

MARCH 6, 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](http://www.dixonscr.com)

# NEWSLETTER UPDATE

## Dear Families,

My highlight this week has been some of the families of Year 6 pupils who have been allocated a place at Dixons Croxteth. We have had more families than ever before choosing us as their first preference, and I am delighted that we will welcome a full cohort of Year 7 students next year. We already have a waiting list of families who did not secure a place, so if you know anyone who missed out, please encourage them to contact us so we can support them.

Dixons Croxteth is now a thriving school with so much happening every day. This week, our students represented us brilliantly at a Debate Mate competition, demonstrating confidence and maturity. Our Year 8 students also took part in a STEM event (science, technology, engineering and mechanics), and the facilitators were full of praise for their enthusiasm and conduct. There is also a real buzz around the upcoming ski trip to Italy—we are finalising the last details, and it promises to be a fantastic experience for our students. This is exactly the kind of vibrant, opportunity-rich school I have always wanted for our community.

Teaching and learning continues to go from strength to strength. We are working closely with external partners, and our teachers are being both supported and challenged to be the very best they can be. I have loved touring the building this week: observing Year 7 creative writing, Year 8 cooking in food technology, Year 9 algebra, and Year 10 exploring Macbeth in English. I also met with Heads of Faculty to reflect on the Year 11 mock exams, and I am confident that we will see further improvements in attainment across all subjects this summer.

Each day at Dixons Croxteth, we ask one simple but powerful question: How can I be better today than yesterday? We listen, we reflect, and we act. In recent family groups, I received helpful feedback on how to improve this newsletter—many of you will remember that communication was an area we needed to strengthen when I first arrived. We have now added simple activities, recipes, and advice to support learning at home, and we will soon be reintroducing our Student Spotlight to celebrate those who consistently demonstrate our values. Please keep sharing your ideas; your feedback genuinely shapes what we do.

A reminder that students will not be in school this Thursday and Friday as staff take part in a 'Data and Planning' day. This time allows teachers to assess your child's learning in depth and plan targeted interventions to support them. I am committed to giving staff the time they need to do this well, because it directly benefits your child.

As you will have seen in the latest vlog, I have asked key members of staff to share more about their roles and how they support your child at Dixons Croxteth. I am excited for you to meet more of our team.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Warm regards,

**Mr Duggan**  
**Principal**



**Mr Duggan**  
Principal

# CITY OF SPORTING EXCELLENCE

On Friday 27th February, a group of our year 8 students took part in the City of Sporting Excellence event hosted by Liverpool FC Foundation and The Jockey Club held at Aintree Racecourse.

The students thoroughly enjoyed taking part in some leadership and teamwork activities as well as some educational sessions about the Grand National at Aintree. It was a great day and the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and focused and took part in some valuable experiences.



# STEM – CHEMICAL ENGINEERING



On Tuesday 3rd March, 36 of our year 8 students participated in a STEM event focused on Chemical Engineering. The event really helped open pupils' eyes to the incredible range of careers connected to chemical engineering.



Students explored the chemicals and materials that are part of almost everything around us, and behind everyday products there's a whole network of roles working together to create them.

The students had a wonderful experience and displayed a really engaging and positive attitude throughout the day.

# ARTIST OF THE WEEK

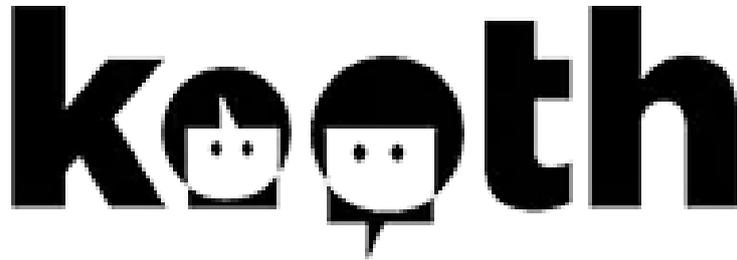
Lilah-Rose, Year 8



Lilah-Rose from year 8 is currently studying the mechanical illustrations of or chosen artist Paolozzi. She has produced 4 illustrations showing how she has developed her work and recorded these in different media.

She has taken great care when observing details and has recorded accurately when capturing structures from her Paolozzi research. This links to this cycle's career pathways of Graphic Design and Fashion Design..can't wait to see her design ideas for her T-shirt print!

# AT HOME THIS WEEK



## **Supporting your child during difficult times:**

### **Providing empathy for your child – practical tips from Kooth**

#### **Try to set aside your own difficulties for a moment**

When your own worries and frustrations are at play, it can be really hard to see things through your child's eyes. Setting aside a time just for them can be a helpful way to focus solely on their feelings, without the background noise of your own difficulties

Setting aside some time for your child and parking your own feelings doesn't mean burying the things on your mind, it simply means pausing your own stresses just for a moment, to focus on theirs.

#### **Name the feelings**

When children of any age are experiencing difficult feelings, it can be really hard for them to identify how they feel, or to know how to manage their feelings. By recognizing your child's feelings first, not only are you helping them, but it also brings their emotional state into your awareness. This can help you see through their eyes in that moment.

If you feel their feelings are a result of something going on at home, such as financial worries or a relationship breakdown, this could be a good opportunity to name those feelings, and to explore those topics sensitively.

For example: "I can see you've been quite upset lately. I wonder if it's because of X?" Even if you don't get it quite right, the message is that you are listening, and that you care.

