

OCTOBER 4, 2024

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 & WELL-BEING WALKS

Dear Dixons Croxteth Community,

I hope everyone has had a successful week and you are looking forward to the weekend. We have so much to reflect on at Dixons Croxteth since the last newsletter. We have held an extremely successful open evening for Year 6 students, held our first coffee morning for families, had a visitor from the Liverpool Mayor's office and had students represent the Academy in sporting fixtures.

The highlight of the week for me was observing the paired reading in the Library on Monday morning. Watching Year 11 students supporting Year 7 and 8 with reading, showing encouragement, empathy and support was a joy, and the promotion of literacy and student leadership is something that we want to further develop.

Thank you for all the positive comments I have received regarding the first video blog. This is new to me but I understand that a short video where I can show you key elements of the school can be easier to engage with than a newsletter. I would also like to thank the families that have said it needs to be shorter – my aim will be around 3 minutes.

I am excited to share the Year 11 results with families to show the progress we have made last year, but we are still awaiting some remarks and grades are not validated until later this month. Leona, our careers advisor, has worked with all students from last year and currently 100% of students have a place in education or employment. This is a fantastic achievement, and we will continue to monitor and support last year's cohort over the coming weeks.

The days are getting shorter with darker (and colder) mornings and evenings and as we transition into autumn, motivation can dwindle. However, our expectations regarding attendance remain. Every day in school counts towards your child's learning, development, and future opportunities. I cannot emphasize the link between good attendance and student outcomes.

I hope you all have a great weekend

Mr Duggan
Principal



Mr Duggan
Principal

HIGH SUGAR CONTENT FOOD AND DRINKS

We have seen a significant rise in students bringing food and drink with high sugar contents into the academy. This includes gelatine sweets that are covered in sugar and energy drinks such as Lucozade and Red Bull. Students should avoid bringing high-sugar content food and drinks to school for several key reasons:

1. Negative Impact on Concentration and Learning

Consuming high-sugar snacks and drinks can lead to rapid spikes in blood sugar levels, followed by crashes. This cycle often causes fatigue, difficulty concentrating, and irritability, all of which can hinder students' ability to focus and learn effectively in class.

2. Risk of Long-Term Health Issues

Regular consumption of sugary foods and drinks can increase the risk of developing health problems like obesity, type 2 diabetes, and dental issues such as cavities.

3. Disrupts Energy Levels

Sugar provides a quick burst of energy but leads to an energy crash soon after. This fluctuation can make students feel sluggish or tired during important lessons or activities, reducing their productivity and participation.

4. Promotes Unhealthy Eating Habits

Allowing students to bring high-sugar items can normalize unhealthy eating behaviours, reinforcing poor dietary choices.

5. Potential Behavioural Problems

Studies have shown a correlation between excessive sugar intake and hyperactivity or mood swings in children.

6. Peer Pressure and Inequality

When students bring sugary treats to school, it can create pressure on their peers to do the same, leading to an unhealthy culture of snacking on junk food.

We have no issues with students bringing a small snack for break and lunch. If you have any concerns please speak to your child's Head of year.

Allergens

From September, our trust will no longer serve any products to students that contain or may contain nuts. As most school classrooms have at least one child with a nut allergy, this decision has been made to ensure the safety of all of our students.

As such, if your child brings in a packed lunch to school, please ensure that it contains no traces of nuts. The health and safety policy has been updated with further information and is available to view on the policies section of our Trust website, but should you require any additional information, please contact the main school office.

OPEN EVENING

On Thursday 26 September we hosted our Year 6 Open Evening. This is an annual event that introduces the Academy to our next potential cohort of students. The evening allows Parents to gain valuable insights into the school's curriculum, values, and approach to education.

Despite the atrocious weather we had a record number of parents attend and the atmosphere was fantastic.

We predict that we will easily achieve our pupil allocation number next year based on the volume of parents placing Dixons Croxteth as first preference.

