

OCTOBER 3, 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,

We are now over halfway through the first half-term of 2025–26, and it has been great to see everyone settling back into the routines of school life. Last week, we had the pleasure of welcoming families from local primary schools to our Open Evening. It was a fantastic event, and I was genuinely encouraged by the positive feedback. Many families shared that while Dixons Croxteth had not initially been their first choice, they left feeling confident and excited about the possibility of their child joining our academy.

We also welcomed one of our Trustees to the academy last week. They toured lessons and offered valuable feedback on how we can continue to improve. These visits are always challenging, but they help us grow and refine our practice.

Our students have been busy too, with trips to the University of Liverpool and geography fieldwork visits. The academy is a vibrant, bustling place, full of energy and learning.

This week, we have seen a rise in the number of corrections issued. In the first few weeks of term, we always give students time to settle and adjust, showing leniency where appropriate. However, to achieve the exceptional outcomes we strive for, we maintain very high expectations. Corrections are a key part of this, and we really appreciate your continued support. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year.

Next week, I am looking forward to welcoming Vicky Beer, the Regional Schools Commissioner, to the academy. Her last visit was during a very different time for us when the academy was under threat of closure. I am excited to share the progress we have made and to hear her feedback. We are also planning our annual Wellbeing Walk, which was a highlight last year. It is a chance to spend time outdoors with students, talk, and connect. We will be sharing more details in next week's Vlog.

Finally, you may have seen the launch of our new Facebook page, with Instagram to follow soon. This is all new to me, but it is something parents have asked for and we are always keen to listen and respond to feedback.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards,

Mr Duggan
Principal



Mr Duggan
Principal

PRINCIPALS HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK



Through our Student Voice and Council, students have shared that lunchtimes can sometimes feel a little dull. In response, we have made a few changes to bring more energy and enjoyment to the middle of the day.

Students helped choose what is shown on our interactive screens during lunch, and we now have a weekly schedule that includes Match of the Day, science and nature documentaries, quizzes, sports highlights, and YouTube. It has been great to see students engaging with these choices.

More importantly, students told us they would like more opportunities to get outside, enjoy fresh air, and relax. Mr Makin has kindly purchased footballs, table tennis tables and skipping ropes – all of which are now available for students to use at lunchtime.

My personal highlight this week was playing table tennis with students. I will admit I am not very good (and I was trying!), but it was brilliant to laugh, relax, and enjoy some friendly competition. The students certainly enjoyed beating me! Next week, I might even give Double Dutch skipping a go – though I suspect I will need a bit of practice!

OPEN EVENING



On Thursday 25 September, we were delighted to welcome Year 5 and 6 families from our local primary schools into Dixons Croxteth for our Open Evening. Despite the event coinciding with other open evenings across the city, it was a tremendous success.

We were thrilled with the number of families who attended and even more pleased by the kind comments and praise shared throughout the evening. Many families arrived simply intending to “have a look,” unsure if Dixons Croxteth would be the right choice. However, after experiencing the atmosphere, meeting our staff and students, and seeing the school in action, they left feeling inspired and excited, many now adding us to their list of preferred schools.

Since the event, we have had a number of families reach out who were unable to attend, asking for tours and whether we will be hosting another evening. While we are unable to offer a second Open Evening at this time, we are arranging group tours for families who wish to visit. Please contact the academy as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly our students. From Year 7 to Year 11, they supported the event as guides, subject ambassadors, and School Leaders. Their enthusiasm and pride in their school were evident throughout the evening, they were an absolute credit to Dixons Croxteth.

A special mention goes to our Year 11 students who spoke in the main hall. Their reflections on their journey at Dixons Croxteth were heartfelt and inspirational, leaving a lasting impression on our visitors.

If you know anyone who missed the evening, please encourage them to get in touch with the academy quickly. We would love to welcome them in and share what makes Dixons Croxteth such a special place to learn and grow.

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIPS

LOGGERHEADS

Year 11 students visited the River Alyn in North Wales, they investigated how the river channel changed as it flows downstream by calculating cross sectional area and velocity measurements. Analysis was completed and conclusions drawn in preparation for their GCSE paper 3. Well done all.



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIPS

LAKE IDWAL

Our Year 9 geography students followed a 3 km circular walking route around Lake Idwal in the Snowdonia National Park. Good weather conditions allowed students to investigate evidence of glaciated landforms in the Welsh Mountains.



YEAR 7 FOOTBALL TEAM



The Year 7 football team played their 1st football match as Dixons Croxteth Academy. Unfortunately, they did not get the result they were looking for but their attitude, resilience and team spirit was outstanding.

