



Welcome message from the Principal

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and refreshed after what I trust was an enjoyable and safe half term holiday for everyone. As we embark on the final term of the academic year here at Dixons Croxteth, I want to share some key information with you all.

We finished last term with two additional training days. The purpose of one of the days was to train more staff to be designated safeguarding leads within the Academy. I am committed to building a culture of safeguarding and I have included some information from Mr Little, Assistant Principal (Designated Safeguarding Lead), about our vision for safeguarding in this newsletter as well as our updated Safeguarding team.



Mr Duggan
Principal

We also sent staff to observe practice from other academies from our Trust. Teachers visited schools in Liverpool, Bradford and Leeds. It was interesting to hear from our Head of Maths, that the delivery of the Curriculum at Dixons Trinity Chapeltown (an outstanding Academy in Leeds, achieving exceptional outcomes) is very similar to the delivery at Dixons Croxteth. It was clear from staff feedback, that the students in other academies take much more responsibility for their own learning, specifically with regard to equipment and punctuality. This is understandable, however, as we are still in the early stages of improvement, but actions to rectify this have already begun.

Teaching staff also benefitted at the end of the last term by having time to move classrooms. Currently students are located in year group 'zones' at DCR. This was to minimize movement around the building and to reduce internal truancy as staff know where all students should be. However, having consulted with the student council, teachers and the senior leadership team I feel the time is right for students to have more autonomy for their learning and they will now transition to faculty areas around the school. This is a big change for Year 7 and 8 as they have never done this before and Year 9 — 10 have had learning in zones due to Covid. Lots of planning and preparation has been put into this and I will communicate the successes and areas of improvement to all parents.

Finally, I would like to thank all year 11 students for their conduct so far during the GCSE exams they have been a credit to the academy and themselves and I am incredibly proud of them. We use external invigilators who visit many schools around the local area and they have commented that:

"The boys are a credit. Their behavior was excellent; before, during and after the exam."

"I have been to various schools but, the organisation here and conduct of the students is exemplary."

I hope this continues throughout the exam season. Well done to the students!

Welcome to Year 6

We are thrilled to share that our initial Welcome to Year 6 Open Evening on 22 May was a tremendous success. It was a pleasure to welcome prospective students and their families to our academy. Visitors enjoyed guided tours of our facilities, met with our passionate staff, and had insightful conversations with our current students about life at Dixons Croxteth Academy.

The positive feedback we received highlights the enthusiasm and interest in our academy. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of the evening.



- "The staff and students are lovely and so helpful."
- "The Science presentation was fantastic!"
- "James and Alfie helped us and they were such lovely lads."
- "Such a welcoming atmosphere."
- "It was wonderful to speak to current students."
- "The student who showed us around was so polite and friendly - he answered all of our questions."

We understand the transition from primary to secondary school is a very anxious time for families. Vice Principal Mrs Morgan is working diligently visiting all primaries, meeting students and teachers and organising the transition day on Wednesday 3 July.

It is the first time in recent years that we have been allocated a full cohort of students in Year 7 and we look forward to welcoming them all to the Academy.



Safeguarding at Dixons Croxteth

Safeguarding at Dixons Croxteth is our top priority, and ensuring student safety and well-being is fundamental to their success and happiness. Safeguarding is a collective responsibility that involves creating a secure environment where students, families and staff feel safe, protected, valued, and supported. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all children regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background. The school provides a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We nurture positive learning environments, where everyone works together enthusiastically to create a caring culture.

We recognise that all adults in school have a full and active part to play in protecting our children from harm and that student welfare is our paramount concern. We ensure that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities concerning safeguarding and is provided with appropriate training to recognise, identify and respond to safeguarding concerns relating to young people. All necessary steps are taken to ensure that adults in school are working safely.

Every member of staff is trained to deal with safeguarding concerns, and they know the correct process of recording, reporting and referring. Our Safeguarding team will deal with concerns raised by students, families, and staff to ensure the right support is put in place, whether it be through in school support or external agency support. All our safeguarding team have up to date DSL training, qualifications and experience, along with external support from the trust national and regional leads for safeguarding.

Sometimes we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child or young person's welfare. We will ensure that concerns about our children are discussed with their parents/carers unless we have reason to believe that such a move would be contrary to the child's welfare. Confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.

By prioritising safeguarding, we aim to create a nurturing environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and personally. We encourage families to familiarise themselves with our safeguarding policies and participate actively in fostering a safe and supportive school community. Together, we can ensure that every student feels secure and empowered to achieve their full potential.



