



Message from the Principal

I would like to thank you for your positive comments regarding the launch of the DCR Newsletter. It is always heartwarming to receive positive feedback from families.

Last week Graham Cowley, Chair of the Liverpool Education Improvement Board, visited DCR. I met with Graham to discuss how we are improving the academy and the challenges we face. He went on a tour of the building with students and visited lessons. His feedback was very complimentary, and we are hoping to gain more support from the Liverpool Education Board as we progress further.



Mr Duggan
Principal

We also had a visit from Professor Ian Sinha, Respiratory Pediatrician at Alder Hey. We are trying to build partnerships within the local community and Ian wants to support this. In the coming weeks we will be launching a partnership meeting with local organisations and individuals.

I have included some information in this newsletter about routines at Dixons Croxteth. I am a firm believer that for learning to flourish, routines need to be embedded. The management consultant Peter Drucker stated **'Culture eats strategy for breakfast'** and at Dixons Croxteth, culture is our strategy and we are embedding routines to support culture. You will find more information about our morning meetings, line ups, learning habits and corrections in this newsletter.



Mrs Morgan
Vice-Principal

This week we will be starting the transition process for our new cohort of students due to start in September 2024. Mrs Morgan, Vice Principal, is leading on Year 6 transition and has already begun contacting Primary Schools. It is really pleasing that the school has been allocated a full cohort of Year 7 students and even has a waiting list of students – the first time in recent years that this has been the case. I would like to, again, thank all parents in the local community who have helped to spread positive messages about DCR to make this happen.

I will be sending an additional letter about arrangements for the end of this half term, but would like to share with you that the academy will be closed to students on Thursday 23 May and Friday 24 May. (Year 11 will still attend due to GCSE examinations). The reason for this is that I would like more staff to be Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) so training will be taking place on these days. Safeguarding is our number one priority, and I would like to increase the number of DSL trained staff. Staff who are not taking part in the DSL training will be visiting good / outstanding schools to learn from best practice.

Finally, Year 11 have started their GCSE examinations this week. This is a very challenging time for all schools nationally as we try to keep students focused and on task and deal with the stresses of national exams. I wish all students across the country well during the exam season.

NSPCC Audit 2024

Dixons Croxteth has recently undergone a comprehensive audit conducted by the NSPCC to continue to enhance and improve our safeguarding process.

The NSPCC is a leading charity in the UK dedicated to safeguarding. Their audits are rigorously designed to ensure that schools are providing a safe and supportive environment for all students, as well as implementing effective policies and procedures to safeguard against various forms of harm.

One of the key highlights of the audit was the recognition of our school's proactive approach to safeguarding. From robust safeguarding policies and procedures to staff training, we have demonstrated a commitment to creating a culture of safety and trust within our school community. Additionally, the audit praised the Principal, senior leaders and staff for commitment to the mission of the school and modelling the values in their own behavior, while acknowledging that the school is well supported by established Trust procedures and by Trust leaders.

Furthermore the report highlighted that all of these areas contribute to a school where children and staff feel safe, and where there is confidence in the ability of the school to respond to safeguarding issues.

We also recognise that safeguarding is an ongoing process that requires continuous vigilance and improvement. As such, we remain committed to reviewing and enhancing our policies and practices to ensure that we maintain the highest standards of safeguarding at all times.



**If you're worried
about a child:**



0808 800 5000

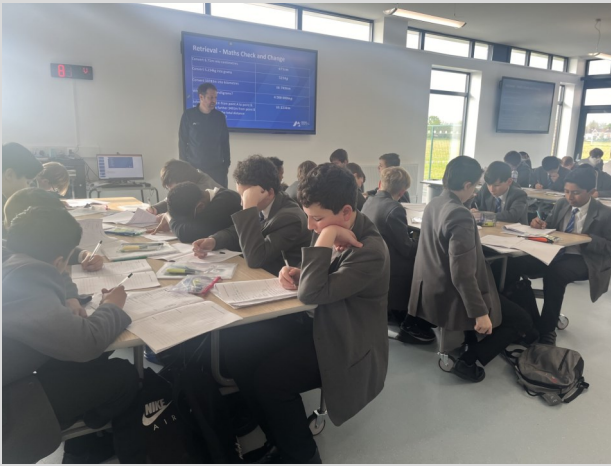


help@nspcc.org.uk



www.nspcc.org.uk

Morning Meetings (daily assemblies from 8:20am to 8:40am)



