

JANUARY 30, 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,

Thank you so much for all the warm and thoughtful messages following last week's video blog. It has been incredibly encouraging to hear how much families appreciated learning more about our recent Ofsted inspection. Your support means a great deal, and it reinforces the strong partnership we continue to build between school and home. I am looking forward to sharing the report with you once it is published.

As we reach the halfway point of the academic year, there is so much happening across the school, and even more to look forward to.

Year 11 are now preparing for their second round of mock examinations. These assessments play a vital role in helping students identify strengths and focus areas ahead of the summer exam series. We are proud of the determination they continue to show.

Year 10 are beginning to explore their future pathways, thinking carefully about the next steps in their education or careers after Year 11. This is an exciting stage, and we will continue to support them with guidance and information.

Year 9 are preparing to make their GCSE option choices. This is a significant milestone, and we are committed to ensuring that every student feels confident, informed, and supported throughout the process.

Years 7 and 8 are benefitting from a refreshed and more responsive co-curricular programme. We have been refining our offer to ensure activities and opportunities align closely with their interests and needs.

On Wednesday evening, I had the pleasure of visiting Shino's Café in Croxteth for the first meeting of our prospective Local Academy Ambassadors. This group will meet regularly with myself and the principals of our three Liverpool schools to offer community insight and help us reflect on how we can continue to improve. The meeting was extremely positive. Two key themes emerged from the feedback:

- Strengthening and celebrating appreciations – identifying how we recognise achievements and positive behaviour even more effectively.
- Deepening community connections – exploring new ways to work with families, local organisations, and the wider community.

These conversations are invaluable, and I am grateful for everyone's openness and commitment.

A highlight this week has been listening to our Student Council share their thoughts on potential changes to the school uniform. Students have said they would like a uniform that is more modern, more comfortable, and more practical. We are now gathering views from staff, students, and our uniform suppliers. If any parents or carers would like to contribute—whether that is suggestions, concerns, or positive feedback about the current uniform, please do reach out. Your voice is important, and any changes will be communicated as early as possible.

After half term, I will be hosting a series of coffee mornings to welcome more families into school. These sessions are a lovely opportunity to see first hand the work we do, ask questions, and share ideas. If you would like to attend, please get in touch.

Thank you all once again for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mr Duggan
Principal



