

DECEMBER 5, 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,

I hope everyone is starting to feel festive as we look forward to the Christmas holidays. The academy is full of cheer with festive music during transitions and our Christmas tree in the heart space. This week we hosted our annual Christmas Pensioners' Party, which was a wonderful celebration with our local community, and we are excited for our very first Dixons Croxteth Winter Concert on Thursday, 18 December, a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the creativity and talent of our students.

We were delighted to welcome Luke Sparkes, School and College Trust Leader, who visited lessons with myself and Mrs Morgan. Observing Maths, IT, Geography and English made me incredibly proud of how far we have come. The engagement in GCSE English, the recall in Geography and the challenge in Maths were outstanding. These moments remind us of the progress we have made and the dedication of our staff and students. I am confident that our results will continue to improve as we maintain this momentum.

Next Thursday, we will close at lunchtime so staff can focus on intervention strategies for Year 11. With mock papers now in, we must address any misconceptions to ensure success. I appreciate this may be frustrating for families in Years 7–10, but please know we will do the same for your children when they reach Year 11. These interventions are vital to help students achieve their full potential.

Our students also attended a Youth Awareness Event at the Clubmoor Centre, engaging with guest speakers on how to stay safe in society. This links to our strong Personal Development curriculum, which adapts to meet emerging community needs and prepares students for life beyond the academy. We want every student to leave us not only with excellent academic outcomes but also with the skills and confidence to thrive in the wider world.

We are currently reviewing homework expectations. Homework is one of our key learning habits and is essential for success. High-performing schools across the country show that independent work outside lessons makes a real difference. Our students are in direct competition with these schools, and we must create a culture where homework is normal and valued. It is not about avoiding sanctions – it is about building habits that lead to success in life. We will share vlogs in the New Year to support families and students with this.

Attendance remains a top priority. Excellent attendance ensures excellent outcomes and happy, purposeful lives. Please help by establishing good routines, preparing uniform and equipment, and setting alarms. We expect 100% attendance between now and Christmas – let's finish the term strong together. Every day in school matters.

I will share more updates and vlogs, including one with our Head Student, as we approach the end of term. Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mr Duggan
Principal



Mr Duggan
Principal

LSSP NEW AGE CURLING EVENT



On Wednesday 26 November, the Liverpool Schools Sports Partnership hosted their primary schools' New Age Curling Event in our sports hall. Throughout the day over 20 primary schools from around the city took part in a fun packed competition led by our student leadership group in year 9. It was a really enjoyable day for all involved with our students once again being fantastic ambassadors for the academy and displaying confidence and leadership qualities.

CHRISTMAS PENSIONERS' PARTY 2025



On Thursday 4th December, we held our annual Christmas Pensioners' Party. As usual, our amazing students waited on our guests and ensured they had a great time. Guests enjoyed festive performances from our choir, dancers, pianist and solo singers. We all enjoyed a game of bingo with our Head Boy Monzer and Deputy Head Boy Ibrahim acting as bingo callers. We also gifted each guest a Christmas present to take home.

Guests were treated to a delicious 3 course Christmas dinner prepared and served by 4 of our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students – Paul, James, Alfie and Billy. A big thank you to Ms Redmond and Chefs Daniel and Paddy for preparing the food.

Feedback from guests included "we had an amazing afternoon and can't wait for next year!" and "the students were the stars of the afternoon, they are a credit to the academy and their families".

It was fantastic to welcome members of our local community to come in and share some festive cheer – we are already looking forward to next year!



CHRISTMAS PENSIONERS' PARTY 2025



LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY THROUGH THE TALENT FOUNDRY

Year 10 students visited Liverpool Hope University through the Talent Foundry. Students enjoyed a tour of the university and gained valuable information on Degree Apprenticeships. The students really enjoyed the day, working on their communication and problem solving skills through various activities.

This is part of our careers programme which helps us to deliver our mission ensuring that "all students succeed at university, or a real alternative, thrive in a rewarding career and have a purposeful and happy life."



GIRLSOLVE



In the Girlsolve sessions, we have been undertaking activities that build confidence and emotional intelligence, and we have been encouraging girls to reflect on the issues they face day to day. The sessions are structured to give the girls a voice and ensure they feel heard.

The girls have chosen to focus on the everyday sexism they face, and they want to raise awareness of it by creating a presentation they will deliver in school assemblies.

KOOTH MENTAL HEALTH SESSIONS

On Friday 28th November, our school hosted a series of Kooth mental health sessions aimed at empowering students across different year groups to take charge of their wellbeing. These sessions are a vital part of creating a positive and supportive school environment where mental health is openly discussed and understood.

