

DECEMBER 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.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Dear Families

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well and as communicated last week I would like to apologise for the delay in sending out this fortnightly communication which has now been rectified.

I would like to start by sharing some fantastic news. Dixons Croxteth has been ranked the third most improved school in the country for progress, according to the latest Department for Education league tables! This is a phenomenal achievement and gives us the motivation, confidence and belief that what we are doing for your children is right.

I am proud to share that Dixons Croxteth is top of the league for Sparx Maths homework revision across all Liverpool Schools! This incredible achievement highlights the dedication of our students in using Sparx to strengthen their skills and excel in maths. There is a clear correlation between engagement in Sparx and student outcomes in Maths so this is fantastic.

In addition, the use of Seneca Learning across subjects is driving impressive progress and raising attainment across the academy. These platforms are having a significant impact on student performance, helping to build confidence, deepen understanding, and prepare for success. Thank you for supporting your children in making the most of these valuable tools. Together, we're achieving great things here at Dixons Croxteth.

I would like to thank the families and parents of students who I have shown around the building during the last term. It is always a pleasure to welcome visitors into our classrooms and showcase the hard work and dedication of our students and staff. I want all visits to be authentic and you will see a 'normal' day here at Dixons Croxteth. The visits will recommence at the end of January.

Looking ahead to the next term I want to emphasise the importance of attendance. We are the most improved school in Liverpool with regards to attendance with an increase of 8% on this time last year. Every school day counts, and regular attendance is key to unlocking your child's full potential. Let's work together to ensure students make the most of every learning opportunity. If you would like to discuss your child's attendance, please contact their advisor.

My aim for the new year is to improve communication with families. The newsletter and Vlog issues have now been rectified and these will be sent each week. I also want to complete more work with the student council to hear student views and act on their feedback.

Finally I want to take a moment to wish you all a safe, joyful, and relaxing Christmas holiday. This has been a term filled with hard work and achievements, and now it's time to enjoy a well-deserved break with loved ones.

Thank you for your continued support of Dixons Croxteth. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, refreshed and ready for more success.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mr Duggan
Principal



Mr Duggan
Principal

DEBATE MATE

The English department has some exciting news! Some of our year 10 students are enrolled on the Debate Mate programme for 2024-2025.

The programme aims to develop spoken language skills and improve a range of high- order thinking skills and non-cognitive abilities such as confidence, teamwork, and leadership.

The boys attended the Debate Mate launch event at LJMU and watched a live show debate, which was fantastic. Every Thursday, the group meets after school and students complete a series of tasks with their mentor, Kush. The students will take part in a city wide debate in early 2025. .



HOOKE'S LAW

Mr Owens' Year 8 Science class conducted an investigation to determine the relationship between force and the extension of a spring.

This was to prove Hooke's law, which states that the force is directly proportional to the extension of a spring up to the limit of proportionality.



CAREERS FAIR

On Thursday 21st November, the Academy held a Careers Fair, organised by Career Connect, which was an exciting opportunity for our students to explore a wide range of career paths that are available to them beyond school. With representatives from various industries, including further education, healthcare, the armed forces, engineering, and more, the event gave students the opportunity to gain valuable insights into different professions. It was a chance for students from all years to learn about the skills and qualifications needed to succeed, and to hear from professionals about their own career journeys. We even welcomed some former students back to the academy to share their career paths and knowledge with our students.

Whether students are still deciding on their future direction or looking to explore new possibilities, this event is designed to open doors, ignite curiosity, and provide the guidance needed to make informed choices about their careers.



MATHS SUCCESSES

70 students

have already improved at their times tables this year. Great job!

[Download the report](#)



Students in your school have completed

1,204 hours

of personalised learning on Sparx Maths this year!



Highest completion:
2 classes (75.0%)
[view](#)

Biggest completion improvement vs previous week:
Ma09A-3-9C 35.0% (+15.0%)

Reached a new XP Level:
123 students
[view](#)

Highest average XP per student:
Ma09A-2-9C (751 XP)

112,043

questions answered correctly in Sparx Maths so far this year



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Thursday 12th December we had our Academy Christmas jumper day. It was great to see students and staff coming together to bring some festive cheer to the academy.



