



Welcome message from the Principal

I hope this message finds you well. I am delighted to announce the introduction of our new newsletter here at Dixons Croxteth. This initiative stems from our commitment to foster stronger communication channels between the school and families and comes from feedback that I have received.

Communication plays a pivotal role in the success of our students' educational journey. We understand the importance of keeping you informed about school events, important dates, academic updates, and exciting developments within our community. Therefore, we have launched this newsletter to ensure that you are consistently kept abreast of all pertinent information. We aim to send the newsletter fortnightly.

I have now completed a full year as Principal at Dixons Croxteth and would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. Your partnership is instrumental in creating a nurturing and conducive learning environment for our students. Together, we can continue to empower our students to achieve our mission of: ***ensuring all students succeed at university, or a real alternative, thrive in a rewarding career and have a purposeful and happy life.***

In the past year I have met with many parents, community leaders, educationalists and most importantly the amazing students at Dixons Croxteth. We have made significant changes to the academy and how we operate and will always take on feedback and continue to improve. Thank you once again for your ongoing support. I look forward to our continued collaboration and look forward to sharing more information with you through the bulletin.

Staff and students at Dixons are committed to three core values that underpin everything we do.

Work Hard

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.



Mr Duggan
Principal

Message from the Principal (continued)

We also focus on three key drivers: **Mastery**, which is the drive to get better at things that matter; **Autonomy**, or the drive to direct our own lives; and **Purpose**, which is the drive to connect to a cause larger than ourselves (*Dan Pink, 'Drive' – a brilliant read!*).

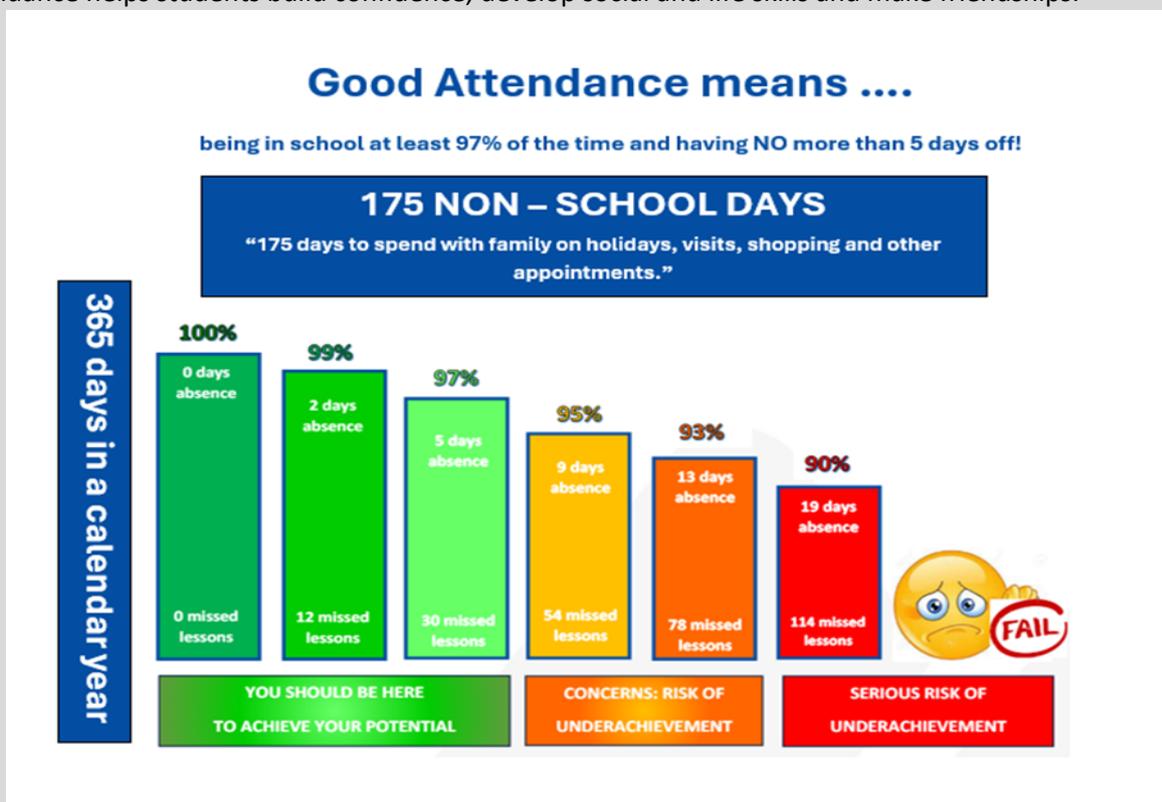
My message to students everyday at the Academy is to focus on success, live and practice our three values every day, to climb the mountain to university or a real alternative.

We are relentlessly bothered about our students and care deeply about their success. It is crucial that families work with us to enable students to realise our mission. I am looking forward to working with you as members of our family and encourage you to get in touch to visit and meet with me if you wish to discuss your child and the work we are doing at the Academy.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance is so important in any school and we have invested this year in appointing two attendance officers and have recently appointed an attendance manager to start in August. We have seen a huge increase in our overall attendance figures this year and will ensure we maintain our rigorous approach with attendance to ensure this continues to improve as we are still not where we need or want to be to fulfil our mission.