Morning Meetings are an integral part of ensuring the culture at Dixons Croxteth Academy remains strong. These year group morning sessions allow all students to have a focussed, strong start at the beginning of each day. Important messages are shared, routines and expectations are reinforced, and opportunities are given to practice recalling powerful knowledge that has been delivered in the classroom.

Each Morning Meeting begins with an equipment check. This practice allows Advisors to equip any students who do not have the necessary pens, pencils etc... ensuring all students can access their learning once they arrive in classrooms. Powerful knowledge is retrieved each morning during these sessions, allowing students to practice recalling subject knowledge in order to combat the forgetting curve. These low stake quizzes will make information 'stick' over time, allowing for academic success.



As a school, we have invested a lot of time and resources into our Morning Meetings with a view to ensuring high standards are met each day, so every child can be successful.



Science Labs

Exciting news from Dixons Croxteth! We are thrilled to announce the addition of two cutting-edge science labs to our school. These state-of-the-art facilities are already transforming our science lessons, offering thrilling practical experiments to immerse students in the wonders of science.

Our fully equipped labs have hosted a range of captivating experiments, including methane bubbles, cannon fire, elephant toothpaste, and essential GCSE practicals, like rates of reaction and food tests. With newly refurbished fume cupboards, to ensure maximal safety, we've even been able to conduct demonstrations involving hazardous substances, providing a secure environment for some real chemistry.

For many students, these practicals mark their first dive into experimental science. Our dedicated science teachers, supported by our experienced technician, are diligently expanding the number of practical opportunities by purchasing new equipment

for



physics, procuring biological models and plants, and introducing exciting chemicals previously unavailable to us.

As we approach the end of the school year, our focus remains on maximising lab usage, ensuring students are proficient in lab safety and exposed to captivating experiments that illuminate the wonders of science.

Parents are warmly invited to visit our labs for a firsthand look at the experiments their children are engaging in. Alternatively, we look forward to showcasing these experiences at our upcoming Open Evening in the next academic year.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to inspire and educate the next generation of scientists at Dixons Croxteth.



Mr Kenyon
Head of Science

Science Labs

Here are some quotes from some of our science teachers about having a new, dedicated space, to conduct science experiments:

"The new state of the art labs allow us to deliver our ambitious curriculum through exciting practical lessons that inspire all pupils to be successful." - Mr Owens



"Students have expressed gratitude and are amazed by the facilities; they enjoy doing practical work, especially using the Bunsen burners. They feel as if they are 'real scientists'. In conversations with parents, they have mentioned they like their children getting hands-on experience in the lab. As a teacher, it allows a deeper understanding of scientific concepts and sparks interest in the subject" - Ms Kayll

Line Ups (after Break and Lunch)

At Dixons Croxteth Academy, we pride ourselves on maximising every minute in the classroom, which is why all students line up and transition after Break and after Lunch to their lessons. By lining up after Break and Lunch, students can reset and successfully transition into lessons in a calm and focused manner.

Line Ups have been a key focus in recent weeks with students practicing on a regular basis to ensure all students can be successful moving from Break/Lunch into the building. Staff are working hard during our line ups to ensure all students, including our most vulnerable, are supported throughout this process.



Attendance Matters

Our attendance continues to improve week by week and our students are really grasping the importance of having good attendance and punctuality at school. We still have a long way to go in terms of improving our overall attendance, but we are confident that with a collaborative approach with students, parents, and carers, we will achieve our mission. We would like to thank you for your continued support and ask that this continues for the rest of the academic year.

Our punctuality has also significantly improved since the start of the year, and we would like you to continue to encourage all students to be in by 08:15am for that strong punctual start. Punctuality is an essential life skill and a learning habit that we need to ensure is consistently embedded across the academy.