PENSIONERS PARTY

THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2024

Students and staff gave a little holiday cheer to the pensioners of our community on Thursday 12th December. This Christmas party was a chance for us to show our appreciation and celebrate the joy of the season together. The school hall was filled with the warmth of old friends reconnecting, sharing stories, and enjoying festive treats. With a dance performance from our year 7 & 8 girls, and Rhys Y8 doing a brilliant job as bingo caller, it was lovely to see our students take pride in helping to serve dinner, engage with our visitors and give some festive joy to their community.



DIXONS LIVERPOOL COLLABORATION CONCERT

I could not end the term without extending my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making the first-ever Dixons Liverpool Collaboration Concert a remarkable success. It was an epic extravaganza of twenty-four different acts over 2 hours, with sound, lighting, music, drama, costumes, and dancing with almost 150 students.

This special event brought together the talents of students from Dixons Broadgreen, Dixons Croxteth, and Dixons Fazakerley in a wonderful celebration of music, dance, and drama. It was inspiring to witness the creativity, energy, and dedication of our students shining so brightly on stage.

Your support as families and your encouragement of our students are key to making moments like this possible. Thank you to those that joined us and for being part of this exciting milestone for our Dixons Liverpool family and the first Dixons Croxteth Performing Arts performance.

Together, we have shown the power of collaboration and the incredible potential within our community. I look forward to many more opportunities to celebrate and showcase the extraordinary talents of our students.

We are already planning the Summer Sports event and are hoping to host this at Dixons Croxteth.

Have a Great Christmas!

Mr Duggan

Pictures to follow in January 2025.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Toni Redmond

Food Technology teacher
Head of Year 11



Who is our Staff Spotlight of the week?

After graduating from Liverpool John Moore's university approximately a million years ago, Toni went on to teach at her first school in Salford before going to Newton-le-Willows where she spent 7 very happy years. There she taught textiles as well as food and Child Development. She even used her own babies as teaching aids when teaching Child Development. Eventually she moved to a school closer to home and over the next 14 years taught mainly food. Toni has always had an active role in the pastoral systems in all the school she has worked in, she is a passionate Head of Year who actively wants the best for the students in her care.

Favourite food: Anything I don't have to cook.

Favourite film / series: The Shawshank Redemption

What are your favorite hobbies or interests outside of work?

I love running, have completed a half marathon, and regularly do the Park Run on Saturday mornings. I'm big into DIY and have completely remodeled my own house, including fitting the kitchen and bathroom. I also love baking and crafts. I'm currently into crochet, but I also knit and sew. Over the years, I've made seven wedding dresses. Recently, I had my first experience of fishing, and although I didn't catch anything, I enjoyed myself immensely!

What do you like most about working at Dixons Croxteth?

Working with children in the Croxteth area and seeing the progress they make not only from the start of the year but their journey throughout their school life. I have been very privileged to have worked with students from the start of year 7 to the end of their school life, watching them grow and thrive with high expectations for their next stage of life.

What is your sentence:



She built lasting relationships with the students in her care, she was committed to getting them to see their own potential and the desire to achieve their dreams.



HOME LEARNING AT DIXONS CROXTETH

At Dixons Croxteth Academy, we build a partnership between carers, students, and teachers that puts learning first. We help our students value learning by teaching them to take ownership of their own success. Home learning activities play a significant role in a pupil's educational journey and wider development.

Why is Home Learning so Important?

When our long-term memory is altered, we have learnt something. However, when we are exposed to new information, we instantly begin to forget it. Over time, the amount of original information retained significantly reduces unless it is revisited often.

Our home learning strategy is designed to allow students to frequently revisit powerful knowledge, interrupting the forgetting process.

There are three strands to our Home Learning Strategy:

Read. Cover. Write. Check. (RCWC): This is a paper-based task.

Sparx Maths: Online.

Seneca Learning: Online.

