

SEPTEMBER 20, 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 would like to start this week's newsletter by apologising for not sending a video message last week. This was due to technical issues. Video messages will be launched on Thursday 26 September.

Welcome to our new Newsletter. This week I have included information about our extra-curricular offer, the launch of our wellbeing walks, staff spotlight and the learning habits.

I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all students at Dixons Croxteth for taking part in the Well-being Walk. Their enthusiasm and commitment to promoting both physical and mental health make our school community proud. This idea came from the Student Council and Mr Makin worked diligently to ensure the event was a success. All year groups completed a walk – this is the start of our journey this academic year and will culminate in climbing a mountain at the end of the year.

The Academy is hosting a Coffee Morning on Friday 27th September, between 11:00am and 12:00pm. This is an opportunity for parents to visit the academy and meet staff, including Leona, our Careers Advisor. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

The staff spotlight will give you more information about the staff at Dixons Croxteth and includes the member of staff's sentence. To create motivation that lasts, we focus on two important questions. First, we ask a big question to orient our life toward greater purpose – **What's my sentence?** In one sentence we state what lasting impression we want to leave on the world. Secondly, we keep asking a small question for day-to-day motivation – **Was I better today than yesterday?** We will share our sentences in the staff spotlight.

Mr Duggan
Principal



Mr Duggan
Principal

OTTERSPOOL PROMENADE – YEAR 7

MS VARKULIS

Year 7 went on a wellbeing walk to Otterspool promenade and we could not have asked for better weather. The students walked 3.8 miles to the Liver Buildings in Liverpool city centre.

The students behaviour throughout was impeccable with members of the public commenting on how polite and well-mannered the students of DCR were. It was lovely to see blossoming friendships being formed and students sharing stories and life experiences with one another in a respectful and caring manner.



The students were impressed with the variety of boats they witnessed whilst out for the day, giving all captains a cheeky wave and they were certainly inquisitive with the local fishermen regarding their catch of the day and the type of fish they had caught.

It was a pleasure for all the staff who attended the trip to accompany such a pleasant year group on such a lovely day.



DELAMERE FOREST – YEAR 8

MR MAKIN

The year 8 students embarked on their first ever wellbeing event to Delamere Forest in Cheshire. 105 students and staff boarded the coach with excitement and joy for the day ahead. The group took to the Blakemere Trail navigating through the forest taking in the different wildlife and exploring in the vast area of mature trees.

Some students enjoyed seeing the different tree huts which had been built and the buffalo trail animals throughout the trail. All students were an absolute credit to themselves, their families and the academy. The respect they displayed to other walkers and cyclists was outstanding and it was really enjoyable watching all the students and staff engaging in conversation and mixing with each other.



At the end of the day it was a joy to have feedback from a cashier who said one of our students made her day when he told her “to keep the change from his purchase”. The day was capped off by a student orchestrating a sing along on the coach journey home.

Thank you year 8 for a lovely day and we look forward to even more throughout the year for reward and recognition.

RIVINGTON PIKE – YEAR 9

MR LITTLE

On Thursday Year 9 visited Rivington Pike located in the West Pennine Moors, near the village of Rivington. The students started from Rivington hall barn and made the journey to 363 meters above sea level to the pike tower.

On our way we stopped off at the terraced gardens for a well-earned break where the students explored the gardens containing a variety of structures, including summerhouses, lodges, pathways and water features.

The students continued to the journey and showed the resilience required to reach the tower where we stopped for lunch taking in the breath-taking views of Rivington reservoirs and the neighbouring Bolton and Manchester.



The student's behaviour was exemplary, and this was commented on by members of the public at the tower. The walk was a great experience for all involved and completing it provided great sense of accomplishment for staff and students alike. Well done Year 9.