Positive attendance is essential to all students learning and happiness. Positive attendance will improve exam performance which in turn leads to further educational opportunities and improved job prospects. Positive attendance helps students build confidence, develop social and life skills and make friendships.



Punctuality is an essential life skill that shows reliability, discipline, and is essential for students to achieve their full educational potential. All students must arrive on site by 08:15am to ensure they are present in their morning meeting space for 08:20am. If a student arrives after 08:20am they will be recorded as late and they will receive a correction.

The attendance officers Billy and Leanne start to make their first day absence calls from 08.30am each morning.

Year 11 Exams

Year 11 are now in the final stages of their journey with us at Dixons Croxteth. GCSE exams commence on Friday 10 April. This is a high pressured time for the Year 11 and we will do everything to support them.

It is essential that all students including Year 11 follow all rules and routines as to cause as little disruption as possible for students. I have attached the exam timetable for Year 11 to the end of this newsletter.

I would like to wish all students well in there up coming GCSE examinations.

New Dining Hall

Last term we were able to launch our new dining hall at Dixons Croxteth. This has been a significant investment as we want students to have a pleasant area to eat and socialise during before school and during break and lunch.



One of our values is fairness and we have changed how we operate

at lunch time so that all students are treated fairly. Students are transitioned as a class Lunch, and we have a calm civilised start where a Senior Leader communicates any key messages and most importantly the menu for the day. Students are then dismissed table at a time to be served. This prevents pushing and rowdiness in the queue and has been received greatly by students.

The dining hall has been welcomed by students who have commented positively towards the changes. Any concerns such as what should be shown on the screens, which year groups line up first for food and if students should be in a seating plan have been discussed by the student council and the feedback to the Senior Leadership Team.

Water / Plastic Bottles

When I wrote to you at Easter I explained how the student council had spoken to me about becoming a 'greener' school. We have now stopped giving students plastic cups at break and lunch. This was due to the amount of waste and the fact the plastic is less recyclable .

I encourage your child to bring a reusable water bottle to the academy that they can fill up at the academy water stations and have throughout the school day. We have chosen to take this approach due to the:

- Environmental Impact
- Cost-Efficiency
- Setting a Positive Example

I must emphasize, children **MUST** not be out of lesson refilling water bottles or using the water fountains. This will result in a correction. Bottles can be refilled before school, break and lunch.



Chess Club

Here at Dixons Croxteth we are building a thriving chess club who recently took part in a competition at North Liverpool Academy. The Chess club meet every Tuesday after school with Mr. Brannan and the team is growing in numbers and confidence. They will be taking part in the regional competition at St Georges Hall in the coming weeks.



Anthony Walker Foundation

On Friday 19th April, students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 took part in the 'See me, be me' workshops led by the Anthony Walker foundation.



The aim of the workshops was to 'inspire young people to realise their potential in spite of the societal barriers and prejudice that may present themselves in society'.

As well as hearing from Catherina Quinn from the Anthony Walker Foundation, they also got to listen to the story of Claire Beerjeraz. Claire is a Liverpool based freelance Spoken Word Artist, Workshop Facilitator, and Creative Psychotherapist who spoke to the students about ambition, belief and overcoming barriers to achieve your potential.



Students loved the performance of spoken word that Claire gave and were certainly inspired by the workshops. Some of the students feedback stated that they had learnt that **'no matter what, you can achieve incredible things'** and that **'I should believe myself and never give up.'** All students were a credit to themselves and the academy.

Year 9/8 Parents Evening

Thank you to all parents that attended the recent Year 9 and Year 8 parents evening. It was great to see such a high number of families at both events. This year the target for parents evening is 80+%.

At all parent evening an anonymous family questionnaire will now be provided to feedback any issues and support us in school development.

If you cannot attend parents evening please let the academy know and we will arrange for feedback from classroom teachers on your child's: progress, attainment and attitude to learning.

We look forward to welcoming Year 7 and 10 in the coming weeks.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 10 May	Start of Year 11 GCSEs
Wednesday 8 May	Year 7 Parents evening
Wednesday 5 June	Year 10 Parents Evening

Attendance Recognition

It was lovely to recognise a vast number of our students from all year groups who have good attendance. Students were invited for a movie afternoon in which popcorn and treats were provided. All students were exemplary in upholding our values during the event and said it was nice to have their efforts recognised.

We will continue to recognise pupils who are getting it right across the academy for all aspects of school life.

“ATTENDANCE MATTERS—EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS”



Bell Curve Visit

Recently a number of students attended a science trip to see the 'Bell Curve' in Manchester.

'The Bell Curves looks at the ethics of DNA hacking technology. In 2020, two female scientists won a Nobel Prize in Chemistry. It was for the development of the revolutionary CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing technology. Often referred to as 'molecular scissors' it enables scientists to perform microsurgery on DNA, but it raises ethical questions.'



The play explored themes of identity, politics and ethics with two black females as the lead. It is also a comedy in parts so was fun and interesting for the students.

The students modelled all of our values on the visit and we had welcome feedback from the organisers of the event of their conduct. WELL DONE!!!

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.