

MAY 23, 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.

www.dixonscr.com

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Dear Families,

As we draw this half term to a close, I want to begin by extending a huge and heartfelt thank you to all our families for your ongoing support. Your partnership has played a vital role in the progress we continue to make as a school community.

I must take a moment to express just how incredibly proud I am of our Year 11 students. Throughout the exam period so far, their conduct, dedication, and commitment have been nothing short of phenomenal. The way they have carried themselves is a true reflection of how far we have come together as an academy. The upcoming Leavers' Assembly promises to be a deeply emotional and meaningful occasion as we celebrate this special group of students and all they have achieved.

Looking ahead, I am very much looking forward to our final half term of the academic year—a time filled with important events and opportunities to come together as a school.

One event I'm especially excited about is the return of Sports Day. I've made the decision to reintroduce this because I believe it is an important tradition that every school should cherish. It will be a traditional sports day in spirit but designed so that all students have the opportunity to take part and represent their houses—no matter their sporting ability.

In addition to this, Dixons Croxteth will proudly take part in the Dixons Cup athletics competition at the Manchester Athletics Stadium. We will be holding trials to select our team, and we are determined to attend with ambition and represent the academy with pride—and hopefully come away with a win!

Another personal highlight for me is the Collaboration Concert, an annual celebration of student talent from across the Dixons Academies Trust. When I was in Yorkshire, this was always one of my favourite events of the year. I'm immensely proud that Croxteth will be represented this year, with our students travelling to perform at the stunning St George's Hall in Bradford. I know it will be a late evening for our Liverpool students and families, but it will be a joyous occasion—one that I would not miss for the world.

Finally, thank you for the feedback you have shared around improving communication. In response, I felt it was important to record a second Principal's Vlog, simply to say thank you once again for your ongoing support this half term.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming students back for the final chapter of what has been a brilliant year.

Mr Duggan
Principal



Mr Duggan
Principal

CROXTETH GEMS COMMUNITY CENTRE

I wanted to take a moment to highlight the fantastic work happening at Croxteth GEMS Community Centre—a brilliant local space doing great things for our young people and wider community.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Jay, one of the leaders at GEMS, and was genuinely inspired by the range of activities and safe, welcoming environment they provide. The centre is open to all our students in the evenings, offering a space where they can relax, play, and connect in a positive setting.

As an academy, we are committed to building stronger ties with our local community, and GEMS is a perfect partner in that journey. In the final half term, we will be inviting Jay and his team into Dixons Croxteth to tour the academy alongside students who already attend GEMS. They will speak with students about the work they do and explore how we can support each other going forward.

We have flyers available in reception for any families who would like to find out more, and I will also be sharing their timetable electronically in the coming weeks to help you see what's on offer. We would love for families to explore what Croxteth GEMS has to offer—it is a great resource right on our doorstep.

Mr. Iain Duggan
Principal

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

On Friday 16 May, 10 year 9 students attended the '**Celebrate Our Community**' Event hosted by the LFC Foundation as part of Mental Health Awareness week.

The goal of this event is to promote and raise awareness of local and city-wide mental health services available to young people.