It was a very competitive game with Helsby High School edging the game but the team showed some really positive signs we have got a good season ahead. Well done to Captain George leading by example and Kai , Kai and Elylson scoring the goals.

TRUSTEE JAMES BARRON VISIT

On Tuesday 23 September, we were pleased to welcome James Barron, one of our valued Dixons Trustees, to the academy. James plays a vital role in our community, holding the academy to account and supporting our ongoing drive for excellence.

During his visit, James toured the building, dropped into lessons to observe teaching and learning in action, and spent time with our canteen staff during the busy lunch period. He also met with the Senior Leadership Team to offer feedback and advice.

James was both supportive and constructively challenging in his conversations with leaders. He asked probing questions about how we plan to raise attainment and continue to improve attendance, showing a deep commitment to the success of our students. His approach reflects the balance we value in our governance, high expectations paired with genuine care for our staff and students.

We are grateful for James's time, insight, and dedication. He is planning to return next half term to continue his work with us, including meeting with our student leadership team and offering further guidance as we strive to improve.

Thank you, James, for your continued support.

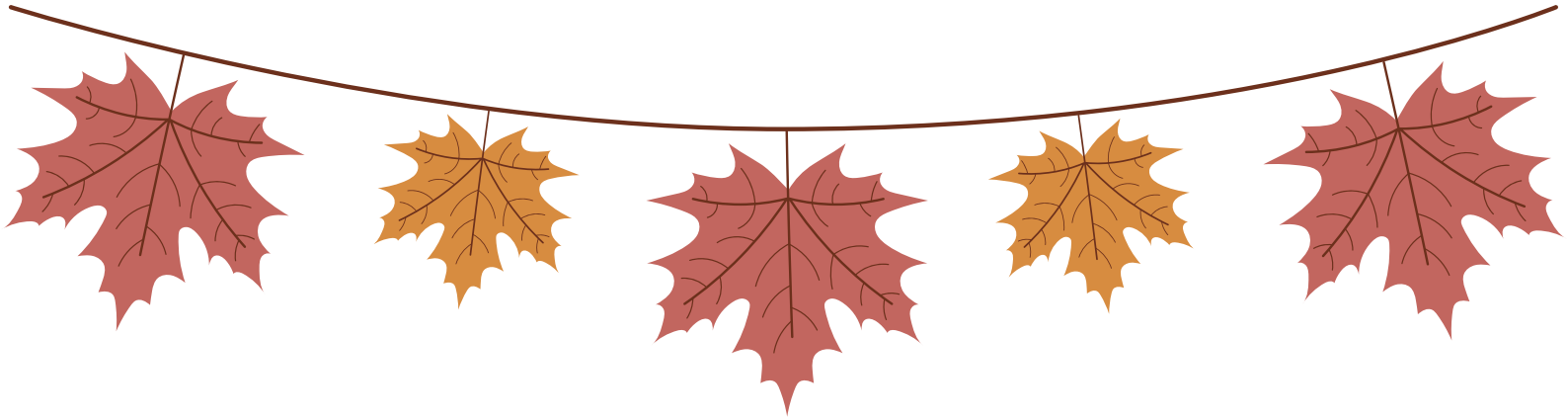
ART TRIP



As part of our Art GCSE our students had the opportunity to visit our city and take part in an architectural drawing day taking in history, culture and religion. We began our day inside and outside the Metropolitan Cathedral taking photographs and producing timed sketches. From there we walked down Hope Street observing and recording the RIBA award winning Everyman theatre, the Philharmonic Dining rooms and Philharmonic hall.

Students spent some time observing the Georgian style architecture which surrounds LIPA and used longer periods of time to capture perspective looking down Hope Street. The afternoon was spent inside the Anglican Cathedral recording a very different style of Architectural construction methods and materials. An atmospheric experience as the organ was being tuned on that day!!! A fantastic day was had by all and we will be sharing some of our images with you in our school displays and exhibitions.

COMING UP THIS OCTOBER



THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER – NHS YEAR 9 QUESTIONNAIRES

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER – YEAR 7 WELCOME EVENING

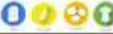
THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER – WELLBEING WALKS

FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER – END OF TERM



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 
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SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPANY



Remember to place your portrait photograph order by
Sunday 05/10/2025
before the exclusive prices end

Every order generates funds for your school too

www.schoolphotographs.co.uk



Remember to place your child's
photograph order by Sunday 5 October
2025 before exclusive prices end.

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