We have had the pleasure of working with Liverpool FC over the last few weeks who are leading an engagement program with some of our Y10 students to develop essential leadership and life skills that prepares them for their next chapter after Dixons Croxeth. This project focuses on improving attendance and breaking down education barriers, and we are pleased with the impact thus far.



Corrections at DCR

We have recently modified our system for corrections. At DCR we use a correction system to reinforce to our students the high expectations we have of them, to enable them to be the best version of themselves each day. Corrections are not seen as an opportunity to punish a student but to provide them with an opportunity to reflect on the learning habit they have not met and think how they can be better the next day.

The new system provides the students with an opportunity to complete a 20-minute reflection on their behaviour to enable them to start the next day with a positive mindset. If a student chooses to make the correct decision and completes their 20 minutes reflection, the correction is complete. This enables the student to start the next day focusing on their learning and maximising their time in the classroom.

If the student decides not to complete their correction and doesn't speak to the staff members on correction duty, they receive a 1-hour correction the next day. This is a consequence for the student not owning their behaviour and not displaying the personal responsibility for their actions. If a student completes their second chance 1 hour correction the following day, once again their correction is complete, and they start the next day with a positive mindset.

Any student who refuses to complete their second chance correction and is displaying a negative mindset will be placed in our reflection room for the following day to complete an extended period of reflection. During this time, students will complete set work, take part in reflection tasks and if required, complete a restorative conversation regarding the behaviours displayed.

Year 7 Parents Evening

Thank you to all families that attended the Year 7 parents evening this week. It was a wonderful evening with such positivity. Unfortunately we did not hit our 80% attendance figure for attendance and we will be following this up with families as it is important that we share key information with parents.

We now ask parents to complete an anonymous questionnaire at all parents evenings and I will be sharing the results of these surveys in the final end of year newsletter.

We look forward to welcoming Year 10 families to parents evening on Wednesday 5 June. More communication about this will be shared over the coming weeks.

Year 11

GCSE Timetable

Date	AM / PM	Exam	Length of exam
Friday 10 May	9am	Combined Science biology (F/H) AQA	75mins
Monday 13 May	9am	English Literature Paper 1 AQA	105mins
	1:30pm	Sports Studies	75mins
Wednesday 15 May	9am	History Crime and Punishment Edexcel	75mins
Thursday 16 May	9am	Maths Non-Calculator (F/H) Edexcel	75mins
Friday 17 May	9am	Combined Science chemistry (F/H) AQA	75mins
	1:30pm	Geography Paper 1 AQA	90mins
Monday 20 May	9am	English Literature paper 2 AQA	135mins
	1:30pm	Sport Science	75mins
Wednesday 22 May	9am	Combined Science physics (F/H) AQA	75mins
	1:30pm	IT OCR	75mins
Thursday 23 May	9am	English Language Paper 1 (AQA)	105mins
<i>Spring Half Term</i>			
Monday 3 June	9am	Maths Calculator Edexcel	90mins
Tuesday 4 June	9am	Spanish Listening / Reading	35mins / 45mins
	1:30pm	History superpower/Saxon/Norman – Edexcel	105mins
Wednesday 5 June	1:30pm	Geography paper 2 AQA	105mins
Thursday 6 June	9am	English Language paper 2 AQA	105mins
Friday 7 June	1:30pm	Combined science biology (F/H) AQA	75mins
Monday 10 June	9am	Maths Calculator (F/H) Edexcel	90mins
	1:30pm	Creative iMedia OCR	90mins**
	1:30pm	Spanish writing (F/H) AQA	60/75mins**
Tuesday 11 June	9am	Combined science chemistry (F/H) AQA	75mins
	1:30pm	History Weimar and Nazi Germany Edexcel	80mins
Friday 14 June	9am	Geography Paper 3	90mins
	1:30pm	Combined science physics (F/H) AQA	75mins
Thursday 20 June	9am	Hospitality and Catering (WJEC)	80mins

Good luck to all Year 11 Students