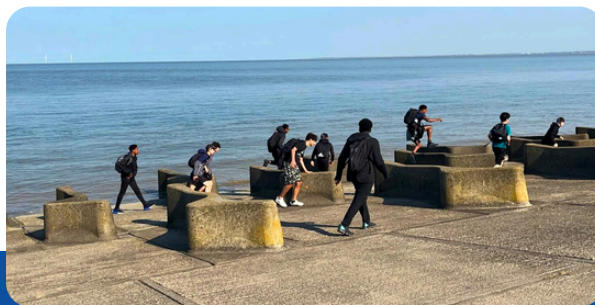
LEASOWE LIGHTHOUSE TO NEW BRIGHTON – YEAR 10 MRS MORGAN

it was an absolute pleasure to spend time with this group of pupils.

They were an absolute credit to themselves, their families and our school; interacting with members of the public with ease and respect. The pupils enjoyed the beachfront walk, especially the obstacles!

For lunch we rested and shared snacks and treats before embarking on our final 1.8 miles- the boys continued with cheer and enthusiasm.

There is a companionship and sense of belonging amongst this year group that was absolutely lived out today and it was truly a joy to behold – a very proud moment for us all.



MOEL FAMAU – YEAR 11 MR DUGGAN

Unlike the other year groups, Year 11 had the opportunity to climb a mountain on our wellbeing walk. The students arrived calm and relaxed (with pillows and blankets for the journey) unlike the staff who were apprehensive and questioning physical capabilities.

During the walk, students spoke openly about the changes they have seen at Dixons Croxteth and their aspirations for this year and the future. We continued these positive conversations during lunch at the summit.

The return walk to the bus was much easier and conversations about careers, holidays and how they would like a recognition trip and celebration after their GCSEs was debated.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Iain Duggan
Principal



Who is our Staff Spotlight of the week?

After graduating in 2008 from Newcastle University with a degree in History and Politics, Iain worked in several roles before signing up to become a teacher through the Teach First program being placed in a challenging school in Yorkshire. He wanted to teach History as this is his passion in life particularly twentieth century Europe, he often spends weekends and holidays travelling to areas of historical significance. Outside of the classroom he follows Liverpool FC and St Helens RLFC. After running many half marathons, he is considering taking the plunge and running a full marathon in 2025.

Favourite food: Italian

Favourite film / series: Band of Brothers

What are your favorite hobbies or interests outside of work?

I love sport and follow the lower league football clubs avidly as well as keeping up to date with the Premier league. The Olympics dominated my summer as I love to watch any competitive sport. I used to be a keen runner, and this is something that I want to pick up again this year. I am a history teacher, and in recent years have found a passion for studying military history. To relax I like to cook although my culinary skills lack – I do try! I am already looking forward to next summer when I hope to interrail across Eastern Europe.

What do you like most about working at Dixons Croxtheth?

I work for Dixons because we are a values driven organisation that never loses sight of why we exist: 'to challenge educational and social disadvantage'. I work at Dixons Croxtheth because of the students. They are amazing! I want to support them so that they go on and change the community and world for the better. I would not want to work anywhere else.

What is your sentence:



A passionate leader that worked tirelessly to improve student outcomes in North Liverpool. Endeavoured to be the best and kept a smile on his face.



ATTENDANCE & OPEN EVENING

Attendance

As stated in the previous newsletter the correlation between academic performance and attendance is vast. We are making huge improvements in this area. Ultimately for students to succeed they need to be in school.

95% attendance in a school year equates to 9 school days missed which is approximately 54 lessons. The work missed for a student with 95% could be the difference in the GCSE grades.

We have now launched catch up work and students who do miss work are expected to complete a summary of the work missed. Ms Varkulis is overseeing this.

On a very positive note, as an academy attendance is significantly better than this time last year and I would like to thank all families for engaging with us and supporting students to be in school. Thank you

Open Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming a new cohort of Year 7s into our school in 2025!

Please join us for our open evening on **Thursday 26 September 4:30pm – 6:30pm.**

At Dixons Croxteth Academy, we are completely committed to providing all students with an excellent education; one that broadens their minds and maximises their life chances for the future.

We would love to meet you and share more about our school, our curriculum, our enrichment programme, and the community activities our current students take part in.

This year we had the most applications for Year 7 the academy has received in recent years with a waiting list for student placements. Please, encourage families and members of the community to visit us to discuss the application process.

