

FEBRUARY 7, 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 would like to start today's newsletter by thanking our Year 8 families for attending Parents' Evening. It was a pleasure to discuss your child's attainment and progress across their subjects. Your support and engagement play a vital role in their success, and we truly value our partnership in helping them achieve their full potential. We had approximately 70% attendance and we will be reaching out to families who could not attend.

This week, we had the pleasure of welcoming academy leaders from the Ted Wragg Trust and Omega Academies to Dixons Croxteth. They visited to learn how we have improved and stabilised our school, and they were particularly interested in our consistent approach to behaviour and our focus on high-quality teaching and learning, that resulted in us becoming the third most improved school in the country last year for progress.

It was a great opportunity to showcase the hard work of our staff and students, and we are proud that our progress is being recognised by other schools across the country. The visitors were particularly impressed with the honesty and integrity of the students during a tour – well done to Frank, Elliott and Brandon in Year 11 for facilitating this.

This half term ends next Thursday for students. However, all Dixons staff will be attending a staff training day on Friday. This day is our annual Trust Conference. This year's conference is focussed on joy and will give staff an opportunity to sense-check the environments we work in, and the cultures that we craft for our children and ourselves. We want to reflect on the importance of joy and what brings us and our children joy. I want Dixons Croxteth to be a place of joy for both staff and students where students are safe, supported and achieve both academically and socially.

I would like to share two highlights of my week with you:

Firstly, our Year 10 football team have progressed to the semi-final of a National Football competition. They won a very competitive game against All Hallows High School (Manchester) 2-1 and I have been told in detail about their resilience, tenacity, skill and professionalism during the match. It was heart warming to speak to the team when they returned to the academy and see how happy they were – well done Year 10.

Secondly, I observed a lesson this week in Year 9 where the students used English Language techniques in descriptive writing. The students' creativity, passion and enthusiasm when describing how their hands felt is why I come to work every day – your children are a credit to our academy!!!



**Mr Duggan**  
Principal

**Mr Duggan**  
Principal

[www.dixonscr.com](http://www.dixonscr.com)

# THE POWER OF AUTONOMY, MASTERY, AND PURPOSE

## OUR DRIVERS

At Dixons Croxtheth, we believe that students thrive when they are motivated from within. That's why we embrace Dan Pink's three key drivers of motivation: Autonomy, Mastery, and Purpose.

◆ **Autonomy** – We encourage our students to take ownership of their learning, developing independence and responsibility. By making informed choices about their studies and behaviour, they build confidence and resilience.

◆ **Mastery** – We foster a culture of high expectations, where students continually strive to improve. Through hard work, practice, and feedback, they develop deep knowledge and skills that will serve them for life.

◆ **Purpose** – Learning is most powerful when students understand why it matters. We help them see the bigger picture—how their efforts contribute to their future, their community, and the world beyond school.

By embedding these principles into everything we do, we ensure that every student at Dixons Croxtheth is equipped to succeed, both now and in the future.





# SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

## SQUEAKY POP TEST

Mr Owens' Year 10 Science class were investigating the reactions between dilute hydrochloric acid with the metals magnesium, iron, zinc and copper. They also conducted the 'squeaky pop test' for the presence of hydrogen gas produced from the reactions.





# YEAR 7 MATHS COMPETITION

Our Year 7 pupils recently took part in a trust-wide Maths competition for the Dixons Cup, representing our school with enthusiasm and determination. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience, and problem-solving skills throughout the event.

They approached every challenge with a positive attitude and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and the way they represented our school so brilliantly – well done Year 7!



# MUSIC SUCCESS

One of our year 8 students, Ellis, has recently started attending the 'Resonate Youth Orchestra' at Notre Dame school on Wednesday evenings.

This orchestra is available for all young musicians from schools in Liverpool.

She is working hard and is already being promoted to 1st Violin.

She is showing the school value of autonomy in attending the extra curriculum group outside of school time, to improve and develop her skills in music.





# SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPANY

A reminder to all parents and carers to place your portrait order  
By Sunday 9 February 2025 before the exclusive offer ends

The orders generate funds for our academy.

Any questions contact the School photography company via  
the website [www.schoolphotographs.co.uk](http://www.schoolphotographs.co.uk)



**Remember to place your portrait photograph order by  
Sunday 09/02/2025  
before the exclusive prices end**

Every order generates funds for your school too

[www.schoolphotographs.co.uk](http://www.schoolphotographs.co.uk)



# PARENTPAY



## ParentPay

The academy changed payment system from IRIS ParentMail to ParentPay on 24th January 2025. Therefore, **we ask that all parents activate their ParentPay accounts with the log in details sent to you as soon as possible, as this is now the only way for you to top up your child's dinner account.**

You need to visit [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) and click Parent Login, then fill in the username and password details that were sent out to you.

All balances on IRIS ParentMail were transferred over to ParentPay on 24th January, and IRIS ParentMail was then disconnected from our tills/dinner account system. If you have made a payment on IRIS ParentMail after 24th January, please get in touch so that we can refund the amount back to the original payment method. All balances on IRIS ParentMail are from 24th January, so you will need to register your account and login to ParentPay in order to see an accurate account balance for your child.



**HATE AND  
BULLYING  
HAVE NO  
PLACE  
HERE**



**DIXONS  
CROXTETH  
ACADEMY**

**We are a telling school.**

**We are a school of character.**

If you experience or witness hate, abuse or bullying, please either:

- TELL your advisor
- TELL your head of year
- TELL a teacher or
- TELL a friend or
- TELL the pastoral team by using **The Sharp System**

**If not you then who?**



The  
Sharp  
System



# 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 menú 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 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](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