If you know of any families who could not attend the evening but are still interested in visiting and seeing what we do, please ask them to either call the academy or email: info@dixonscr.com

Quotes from families who attended:

"The students that showed us around are a credit to your school. They were only Year 7 but, spoke so positively about the transition. We will be definitely putting Dixons Croxteth down."

"I attended this school nearly 20 years ago and am really pleased to see the changes and investment Dixons have made. The new dining room is fantastic. I would be happy to send my son."

"It is clear from the principal's presentation that second best is not accepted at this school."

Principal's Aims

- Dixons Croxteth to have a nationally recognised curriculum. We have a relentless focus on teaching and learning and achieve outcomes above national in all areas each year.
- Dixons Croxteth to have a strong reputation within the community, making us a provider of choice and becoming an oversubscribed Academy
- We are 'Team Croxteth' an important part of the community of North Liverpool. We are proud to work here, and students and parents are proud to be part of our community

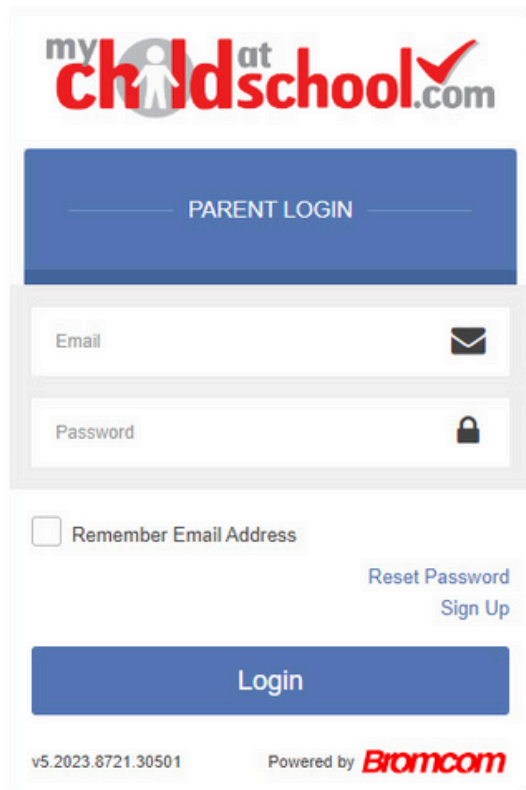
MY CHILD AT SCHOOL (MCAS) APP

One of our aims at Dixons Croxteth is to strengthen our Parent-School Relationship. We launched the newsletter last year and have further developed this with the video blog.

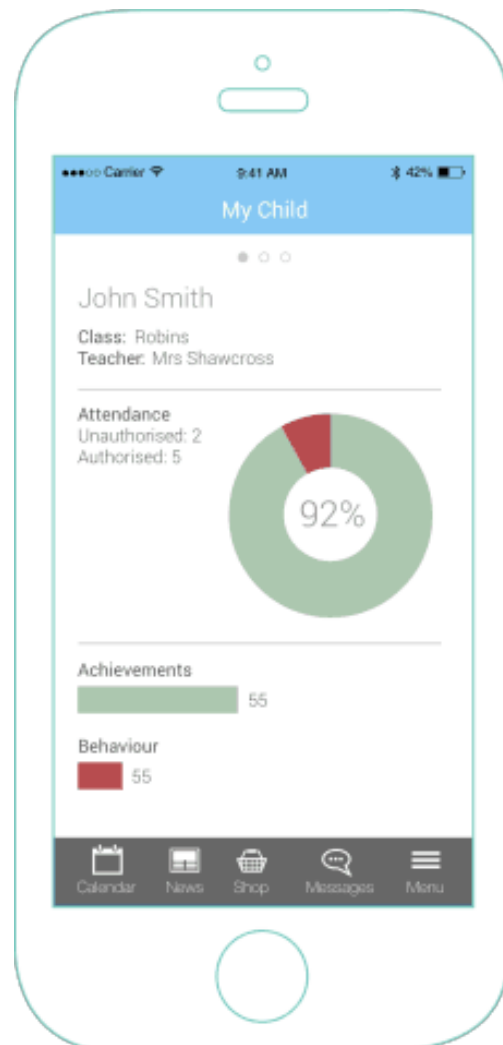
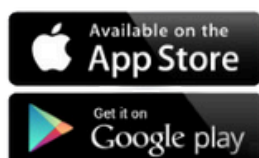
Our next big change will be the introduction of the My Child At School App (MCAS). Over the next few months, we will be rolling out MCAS as the method of communication between parents and families.