Mr Duggan
Principal

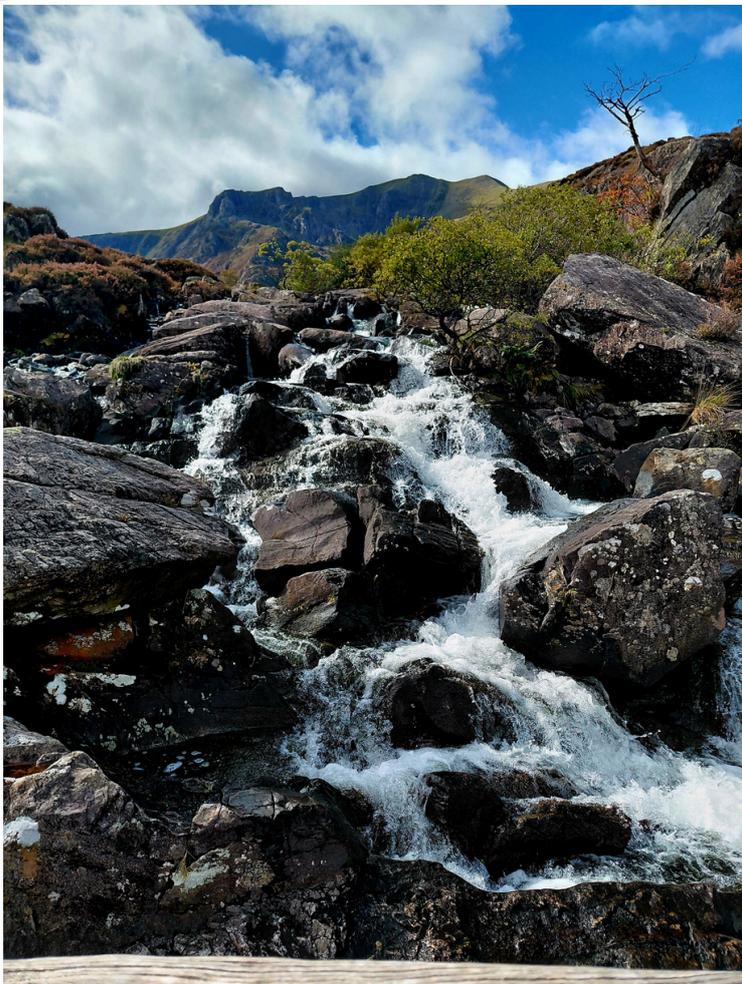
GEOGRAPHY ART INSTALLATION

Geography students visited a glaciated landscape in North Wales and investigated the natural and human impacts upon it.

Lake Idwal is a stunning, crystal-clear glacial lake located in a dramatic mountain bowl within the Snowdonia National Park in North Wales.

It is surrounded by high, rugged peaks and is known for its dramatic geological features, rare alpine flora, and, often, a mysterious, mist-shrouded atmosphere.

All students were encouraged to participate in the photography challenge, with the aim to focus the camera on capturing evidence of the power of physical geography.



DEBATE MATE

On Thursday, schools from around Liverpool came to Dixons Croxteth for the Liverpool round of the Urban Debate League. Our two teams debated strongly against other schools and were commended on their content and confidence in the matches.

Dixons Croxteth won two out of four matches and were incredibly close for the other two. A fantastic result, especially considering this was the first formal debate our students had taken part in!

All students showed great sportsmanship, resilience, and kindness in a nerve-wracking environment.

Well done Jaidy, Jayden, Leo, Savvas, Lucas, Tyce, Elliot and David!

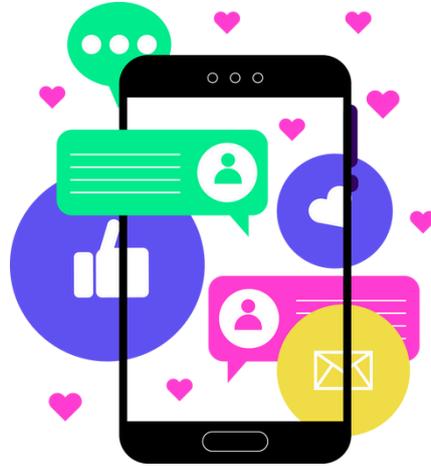


ACADEMY MENU

Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU					
	Italian Meatballs Spaghetti Garlic Bread 	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Katsu Chicken Rice & Broccoli Prawn Crackers 	Mediterranean Grilled Beef New Potatoes Glazed Carrots 	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 Meatballs Spaghetti Garlic Bread 	Mix Vegetables Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Roasty Veggie Stew 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 	Choc Chip Flapjack 	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 	Chicken Thigh Yorkshire Pudding-Veg and Gravy 	Chicken Tikka Naan Bread Basmati Rice 	Beef Bolognese Pasta Garlic Bread 	Salt-Peppers Chicken Chunk & Noodles Veggie Spring Rolls
	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 	Veggie Pasta Bake Garlic Bread 	Veggie Tikka Naan Bread New Potatoes 	Macaroni Cheese Garlic Bread 	Salt & Pepper Veggie Singapore Noodles-Broccoli
	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 	Twin Lollies Ice 	Chocolate Cake
Any special order or allergy than the main menu please ask the kitchen before 10:30 am					

PHONE POLICY AT DIXONS CROXTETH



At Dixons Croxteth, we keep our policies simple and consistent.

Our phone policy is straightforward:
“Seen or heard – it is confiscated.”

If a student’s phone is seen or heard during the school day, it will be confiscated and a 20-minute correction will be issued.

We know that many schools are moving towards completely banning phones on site, and some use systems where phones are collected in secure pouches.

While we understand these approaches, we believe students should have autonomy and learn to make the right decisions. We also recognise that phones are often needed for safety on the journey to and from school and that owning a phone is a social norm.

However, phones can cause significant issues in school, including problems linked to social media apps, which take staff time away from supporting teaching and learning. For this reason, we will continue with our current policy.

A reminder: If a phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated. If a student needs to contact a family member during the school day, they can do so by speaking to Reception or their Head of Year.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a focused and safe learning environment.

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