Expectations – Y7 and Y8

Up to 60 minutes per day of:

Seneca

Sparx Maths

RCWC

Expectations – Y9 and Y10

Up to 90 minutes per day of:

Seneca

Sparx Maths

RCWC

Completion of past GCSE examination questions

Expectations – Y11

A minimum of 90 minutes per day of:

Seneca

Sparx Maths

RCWC

Completion of past GCSE examination questions

Accessing revision sites

Excellent additional resources can be found at:

Learn Dojo

BBC Bitesize

Save My Exams

Oak National Academy

Free Science Lessons

MY CHILD AT SCHOOL (MCAS) APP

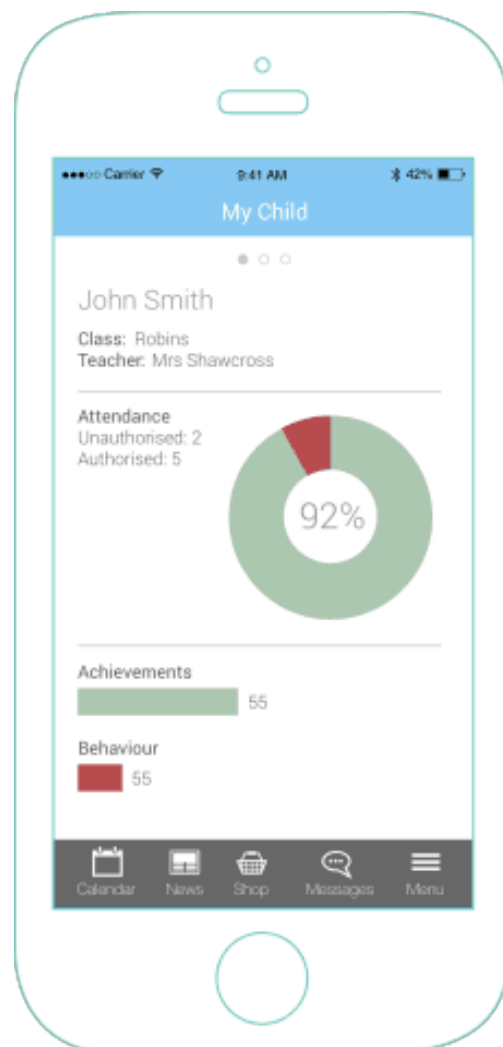
One of our aims at Dixons Croxteth is to strengthen our Parent-School Relationship. We launched the newsletter last year and have further developed this with the video blog.

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' header. 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'.



YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Thank you for all the positive feedback we have received on the vlog. We will be recording a video blog every fortnight to share key information from the academy. You can access the blogs by using the **link below**, **QR code**, or clicking on the **YouTube button**.

Link: [Dixons Croxteth Academy](#)



Principal's Update

Informative video blogs providing regular updates from our Principal, offering insights into key developments and keeping our entire community well - informed about important school events, policies, student achievements, and opportunities for community involvement.

LUNCH MENU

Below are the lunch menus for Dixons Croxteth.

Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU	<i>Italian</i>				
	Beef Baked Pasta Garlic Bread 	Chicken Teriyaki Rice Broccoli 	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Wedges 	Chicken Fajita Patata Brava-Salad 	Beef Burger & Chips
	Assorted Baguettes or Wraps CHICKEN-BACON-TUNA-MEATBALL 				
	Veggie Roasty Pasta Garlic Bread 	Veggie Stir Fry Rice Naan Bread 	Mix Vegetables Pizza Wedges 	Quorn Fajita Patata Brava-Salad 	Quorn Hot Dogs & Chips
	Selection of Salads Selection Sandwiches: CHEESE-HAM-TUNA 				
	Ice-cream 	School Sponge 	Brownies 	Yogurt 	Victoria Cake

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

Week 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MENU	<i>Italian</i>				
	Chicken Macaroni Garlic Bread 	Katsu Chicken Curry & Rice 	Piri-Piri Chicken Mix Peppers Pizza Wedges 	Mixed Pastry Mash Beans & Gravy 	Chicken Burger & Chips
	Assorted Baguettes or Wraps CHICKEN-BACON-TUNA-MEATBALL 				
	Tomato-Basil Pasta Garlic Bread 	Vegan Katsu Curry Rice & Broccoli 	Roast Vegetable Pizza 	Baked Potato Baked Beans / Cheese 	Beyond Burger & Chips
	Selection of Salads Selection Sandwiches: CHEESE-HAM-TUNA 				
	Yogurt 	School Sponge 	Victoria Cake 	Ice-cream 	Brownies

Any special order or allergy than the main menu 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