My Child at School (MCAS) is a portal which enables parents and carers to view their child's academic performance in real-time, via a web browser or mobile app. The type of information provided in the app include assessment, attendance, behaviour, pupil details, communication, consent forms, timetables, annual reports, exam details and Using the app also allows us to reduce the need to use paper and the cost of SMS messages.

More information will follow about the role out of this over the coming weeks with the aim of all families using the app by Easter 2025.



The screenshot shows the 'my child at school.com' logo at the top. Below it is a blue 'PARENT LOGIN' button. There are two input fields: 'Email' with an envelope icon and 'Password' with a lock icon. A checkbox labeled 'Remember Email Address' is present. To the right of the password field are links for 'Reset Password' and 'Sign Up'. A large blue 'Login' button is at the bottom. At the very bottom, it says 'v5.2023.8721.30501' and 'Powered by Bromcom'.



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Year 7 Settling in Event

We will be holding a Year 7 welcome evening on **Thursday 10 October**. This event will take place between **16.00–18.00** and is an opportunity for parents to come and meet with advisors and discuss how their child has settled into life at Dixons Croxteth Academy.

Mr Boswarva (Head of Year 7) and the Senior Leadership Team will be present for any parents who require someone to speak to for any additional reasons.

We look forward to seeing you Thursday 10 October.

Coffee Morning

We held our first Coffee Morning for parents on Friday 27 September. The event was a huge success with more families attending than expected.

We are introducing Coffee Mornings at Dixons Croxteth to:

1 - Foster Community Engagement: It creates a welcoming space for parents to engage with each other and the school. Building stronger relationships between parents helps create a supportive network within the school community.

2 - Strengthen Parent-School Relationships: A coffee morning allows parents to meet teachers, staff, and leadership in a more relaxed environment, enhancing communication and trust. When parents feel comfortable and connected to the school, they're more likely to participate in school activities and their child's education.

3 - Improving Parental Involvement: Encouraging parents to attend informal events can lead to greater involvement in their child's academic life. Research shows that when parents are more engaged, students tend to perform better academically and socially.

4 - Providing a Platform for Feedback: These events give parents an opportunity to voice concerns, ask questions, or offer feedback in a friendly setting. This can help the school address any issues and foster continuous improvement.

These benefits together contribute to a stronger, more connected school community at Dixons Croxteth Academy.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Anish Morgan

Vice Principal

Who is our Staff Spotlight of the week?

After graduating in 2001 from The University of Birmingham with a degree in Biochemistry, Anish completed a PGCE in 2002. Anish went on to teach in a large secondary school in Sefton. Anish has both Spanish and Indian heritage and can speak Spanish and Punjabi but would definitely like to become more fluent in both.

Anish would proudly describe herself as a 'science geek' and simply loves teaching Science. She is passionate about opening up the world of science to her pupils and has a particular interest in promoting science amongst girls - wishing to inspire as many girls as possible take up STEM subjects post - sixteen.

Favourite food: Tapas and roast dinner.

Favourite film / series: Marvel and Tolkein films.

What are your favorite hobbies or interests outside of work?

I love running and have completed many half marathons and even ran a marathon (on my own during lockdown). I ran to Croxteth Park estate, around it four times and then home because on my trial run, I got lost in Mossley Hill - I wasn't taking any chances for the real one!

I love reading, walking and going to the cinema.