Mr M 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
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 Owen
Safeguarding Officer



Mrs C Watson
Safeguarding Officer

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 5 June	Year 10 Parents Evening
Thursday 27 June	Year 10 Oppidan Education mentoring session (more info to follow)
Wednesday 3 July	Year 6 Transition Day
Thursday 18 July	Final day for Students of the academic year

Literacy at DCR

Our duty is to develop students who are confident readers, writers, speakers, and listeners, who value these life skills and strive to improve them.

We recognise that it is the responsibility of all staff from all subject areas to teach literacy skills as an integral part of all subjects.

In order to raise the profile of literacy across the curriculum, to support students with their learning and to raise standards across the curriculum, there are two 'literacy' expectations of all students at all times:

1. Speak in full sentences and no slang (speaking)
2. Track the speaker/s (listening)

Students are expected to complete tasks such as: read in silence and discuss their reading.

Staff are required to model reading aloud and reading in silence and facilitate class discussion.

It is expected that students will read for at least 30 minutes each evening. It is important that you encourage your child to read challenging books. Your child's teachers will be able to help support the selection of a challenging book. Please engage with your child's reading

Seth and the Hunt - Children's book

Stephen Kerr from our Estates Team has achieved something quite remarkable. Alongside his dedication to his craft and role in estates, he has also had his children's book published "**Seth and the Hunt**," now available on Amazon. This wonderful story, inspired by his grandchild, showcases Stephen's creativity and dedication.

We've been fortunate to see the whole journey - from the start of the poem to the careful illustrations and, finally, the book's release.

This achievement serves as a beacon of possibility for our students, showing them that with hard work and dedication, along with passion, anything is possible.

You can purchase the book here: [Amazon](#)



Uniform

At Dixons Croxteth Academy we want students to be prepared for their next destination in life. Just as they will when they attend interviews for top jobs in the future, it is important that all students take pride in themselves and their appearance. There is an emphasis on being clean, tidy and presentable. This means all students must follow the uniform expectations including on their way to and from school. If a student wears the incorrect uniform, this wouldn't be fair on everyone else and, therefore, staff must issue a correction.

The KS3 uniform (Year 7 - Year 9)

- Plain black school trousers or a plain black school skirt. No leggings or tight fit trousers.
- Plain white collared shirt.
- Academy tie
- Academy jumper. Jumpers are optional.
- Academy blazer.
- Socks / tights must be plain black in colour and not sit above the knee.
- Plain black shoes or boots which are on or below the ankle (trainers, boots above the ankle and pumps are not suitable). Students wearing the wrong footwear will be placed in the removal room until the issue is resolved.

The KS4 Uniform (Year 10 - Year 11)

At Dixons Croxteth Academy we are preparing students in Key Stage 4 for the professional world of work. In Years 10 and 11, students must wear appropriate business dress. Business attire refers to the clothing that employees wear to work. Our dress code is practical and allows a choice within very clear boundaries.

- A suit (jacket and trousers / skirt / dress) must be plain grey, navy or black. No contrasting panels are allowed, and suits must be a slim, classic or regular fit (no skinny fit suits).
- A blazer should be worn at all times when moving around the academy.
- KS4 students are to wear an academy tie where their shirt has a collar.
- Shirts must be plain, and cuffs and collars must match the colour of the shirt.
- Plain black shoes or boots which are on or below the ankle (trainers, boots above the ankle and pumps are not suitable). Students wearing the wrong footwear will be required to change into academy provided clothing / footwear.
- A jumper can be worn but sweatshirts and branded sweaters are not permitted.

Visitors have commented on how smart our students look and they should wear our uniform with pride.

As a reminder, chewing gum is not permitted in the academy.

Summer water safety

Accidents are mostly preventable with the correct knowledge and judgment and here are our tips to staying safe in the water during the summer:

To enjoy the water safely and make the right call...

- **Enter slowly and carefully**
Think carefully about your ability to splash or swim in cold outdoor water. 49% of those who lost their life were classified as swimmers*. Are you really a good swimmer?
- **Stay within reach**
Don't go too far and stay within a standing depth.
- **Always be supervised**
Over 70% of fatal accidents occur in the absence of professional supervision. Seek life guarded areas and always make sure some one is available to raise the alarm.

Summer is an amazing time to enjoy our beautiful waterways but we must be mindful that warmer weather is directly linked to an increase in fatal drowning incidents.

Rivers and Lakes/Lochs pose the greatest statistical risk as there are often hazards that the average person is equipped to handle and there is a lack of professional supervision.

In an emergency...

- **Call 999**
Ask for the Fire and Rescue Service when inland and the Coastguard if at the coast. Don't enter the water to rescue.
- **If you're in trouble FLOAT and call for help**
Fall in or become tired – stay calm, float on your back and call for help. Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.



STOP AND THINK



STAY TOGETHER



CALL 999



FLOAT