

JANUARY 24, 2025

# 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 message finds you all well. Firstly, I would like to thank the families of Year 9 for attending their parents' evening last week, we achieved just over 80% attendance. It was truly wonderful to see so many of you taking the time to engage with us and support your children in their educational journey. Families engaged with staff, asked questions, and shared feedback—both constructive and positive and this reflects the strength of our school community and the shared commitment we have to ensuring the very best for your children.

We are looking forward to contacting the new cohort of Year 7 students who will be joining Dixons Croxeth for the next Academic Year. I am delighted to inform you that on current predictions we will be at a full allocation of students. This reflects the growing reputation of our school within the community and the trust families place in us to provide an excellent education for their children. We have shared the positive news that we are the third most improved school in the country for progress and the most improved school in the city for attendance.

Given that we predict a full allocation, I would like to kindly ask for your support in spreading the word to any families who are still considering Dixons Croxeth for their child. It is essential that they contact us as soon as possible to discuss their options. We want to ensure that all interested families have clarity and understand the admissions process moving forward.

I want to thank those of you who have toured our school this week to see our lessons in action. It has been a pleasure to welcome you into Dixons Croxeth and share a glimpse of the teaching and learning that takes place every day.

Teaching and learning are now the priority at Dixons Croxeth. We are a stable school with high expectations. We have embedded social norms such as: line up, walking on the left, positive response etc and we are now in a position for teaching and learning to flourish. We have several classroom strategies that I will be sharing this term to minimise disruption and improve clarity for students in the classroom.

Finally, my highlight this week was speaking to the students who represented the academy in the regional athletics competition. The students demonstrated incredible talent, determination, and sportsmanship, and I was so proud of their conduct and achievements – well done!!



**Mr Duggan**  
Principal

**Mr Duggan**  
Principal



# ATHLETICS COMPETITION

## YEAR 7 AND 8

Our year 7 & 8 boys and girls took part in the Liverpool Schools Indoor Athletics competition on Wednesday at Greenbank Sports Academy. The event consisted of a number of indoor athletics events competing against schools from all over the city.

The students who took part in the event demonstrated outstanding levels of hard work and resilience throughout the day with a number of successful performances. All students were ambassadors for the school and staff were extremely proud of their behaviour, conduct and support they displayed for their teammates throughout the whole event. The PE department are already looking forward to the next event with the students.



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## Silvana Palmieri

### Head of Creative Arts

#### Who is our Staff Spotlight of the week?

Having studied Languages, Art and Fashion & Textiles at A level Silvana went on to complete her Art Foundation course which enabled her to develop her portfolio for university. She went on to study Design at Degree level at Liverpool Hope University College and has exhibited her work in London and across the country. Her first teaching role was at Carmel College after her graduation where she taught Art and Fashion A level. She then went onto lead the 3D Design department which celebrated outstanding success. In addition to this she was the Liaison manager for the college with responsibility for working across the Liverpool City Region within the wider school community inspiring learners to study at post 16 level. This was a job she loved and planted the seed for her making the brave leap into secondary education after 23 years in a college setting. She did this knowing that she still has more to give and she has not regretted the decision once. Working at Dixons Croxteth has given her personal and professional satisfaction and she is excited for the future

**Favourite food:** Pasta and Meatballs

**Favourite film / series:** The Sound of Music & Labyrinth

#### What are your favorite hobbies or interests outside of work?

Outside of school, I love spending time with my 2 children and our favourite past time is camping. I also enjoy walking outdoors and I am in the process of completing the Wainwrights challenge, where I will complete hikes of 214 fells in the lake district. Two years ago, I started boxing at a local boxing Academy, which has been a challenge and a fantastic way of burning off excess energy and keeping fit.

I love to keep my family's heritage alive by speaking Italian at home and enjoy cooking and sharing traditional dishes that have been passed down through generations. I enjoy live music, watching bands or DJ sets, and spend the rest of my free time making and selling my own artwork and I'm constantly on the lookout for materials to recycle and incorporate into my designs.

#### What do you like most about working at Dixons Croxteth?

The thing I like most about Dixons Croxteth are our students, they are fantastic. I enjoy working alongside dedicated staff who share the school vision for improving the life chances of young people in our area and I genuinely believe our students are at the heart of all that we do. I feel absolute joy when a student grasps the concept or technique we are learning and it's always great when they share their own work that they have been doing in their free time. I feel humbled and proud when we hear about where our former students have gone on to study or work and how they are succeeding in their future career pathways.

#### What is your sentence:



*She was passionate about developing the creative ability of others; enabling them to see their own worth, grow in confidence and recognise the value and possibilities of studying art and design, she did this with a genuine sense of joy.*





# 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

# LUNCH MENU

Below are the lunch menus for Dixons Croxteth.

Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>MENU</b>					
	Mixed Pastry Mash Beans & Gravy 	Chicken Burger & Chips 	Chicken Tomato Sauce Pasta Garlic Bread 	Katsu Chicken Curry & Rice Broccoli 	Piri-Piri Chicken Mix Peppers Pizza Potatoes Fries 
	<b>Assorted Baguettes or Wraps</b> CHICKEN-BACON-TUNA-MEATBALL 				
	Baked Potato Baked Beans / Cheese 	Beyond Burger & Chips 	Tomato-Basil Pasta Garlic Bread 	Vegan Katsu Curry Rice & Broccoli 	Roast Vegetable Pizza 
	<b>Selection of Salads</b> 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