# THE CROXTETH COOKBOOK



## BANANA BREAD

*A classic recipe that's simple, moist, and full of banana flavor. Perfect for using up overripe bananas, this banana bread has a light, tender crumb and just the right amount of sweetness. It's ideal as a breakfast treat, snack, or dessert, and it pairs perfectly with a cup of tea or coffee*



PREP TIME  
20 MIN



COOK TIME  
50 - 60 MIN



SERVINGS  
8 SLICES



### Ingredients

- 100g unsalted butter or margarine
- 175g caster sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 very ripe bananas (mashed)
- 225g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 2 tbsp milk

### Tesco Price list

- Stockwell Soft Spread - £1.00
- Silver spoon caster sugar - £1.20
- Tesco Large Eggs - £2.10
- 2 loose bananas - 32p
- Stockwell self-raising flour - 70p
- Stockwell baking powder - 57p
- Tesco Semi Skimmed milk - 85p

Total = £6.74

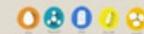
### Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan) or 350°F. Grease a 9x5-inch loaf pan and line with baking paper.
2. Mix dry ingredients: In a large bowl, combine flour and baking powder.
3. Mix wet ingredients: In another bowl, whisk together mashed banana, eggs, sugar and milk.
4. Combine the wet and dry ingredients, stirring just until blended.
5. Pour batter into the loaf pan and smooth the top.
6. Bake for 50 - 60 minutes, until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean.
7. Cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

#### Notes:

- Add chocolate chips for a sweet twist.
- Storage: Store the banana bread in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 3 days or refrigerate for up to a week.

# ACADEMY MENU

  		Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>MENU</b>							
	<b>Beef Bolognese Pasta</b> Garlic Bread 	<b>BBQ Chicken Strip Roll</b> Potatoes Fries-Coleslaw 	<b>Salt-Peppers Chicken Chunk &amp; Noodles</b> Veggie Spring Rolls 	<b>Beef Stroganoff</b> Rice & Roast Veggie 	<b>Chicken Burger &amp; Chips</b> 		
	<b>Hot Sandwiches</b> Italian Meatball Melt 	<b>Jumbo Sausage Roll</b> 	<b>Hot Sandwiches</b> Spicy Italian 	<b>Jumbo Sausage Roll</b> 	<b>Hot Sandwiches</b> Deli Meat (Pepperoni, Turkey, Cheese) 		
	<b>Veggie Pasta</b> Garlic Bread 	<b>Homemade Pastrami Deli Roll</b> Potatoes Fries-Coleslaw 	<b>Salt &amp; Pepper Veggie</b> Singapore Noodles-Broccoli 	<b>Chicken Enchilada</b> Yellow Rice & Nachos Chips 	<b>Beyond Burger &amp; Chips</b> 		
	<b>Salad Bar:</b> Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Peppers, Sweetcorn / <b>Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week)</b> <b>Selection Sandwiches:</b> Cheese, Ham, Tuna / <b>Paninis:</b> Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken, Bacon / <b>Wraps:</b> Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken. 						
	<b>Ice-Cream</b> 	<b>Sugar Ring Donuts</b> Topping Sauce 	<b>Chocolate Cake</b> 	<b>Mixed Muffins</b> 	<b>School Cake</b> 		
Any special order or allergy than the main menu please ask the kitchen before 10:30 am							

  		Week 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>MENU</b>							
	<b>Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza</b> Potatoes Fries 	<b>Tandoori Chicken</b> Naan Bread Basmati Rice 	<b>Sausages</b> (Beef-Pork-Chicken) Beans & Hash 	<b>Chicken Grilled</b> Jollof Rice Macedoine Veggie & Sweetcorn 	<b>Chicken Burger &amp; Chips</b> 		
	<b>Hot Sandwiches</b> Chicken-Cheese & Garlic Mayo 	<b>Jumbo Sausage Roll</b> 	<b>Hot Sandwiches</b> BBQ Chicken & Cheese 	<b>Jumbo Sausage Roll</b> 	<b>Hot Sandwiches</b> Spicy Italian 		
	<b>Mix Vegetables</b> Pizza Potatoes Fries 	<b>Chicken / Veggie Tikka</b> Naan Bread Basmati Rice 	<b>Veggie Pasta Bake</b> Garlic Bread 	<b>Beef Minced Kebabs</b> Jollof Rice Macedoine Veggie & Sweetcorn 	<b>Beyond Burger &amp; Chips</b> 		
	<b>Salad Bar:</b> Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Peppers, Sweetcorn / <b>Chef's Homemade Soup (Twice a Week)</b> <b>Selection Sandwiches:</b> Cheese, Ham, Tuna / <b>Paninis:</b> Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken, Bacon / <b>Wraps:</b> Plain Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Sweet Chilli Chicken. 						
	<b>Mixed Muffins</b> 	<b>Sugar Ring Donuts</b> Topping Sauce 	<b>School Cake</b> 	<b>Ice-Cream</b> 	<b>Chocolate Cake</b> 		
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



**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](mailto:dcr_safeguarding@dixonscr.com)



Mr I Duggan  
Principal



Mr M Little  
Safeguarding lead  
Assistant Principal



Mr I Makin  
Vice Principal



Mr Owens  
Safeguarding officer



Mrs C Watson  
Safeguarding officer



Miss R Kayll  
Safeguarding officer



Mr Boswarva  
Safeguarding officer



Ms T Redmond  
Safeguarding officer



Miss L Cox  
Safeguarding officer



Miss R Bowers  
Safeguarding officer



Miss P Goodwin  
Safeguarding officer