I really enjoy spending time with my family, watching films together, playing board games and walking our puppy Rammy.

What do you like most about working at Dixons Croxteth?

I was drawn to Dixons by their mission of "challenging educational and social disadvantage in the north." Being from a perceived deprived area myself I know first-hand the importance of a high-quality education and how it can afford young people opportunities beyond their own sphere; I want to help provide the young people of Croxteth with that 'golden ticket' so they can become the decision makers and leaders of the future.

We are all working together to be that little bit better every day- every 1% counts; we are all committed to helping our pupils be the best versions of themselves and that energy is infectious!

I genuinely look forward to coming to work every day because our pupils are simply wonderful as are the dedicated staff that work so hard to support them- we have such a great team here.

What is your sentence:

It was obvious she cared for the pupils in her care and wanted the best for each pupil- helping each pupil be the best versions of themselves. She was committed to ensuring all pupils had the best experience while at school, both inside and outside the classroom, allowing them to grow, flourish and succeed.



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Year 8 Football Team

Friday marked the first football fixture for the year 8 team.

They faced an organised St Peter's School who have already had a game under their belt. Despite conceding 4 goals in the first half, the boys demonstrated tremendous integrity and did not drop their heads when it would have been easy to do so.

They worked hard right to the final whistle and scored two in the second half demonstrating their fighting spirit. The team did not point fingers or blame individuals but encouraged and supported one another to the final whistle, displaying great teamwork and character.

Although they lost the game, we are all very proud of the boys for their resilience and hard work with some stand out performances.



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Paired Reading

The paired reading group at Dixons Croxteth, develops reading across the key stages and allows students to confidently interact with texts. Year 11 students are paired with a student from Year 8 or Year 9 and they mentor and inspire the younger readers whilst developing reading fluency and accuracy.

The programme runs every Monday morning from 8.15am in the Library. Miss Gregson said:

"It is an engaging program which fosters a love for literature alongside building confidence and friendship across the key stages. Each session, students will explore captivating stories together, discussing themes, characters, and ideas that resonate. With the guidance of their older peers, younger students will enhance their reading skills and discover new perspectives, while Year 11s develop leadership abilities and a passion for helping others".




































Paired reading is just one strategy introduced this year to create a passion and love of books amongst students at Dixons Croxteth.



LUNCH MENU

Below are the lunch menus for Dixons Croxteth.

We understand that some families have encountered issues with ParentMail; these have now been resolved.

Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU	 <i>Italian</i>	 Love British Food		 <i>Indian Food</i>	 STREET FOOD
	Beef Bolognese Pasta Garlic Bread 	Roast Turkey, Veg, Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy 	Chicken Burger Chips Coleslaw 	Chicken Tikka Rice Naan Bread 	Tandoori Pork Pitta Bread Salad 
	Italian Meat Panini 	Sweet Chilli Chicken Wrap 	Jacket Potato with Beans/Cheese 	Greek Chicken Gyro 	Roast Chicken Baguette 
	Veggie Roasty Pasta Garlic Bread 	Swedish Meatballs, Gravy & Mash 	Southern Fried Nuggets, Wedges & BBQ Sauce 	Chickpea, Spinach & Potato Curry, Rice & Naan 	Vegetarian Stir Fry Noodles 
	Selection of Salads & Sandwiches 	Selection of Salads & Sandwiches 	Selection of Salads & Sandwiches 	Selection of Salads & Sandwiches 	Selection of Salads & Sandwiches 
	Ice Cream 	Mixed Muffins 	Donuts 	Fruit 	Yogurt 

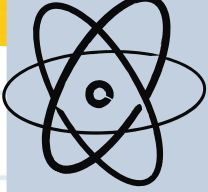
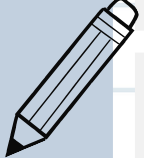
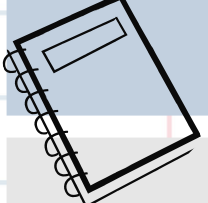
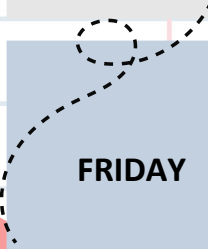
Any special order or allergy than the main menú please ask the kitchen before 10:30 am