Week 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>MENU</b>					
	Chicken Teriyaki Rice Broccoli 	Chicken Fajita Patata Brava-Salad 	Pepperoni / Cheese Pizza Potatoes Fries 	Beef Baked Pasta Garlic Bread 	Beef Burger & Chips 
	<b>Assorted Baguettes or Wraps</b> CHICKEN-BACON-TUNA-MEATBALL 				
	Veggie Stir Fry Rice Naan Bread 	Quorn Fajita Patata Brava-Salad 	Mix Vegetables Pizza Wedges 	Veggie Roasty Pasta Garlic Bread 	Quorn Burger & Chips 
	<b>Selection of Salads</b> Selection Sandwiches: CHEESE-HAM-TUNA 				
	Ice-cream 	School Cake 	Brownies 	Yogurt 	Victoria Cake 

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

# Supporting young people online

Information and advice for parents and carers



## The internet – an inspiring and positive place

The internet is an amazing resource which enables children and young people to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways, on a range of devices. However, the internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge. You may sometimes feel that your child has better technical skills than you do, however children and young people still need advice and protection when it comes to managing their lives online. Issues that your child may encounter on the internet will vary depending on their age and online activities. We have grouped potential online risks into these 4 categories.

**Conduct:** Children need to be aware of the impact that their online activity can have on both themselves and other people, and the digital footprint that they create on the internet. It's easy to feel anonymous online and it's important that children are aware of who is able to view, and potentially share, the information that they may have posted. When using the internet, it's important to keep personal information safe and not share it with strangers. Encourage your child to be respectful and responsible when communicating with others online, and to consider how what they share may reflect on them. Discuss with your child the importance of reporting inappropriate conversations, messages, images and behaviours and how this can be done.

**Content:** Some online content is not suitable for children and may be hurtful or harmful. This is true for content accessed and viewed via social networks, online games, blogs and websites. It's important for children to consider the reliability of online material and be aware that it might not be true or written with a bias. Children may need your help as they begin to assess content in this way. There can be legal consequences for using or downloading copyrighted content, without seeking the author's permission.

**Contact:** It is important for children to realise that new friends made online may not be who they say they are and that once a friend is added to an online account, you may be sharing your personal information with them. Regularly reviewing friends lists and removing unwanted contacts is a useful step. Privacy settings online may also allow you to customise the information that each friend is able to access. If you have concerns that your child is, or has been, the subject of inappropriate sexual contact or approach by another person, it's vital that you report it to the police via the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre ([www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)). If your child is bullied online, this can also be reported online and offline. Reinforce with your child the importance of telling a trusted adult straight away if someone is bullying them or making them feel uncomfortable, or if one of their friends is being bullied online.

**Commercialism:** Young people's privacy and enjoyment online can sometimes be affected by advertising and marketing schemes, which can also mean inadvertently spending money online, for example within apps. Encourage your child to keep their personal information private, learn how to block both pop ups and spam emails, turn off in-app purchasing on devices where possible, and use a family email address when filling in online forms. Make your child aware of scams that may seek to gain access to their accounts, and advise them to be wary in following links or opening attachments in emails that appear to be from organisations such as banks and service providers.

There are real advantages in maintaining an open dialogue with your child about their internet use. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help.

**1** Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.

**2** Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

**3** Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.

**4** Encourage them to help someone! Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.

**5** Think about how you each use the internet. What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

## What can I do right now?

- Maintain an open dialogue with your child and encourage them to talk to you about their internet use: for example who they're talking to, services they're using, and any issues they may be experiencing.
- Create a family agreement to establish your children's boundaries, and your expectations, when on the internet. A template agreement can be found at [www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation](http://www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation)
- Give your child strategies to deal with any online content that they are not comfortable with – such as turning off the screen, telling an adult they trust and using online reporting facilities.
- Consider using filtering software to block unwanted content. In addition to filtering, remember that discussion with your child, and involvement in their internet use, are both effective ways to educate them about the internet.
- Encourage your child to 'think before you post.' Online actions can impact not only yourself but the lives of others.
- Content posted privately online can be publicly shared by others, and may remain online forever.
- Understand the law. Some online behaviour may break the law, for example when downloading or sharing content with others. Be able to recommend legal services.
- Familiarise yourself with the privacy settings and reporting features available on popular sites, services and apps.
- If your child is being bullied online, save all available evidence and know where to report the incident, for example to the school, service provider, or the police if the law has been broken.
- Familiarise yourself with the age ratings for games and apps which can help to indicate the level and suitability of the content. Also see if online reviews are available from other parents as these may be helpful.
- Set up a family email address that your children can use when signing up to new games and websites online.
- Encourage your child to use nicknames (where possible) instead of their full name online, to protect their personal information, and create strong passwords for every account.
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Sign up to our Childnet newsletter at [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com).

Help make sure that your children know how to stay safe online, by using our SMART Rules for primary aged children, or 6 Tips for Teens.

### SMART Rules for primary aged children:

**S** Safe: Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too.

**M** Meet: Do not meet up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, as they are still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/ videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

**A** Accepting: Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) and do not accept something if you are unsure who the person is or what they've sent you.

**R** Reliable: You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. Always compare 3 websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you find online.

**T** Tell: Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. You could talk to a teacher, parent, carer or a helpline like Childline 0800 11 11.

**Heart**: Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

### 6 Tips for Teens:

**1** Protect your online reputation: use the tools provided by online services to manage your digital footprints and 'think before you post.' Content posted online can last forever and could be shared publicly by anyone.

**2** Know where to find help: understand how to report to service providers and use blocking and deleting tools. If something happens that upsets you online, it's never too late to tell someone.

**3** Don't give in to pressure: if you lose your inhibitions you've lost control; once you've pressed send you can't take it back.

**4** Respect the law: use reliable services and know how to legally access the music, film and TV you want. Acknowledge your sources. Use trustworthy content

**5** and remember to give credit when using other people's work/ ideas.

**6** Be a critical thinker: not everything or everyone is trustworthy; think carefully about what you see and experience on sites, social media and apps.



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# 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](mailto: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