For further information or to arrange a tour of our school at a different time please contact us on **0151 332 6780.**



EXTRA CURRICULAR

I believe passionately in extracurricular activities for students and want students to pursue passions and interests with the support of the academy. Mr Makin is leading on Student Experience this year and this is an important area that he wants to develop. Extra-Curricular activities are important for several reason:

1 - **Holistic Development:** They help students develop skills beyond academics, such as teamwork, leadership, communication, and time management, which are vital for overall growth.

2 - **Social Skills and Friendships:** Participating in clubs, sports, or arts programs allows students to meet peers with similar interests, building social connections and friendships that enhance their school experience.

3 - **Boosts Academic Performance:** Research has shown that students involved in extracurriculars often perform better academically. These activities teach discipline, focus, and perseverance, which translate into better study habits.

Stress Relief and Mental Well-being: Engaging in activities outside of class provides a break from academic pressures, helping students to relax and manage stress, which is crucial for mental health.

4 - **Exploration of Interests and Passions:** Extracurriculars give students the chance to explore new interests, which can guide them in discovering passions, future career paths, or hobbies that bring joy.

5 - **College and Job Applications:** Involvement in extracurriculars makes students stand out to colleges and employers by demonstrating a well-rounded character, leadership skills, and a commitment to personal growth.

We will be sharing the Extra Curricular offer for Cycle 1 next week.

DIXONS CROXTETH LEARNING HABITS

At Dixons Croxteth we have six learning habits. These habits show our commitment to helping your child become a highly employable young person, ready to make a difference to the world we live and share. The learning habits link to our warm-strict approach and how we always help students to get it right, it's not about catching them out. The learning habits are:

Learning Habit 1 Homework and Deadlines - Completing work outside of lessons is important to consolidate and master learning. It helps students to develop their organisational skills, and it shows that they are hard working. Homework deadlines must be met with work that is done to the best of their ability. Homework is being introduced this year and is a developing learning habit at Dixons Croxteth

Learning Habit 2 On Task - Students who wish to succeed are always on-task in every lesson and behave in a purposeful manner outside of lessons. Being on task means that other students can learn without disruption and allows the teacher to teach what they have planned.

Being on task at Dixons Croxteth means:

- Following instructions first time, every time;
- Completing all work and asking for help when needed;
- Transitioning quickly and quietly between lessons;
- Falling silent when staff raise their hands.

Learning Habit 3 Equipment - Students who wish to succeed always bring the right equipment to the academy, for the right lessons, each day. We wish to develop our students' organisational skills for success in future life. For any important role in life, we need the right equipment, and students need to make sure they provide it. Stationery is on sale every morning before Morning Meeting so that students can solve issues around lost equipment before lessons begin. If a student arrives at Morning Meeting without their equipment it will be provided, however the student will receive a correction.

Learning Habit 4 Punctuality - Punctuality at Dixons Croxteth means: arriving to school by 8.15am and being in Morning Meeting by 8.20am. Taking no longer than 3 minutes to transition between lessons and being on time to line up after break and lunch.

Learning Habit 5 Uniform - Uniform shows pride in our appearance and pride in being a member of the Dixons Croxteth community. If a child requires a uniform adjustment due to medical reasons, then evidence must be provided. If students breach any part of our uniform code, they will either be given temporary uniform to wear or will be sat in reflection until their uniform is perfect. If a student borrows uniform, it must be returned at the end of the school day. If an item is not returned a reminder will be sent to the family. If following the reminder, the item is still not returned then the cost of the item will be charged to the ParentMail account.

Learning Habit 6 Positive Response - We know that students who wish to succeed do not answer back and trust that teachers' instructions are to help them be successful. If an adult tells a student to do something, we expect it to be done straight away. Adult's decisions should not be questioned.




































Positive Response at Dixons Croxteth means:

- Treating other students and staff with respect;
- Not using offensive or poor language around the building;
- Accepting responsibility when a mistake is made. Adults' decisions should be respected.


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

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