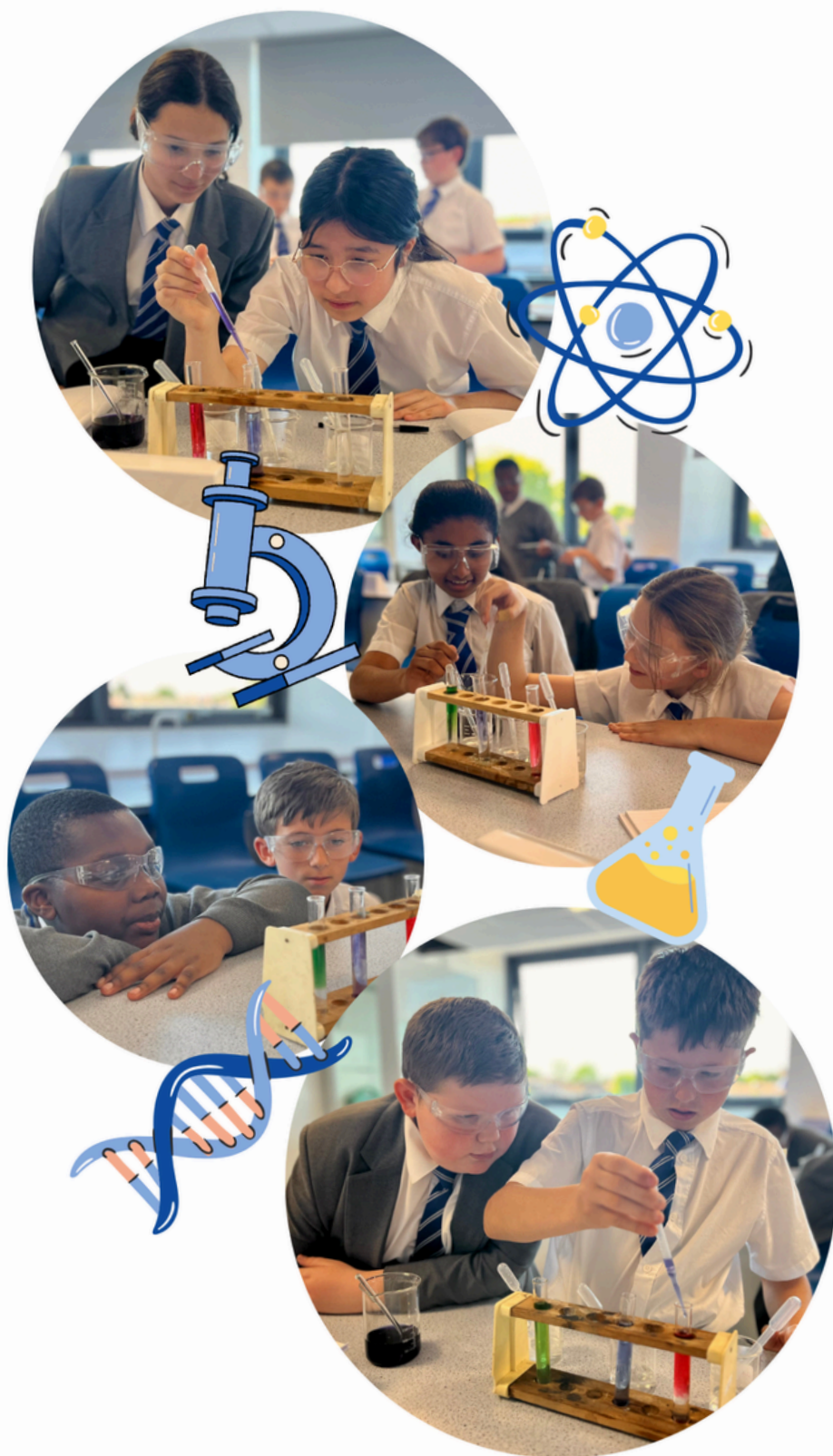
The event provided a platform for young people to engage in open discussions about their mental health, addressing topics such as coping mechanisms, the causes of anxiety, and the importance of social interaction.

The event also empowered our students with the tools, resources, and support networks to better understand and manage any concerns regarding mental health, ultimately reducing stigma and encouraging ongoing dialogue.



YEAR 7 SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

ACIDS AND ALKALIS INVESTIGATION



On Wednesday 14 May, Year 7 scientists conducted an investigation to determine what colour red cabbage turns in acid, alkali and neutral substances.

This included using their science skills to heat red cabbage in water, filter the water off, and also use a pipette to add the liquid to test tubes containing acid, alkali and neutral substances.

Well done Year 7 scientists from Mr Owens!

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Mr Donnahey organised a river fieldtrip for our Year 9 geography students as part of their UK Rivers Unit.

Students followed the course of the River Alt at three sites starting at Croxteth Country Park moving onto Lunt Meadows and finishing at Hightown Beach.

They completed field sketches, collected data, and analysed how the river changes along its course.

46 of our year 9 students attended. The sun was shining all day and the student thoroughly enjoyed it.



EMERGE25

YEAR 11 GCSE ART & DESIGN EXHIBITION



Join us as we celebrate our year 11 artists in their end of year exhibition. A showcase of their talent, creativity and hard work from the past 2 years studying Art, Craft & Design. See the range of work, read their biographies and look at their fantastic destinations as we wish them luck for their futures.

On the evening we will have music, provided by Mrs Unsworth's students and canapes from Ms Redmond and her hospitality students.

Awards will be presented on the evening in the following categories:

- High Achieving & Ambition
- Creativity & Awe
- Refined & Resilient
- Committed and Conscientious

We look forward to seeing you there!



SPORTS CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 14 May, 15 year 8 students took part in the LSSP Sports Challenge Event at Wavertree Tennis Centre. The students participated as separate boys and girls' teams competing with a variety of schools from across the city.

The event included activities such as Quidditch, Wheelchair Rugby, Taekwondo, Ultimate Frisbee and team building activities. The students really enjoyed the day and displayed our academy values effectively throughout.

Well done to all the students who took part.



COBALT COMMUNITY HUB

See below Cobalt Community Hub's timetable.