Week 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU	 <i>Italian</i>	 Love British Food		 <i>Indian Food</i>	 STREET FOOD
	Spaghetti and Beef Meatballs 	Cumberland Sausages, Mash and Gravy 	Beef Burger & Chips 	Katsu Chicken Curry & Rice 	Salt & Pepper Chicken & Noodles 
	Peperoni Pizza 	BBQ Chicken + Cheese Wrap 	Jacket Potato with Beans/Cheese 	Roast Chicken & Stuffing Baguette 	Mexican Chicken Burrito 
	Margherita Pizza 	Vegan Nuggets, Potato Rusti Bites 	Roast Vegetable Burrito 	Quorn Chicken Curry, Bombay Potatoes 	Peri Peri Quorn Chicken Wrap 
	Selection of Salads & Sandwiches 	Selection of Salads & Sandwiches 	Selection of Salads & Sandwiches 	Selection of Salads & Sandwiches 	Selection of Salads & Sandwiches 
	Yogurt 	Fruit 	Muffins 	Donuts 	Ice Cream 

Any special order or allergy than the main menú please ask the kitchen before 10:30 am



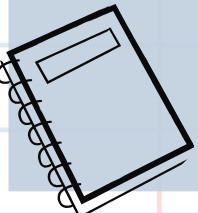




ENRICHMENT TIMETABLE - WEEK 1

DAY	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION	YEAR GROUP	STAFF
 MONDAY 	Brass Lessons	11.30 - 12.30	Music Room	7 to 11	Miss Unsworth
	Football	After School	Field	7	Mr Little
	Fitness	After School	Studio	7 to 11	Mr Boswarva
	Maths Masterclass	After School	1.08	11	Mr Doyle
	Sparx Maths	After School	ICT Room - Heart Space	7 to 11	Mr Malabar
	Singing Group (Choir)	After School	Music Room	7 to 11	Miss Unsworth
 TUESDAY	Literary Lounge	Lunch	1.01	7, 9, 11	Miss Redhead
	Poetry Club	After School	Library	All Years	Mr Kerr & Miss Odell
WEDNESDAY	Origami	After School	Art Classroom	7 to 11	Miss Palmieri
THURSDAY	Literary Lounge	Lunch	1.01	8, 10	Miss Redhead
 FRIDAY	Drumming circle / Samba	After School	Music Room	7 to 11	Miss Unsworth
	Guitar Lessons	1.15 - 2.30	Music Room	7 to 11	Miss Unsworth



ENRICHMENT TIMETABLE - WEEK 2

DAY	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION	YEAR GROUP	STAFF
 MONDAY  	Brass Lessons	11.30 - 12.30	Music Room	7 to 11	Miss Unsworth
	Football	After School	Field	8	Mr Boswarva
	Sparx Maths	After School	ICT Room - Heart Space	7 to 11	Mr Malabar
	Maths Masterclass	After School	1.08	11	Mr Doyle
	Singing Group (Choir)	After School	Music Room	7 to 11	Miss Unsworth
TUESDAY	Literary Lounge	Lunch	1.01	7, 9, 11	Miss Redhead
WEDNESDAY	Literary Lounge	Lunch	1.01	8, 10	Miss Redhead
	Origami	After School	Art Classroom	7 to 11	Miss Palmieri
THURSDAY	
FRIDAY 	Drumming circle / Samba	After School	Music Room	7 to 11	Miss Unsworth
	Keyboard lessons	2.10 - 2.40	Music Room	7 to 11	Miss Unsworth
	Guitar Lessons	1.15 - 2.30	Music Room	7 to 11	Miss Unsworth

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