
CROXTETH
ACADEMY

CHRISTMAS PENSIONERS PARTY



4 DECEMBER
2PM - 5PM

CARR LANE EAST,
LIVERPOOL, L11 4SG

*Dixons Croxteth is here to spread
some Christmas cheer.*

CALL US ON 0151 332 6780
OR EMAIL US AT INFO@DIXONSCR.COM
TO BOOK YOUR FREE TICKETS.


































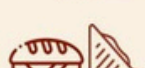




WINTER CONCERT



THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER 2025
5PM AT DIXONS CROXTETH ACADEMY

Call us on 0151 332 6780
or email info@dixonscr.com
To request your free tickets

ACADEMY MENU

   					
Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU					
	Italian Meatballs Spaghetti Garlic Bread 	Chicken Goujons Chinese Fried Rice 	Nigerian Stew / Scouse Jollof Rice & Petit Pain 	Beef Keema Curry Bombay Potatoes & Naan Bread 	Chicken Burger & Chips 
	Hot Sandwiches Italian Meatball Melt 	Jumbo Sausage Roll 	Hot Sandwiches Spicy Italian 	Cheese & Onion Slice 	Hot Sandwiches Deli Meat (Pepperoni, Turkey, Cheese) 
	Veggie Meatballs Spaghetti Garlic Bread 	Egg Fried Rice & Broccoli 	Roasty Veggie Stew Jollof Rice & Petit Pain 	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 	Choc Chip Flapjack 	Mixed Muffins 	Coconut Macaroons 	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 	Hunter Chicken Pasta Bake Garlic Bread 	Roast Chicken Kebab Jasmine Rice Roast Veg and Garlic Sauce 	Beef Enchilada with Cheesy Wedges Mexican Salad 	Fish / Chicken Goujons & Chips Bake Beans / Peas 
	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 Pasta Bake Garlic Bread 	Roasted Vegetable Roast Potatoes-Veg and Gravy 	Veggie Enchilada with Cheesy Wedges Mexican Salad 	Quorn Nuggets & 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 	Choc Chip Flapjack 	School Cake 	Coconut Macaroons 	Twin Lollies 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