Year 8 & Year 9 – Mental Fitness (Your Move Campaign)

Starting the day with mental fitness sessions for Years 8 and 9, Kooth introduced practical strategies to help students build resilience and maintain emotional balance. The Your Move campaign encourages young people to take small, positive steps toward better mental health, reinforcing the idea that wellbeing is an ongoing journey, not a destination.

Year 7 – Introduction to Kooth & Breaking the Stigma

For our youngest students, the focus was on introducing Kooth as a safe, confidential platform for mental health support. This session also tackled the stigma surrounding mental health, helping students understand that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

Year 10 & Year 11 – Coping with Exam Stress

As older students prepare for important exams, Kooth provided practical coping strategies to manage stress and anxiety. These tools are essential for maintaining focus and confidence during what can be a challenging time.

Why These Sessions Matter

Mental health is just as important as physical health. By giving students access to resources like Kooth and teaching them practical skills, we're helping them build resilience, reduce stigma, and feel supported throughout their school journey. These sessions are more than lessons—they're life skills that will benefit students far beyond the classroom. Thank you to all the staff from Kooth who delivered the session which the students thoroughly engaged in.



WINTER CONCERT



We are excited to announce this year's Winter Concert, a festive celebration – displaying student talent. After weeks of dedicated rehearsals, students from across the school are preparing to take the stage with a vibrant mix of performances that highlight their hard work, imagination, and growing confidence.

This year's showcase features drama pieces, festive poems, dynamic dance routines, vocal and instrumental music performances, and collaborative items that bring all three disciplines together. The students have worked incredibly hard to prepare an exciting show, and their achievements deserve to be celebrated. Come along and support the performers as they share everything they've been rehearsing – it's an event not to be missed.

EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERFORMING



We have two new after school clubs on offer – covering both dance and drama/acting. Students who sign up and get involved will have the opportunity to represent the school at a variety of events, including open evenings, school celebrations, and the newly introduced annual Christmas and Summertime showcases.

This new after school programme aims to enrich the Performing Arts provision here at Dixons Croxteth and provide students with regular, structured opportunities to develop and share their talents!

Dance Club – Tuesdays (3:30pm–4:30pm/5:00pm)

The Tuesday sessions will focus on dance in a variety of styles, offering students the chance to explore genres such as lyrical/contemporary, commercial, jazz, cheerleading and more.

The club is open to all levels and aims to support skill development, creativity, and confidence through practical workshops and choreography.

Acting for Stage, Camera & Musical Theatre – Wednesdays (3:30pm–4:30pm/5:00pm)

On Wednesdays, delivered is a combined acting and musical theatre programme. Sessions will cover acting for both stage and camera, character work, script practice, improvisation, vocal skills, and ensemble performance. Providing a broad introduction to multiple areas of performance.

Notify Miss Rushby to sign up!

YEAR 11 PARENTS' EVENING



For students to achieve their best, they need to know that school and family are working together to support them. Attendance at Parents' Evening is vital – it shows students that we are united in helping them succeed.




































We want these evenings to be positive and constructive. While some conversations may be challenging, they are essential to ensure progress and success. To further support families, we will also be inviting members of our wider community into the academy, including representatives from Cobalt, NHS and the Police, should you wish to speak with them.

We expect 100% attendance from parents, but we understand that life can be busy. If you cannot attend, please inform your child's Head of Year and we will make alternative arrangements. We are happy to visit families or arrange other ways to ensure these important conversations take place.

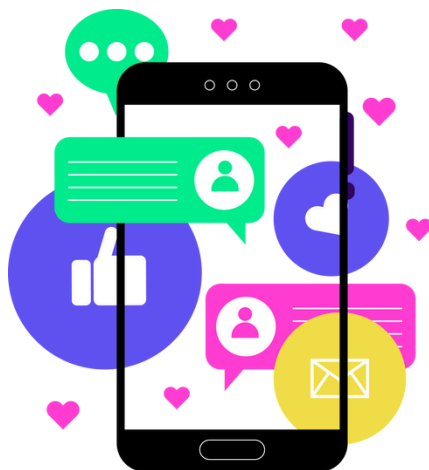
Next week is Year 11 Parents' Evening, scheduled directly after the mock exams to maximise impact and provide timely feedback. Our Careers Advisor, Leona, will be there on the night and there will also be staff from some sixth forms and colleges in attendance for parents and students to speak to.

Thank you for your continued support – together, we can ensure every student is successful.

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					

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