Cobalt Community Hub - Timetable

LEARN – CONNECT – THRIVE – BELONG

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|---|---|---|---|
| Liverpool in Work Drop-In 10am – 12pm | Shared Reading/Creative Writing 10am – 12pm | Tiny Teeth Drop-In 10am – 12pm Music and Me 10.15am-11am Parents' group for 0-4 years | Queen of Greens 9.30am – 10am In the Cobalt Car Park |
| Digital Skills with Cobalt 11am – 12pm Please bring your own device | Property Pool Plus Support 10am – 12pm (Last Tuesday of the month) Sales Enquiries: 10am – 12pm (Last Tuesday of the month) | LCC Health & Wellbeing Team - Drop In 10am – 12pm | Housing Drop-In 10am – 12pm |
| Multiply – Maths for Adults (Starts March 3rd) 1.30-2.30pm | Women's Support Group 1pm – 3pm | Social Prescribers - Drop-In 10am – 12pm | Energy Projects Plus 10am - 12pm Held on the first Thursday of every month |
| | Community Choir 5.15pm - 6.45pm | Weigh and Go 10am – 11.30am | Partners Credit Union 10am – 3pm |
| | Mandarin Sessions for Young People 5.45pm – 6.30pm | ESOL Conversation 1pm – 2.30pm English speaking for other languages | |
| | | 'Check Mates' Men's Support Group 1pm – 3pm | |

Dear Parents/Carers,

Ahead of this half term, we would be grateful if you would take the time to talk through some of the points below with the young people in your lives, so they can have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Bikes

We would strongly recommend investing in a bike tracking device. Both pedal bikes and e-bikes are significantly more likely to get recovered, should they be stolen, if they have a tracker. It also increases the potential for those committing these offences to be caught and prevent other people from being targeted.

Research shows that bikes are 83% more likely to be stolen if they're not registered on the national database: Bike Register. We regularly run bike marking events – check your local police Facebook page for events near to you.

Shared Spaces

Across the last few weeks we've seen an increase in reports of antisocial behaviour. We know that the vast majority of children and young people will be out enjoying the parks, beaches and other shared spaces safely and sensibly. A few, though, might make choices which have major consequences for themselves and others.

Even the most typically well-behaved kids can make impulsive decisions, and unfortunately those can result in their future jobs and even their future foreign travel being restricted. We would ask you to speak to young people, no matter how well behaved they are, about where they are going, who they are going with, and to check in with them regularly.

We would ask you to remind young people to walk away from places or people which could land them in trouble, and to talk with them about what they could say or do to get out of the situation if they feel something is getting out of hand.

Keep an eye on your local council and police Facebook page for any free activities to help keep the kids occupied in the holidays.

Water Safety

It can be incredibly tempting for children to want to play in local bodies of water when the weather is good. Please speak to young people about the dangers of entering water where no lifeguard is on duty.

Even in areas where a lifeguard is present, encourage young people to enter the water slowly and with care, warn against jumping from heights, and remind them that inflatables should never be used in open water.

9% of UK accidental drownings occur between May and August and there is a heightened risk of drowning when air temperatures are higher.

Fire

With the good weather, many people have everything they need for a barbeque on hand at the moment. Please make sure matches, lighters, fuel and accelerants are well out of reach of children.







Remind children and young people about just how quickly a small fire can get out of control – especially in dry weather.

Thank you.
































Merseyside Police

LUNCH MENU

Below is the our spring menu

|     | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| Week 1 | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| MENU |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Beef Meatball or Bolognese Pasta Garlic Bread  | Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries  | Stir Fry Chicken & Egg Fried Rice & Broccoli  | Chicken Burger & Chips  | Beef Enchilada Yellow Rice & Nachos Chips  |
|  | Assorted Baguettes or Wraps CHICKEN-BACON-TUNA-MEATBALL  | | | | |
|  | Macaroni Cheese Garlic Bread  | Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries  | Vegan Nugget Egg Fried Rice & Broccoli  | Beyond Burger & Chips  | Veggie Enchiladas Yellow Rice & Nachos Chips  |
|  | Selection of Salads / Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week) Selection Sandwiches: CHEESE-HAM-TUNA  | | | | |
|  | Ice-cream  | Yogurt  | 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/Pork Meatballs Mash-Veg and Gravy  | Indian Beef Curry Basmati Rice-Neen Bread  | Roast Chicken/Pork Yorkshire Pudding-Veg and Gravy  | Chicken Goujons Singapore Noodles Prawn Cracker  |
|  | Assorted Baguettes or Wraps CHICKEN-BACON-TUNA-MEATBALL  | | | | |
|  | Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries  | Vegetable Meatballs Mash-Veg and Gravy  | Indian Veggie Curry Basmati Rice-Neen Bread  | Roasted Vegetable Yorkshire Pudding-Veg and Gravy  | Vegetable Singapore Stir Fry Noodles Veggie Cracker  |
|  | Selection of Salads / Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week) Selection Sandwiches: CHEESE-HAM-TUNA  | | | | |
|  | Ice-cream  | Mixed Muffins  | School Cake  | Yogurt  | Choc-Ice  |

Any special order or allergy than the main menu please ask the kitchen before 10:30 am

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