

Dixons City Academy

NEWSLETTER

February 2026

This term

Year 7 and 9 cycle 2 assessments

Year 8 begin the Guided Choices process

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 27 January - Year 11 Art trip to Cartright Hall

Friday 30 January - Night at the Musicals in the Lord Kalms Theatre 6pm

Thursday 5 February - Year 8 Consultation evening

10 to 11 February - Bradford Music Hub workshop for students in years 7 to 10

Friday 13 February - Dixons Trust Staff training day

Monday 23 February to Monday 9 March - Year 11 Cycle 2 Mock exams

Wednesday 4 March - World book day & Community Iftar

Thursday 5 March Staff training day

Friday 6 March Staff training day

9 to 16 March - Year 11 Spanish speaking exams

Monday 23 March - Culture day

Thursday 26 March - Trust Drama Festival & Year 11 mock interviews with Driver Hire

Friday 27 March - End of Term

Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April - Easter revision programme Year 11

A message from the Principal

Dear families

As we begin 2026 at Dixons City Academy, I want to celebrate the determination, creativity, and kindness that your children show every day. This term has already been full of moments that make us proud - from success in the international Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, to a strengthened Student Council, and new enrichment offers.

We were delighted to receive the Music Mark award, recognising the quality and ambition of music at City. Our Winter Festival was another highlight, bringing our community together and raising funds for charity - thank you for your support. We have also celebrated many students through our Golden Ticket recognition, where excellent attendance, effort and conduct were applauded.

I want to take a moment to emphasise the importance of strong attendance. Every single day in school matters. National evidence is clear: pupils with attendance above 95% achieve significantly higher outcomes at GCSE, while even small dips - such as missing just a day every two weeks - accumulate into a month of lost learning across a year. At City, we see the same pattern: students who attend regularly make more progress, feel more confident, and access the full range of opportunities available to them.

Thank you for everything you do at home to support routines, punctuality, and readiness to learn - your partnership makes a real and lasting difference.

Beyond school walls, our Year 8 Ullswater residential gave students a chance to build resilience, teamwork and self-belief; thank you to the staff who made this experience possible and to families for your trust. Consultation evenings have also been well attended and tremendously valuable, helping ensure every child receives the right support at the right time.

We kindly ask for your continued support in keeping our school community safe during drop-off and pick-up times. Please be considerate when parking around the academy, as the beginning and end of the school day are extremely busy. We ask all families to drive with care, keep the School Keep Clear markings (zig-zags) free of vehicles, follow local parking restrictions on nearby streets, and avoid stopping in front of the gates. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

In this newsletter, you'll find key information about upcoming events across the academy, such as our Night at the Musicals later this month and a number of exciting events taking place in March.

Finally, we've launched our new Instagram account @dixons_city, where we share highlights from across the academy. Do follow, like and share - it's a lovely window into life at City.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we'll support every student to be the best version of themselves so they can change our world for the better.

Raouf Mohammed

What's been happening?

Celebrating talent at our Christmas concert

In December, we were delighted to host our annual Christmas Concert, which was a huge success. Students demonstrated outstanding integrity and determination throughout the rehearsal process, culminating in a vibrant evening of performances. The programme showcased a wide range of talent, from large ensembles to powerful individual solos, creating an atmosphere full of energy and festive spirit.



The audience response was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the confidence, commitment, and professionalism of our performers. The Performing Arts department is incredibly proud of every student involved – the concert simply would not be possible without their hard work and dedication.

A special thank you must also go to our Peripatetic Music team, whose expertise, commitment, and support play a vital role in developing our students' talents and making events like this possible.

Year 8 embark on the annual Ullswater expedition



Our recent Ullswater Residential was a truly transformative experience for our Year 8 students and remains one of the most important enrichment opportunities we offer at Dixons City Academy. Set in the heart of the Lake District, the residential gives students the chance to step far beyond their comfort zones, challenge themselves physically and mentally, and develop skills that will stay with them long after they return to the classroom.

For many of our students, this is their first time spending an extended period away from home, experiencing the countryside, or taking part in adventurous outdoor activities. Ullswater therefore plays a crucial role in broadening horizons and giving students experiences that they may not otherwise have access to. It brings our academy values to life, allowing students to demonstrate resilience, teamwork, respect and determination in real and meaningful ways.

Throughout the week, students took part in a wide range of outdoor and team-based activities including canoeing on the lake, climbing and abseiling, orienteering, expeditioning with overnight camping, problem-solving challenges and cold-water dips. These activities are carefully designed to encourage cooperation, leadership and perseverance. Students quickly learn that success comes from supporting one another, communicating clearly and pushing through moments of discomfort or uncertainty.

What makes the Ullswater experience so powerful is not just the activities themselves, but the personal growth we see in our students. Many arrive feeling nervous or unsure, yet leave with increased confidence, stronger friendships and a genuine sense of achievement. Students learn to manage setbacks, take responsibility for themselves and others, and reflect on what they are capable of achieving when they commit fully to a challenge.

The residential also plays a vital role in strengthening relationships between students and staff. Shared challenges, long days outdoors and moments of reflection help to build trust and mutual respect, contributing positively to school culture back at Dixons City Academy.



Ullswater is more than a trip – it is a defining experience that helps shape our students into confident, resilient young people who believe in themselves and their ability to overcome challenges. We are incredibly proud of how our students represented the academy and embraced every opportunity during the residential, returning with memories, skills and confidence that will support them throughout their time at DCA and beyond.

Bebras Challenge - Celebrating computational thinking at DCA

Students from Year 7, Year 8, and Year 10 Computer Science recently took part in the Bebras Challenge, an international computer science competition designed to introduce young people to computational thinking. The challenge takes place every November and, last year alone, engaged over 3 million students across more than 80 countries.

In the UK, the Bebras Challenge is open to all students aged 6 to 19. Participants are given 45 minutes to complete a series of interactive, problem-solving tasks that focus on logical thinking rather than prior knowledge of maths or computing. The challenge is completed online, with tasks marked automatically, ensuring that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their thinking skills and potential.

We are extremely proud of all students who took part and are delighted to recognise the following students who achieved Best in School in their respective categories:

- **James (7W)** – Best in School, *Juniors*
- **Muhammad (8C)** – Best in School, *Intermediates*
- **Mohammad Ayaan (10A)** – Best in School, *Seniors*

Congratulations to all involved for representing Dixons City Academy so positively and for embracing the challenge with determination and enthusiasm.

Student Council - Leadership, voice, and responsibility

This term, we were proud to relaunch and strengthen our Student Council, ensuring it remains a meaningful and representative voice for students across the academy.

Students who wished to apply were required to complete a written application outlining their motivation, the skills they could bring to the role, and how they would represent the views of others. Shortlisted students then took part in a formal interview process, where they were assessed on motivation, communication, and leadership skills. The process was deliberately rigorous, reflecting the responsibility and commitment expected of student leaders and mirroring real-world application and interview experiences.

We would like to say a sincere thank you to our 2025 Student Council, who have shown real dedication in representing their peers, gathering student voice, and contributing positively to school life. Their commitment and leadership have played an important role in shaping events, raising key issues, and strengthening our school community.

We are delighted to announce the students elected to serve on the 2026 Student Council:

Year 7

Leonel (7Z), Noor-Al-Zahra (7Z) & Khalil (7A)

Year 8

Ismaeel (8Z), Minnah (8Z) & Salwah (8B)

Year 9

Aahil (9A), Elliot (9X) & Inayah (9B)

Year 10

Mobeen (10W), Imaan (10X), Umar (10C) & Aarush (10C)

We are also pleased to confirm our Year 11 Lead Student Council members, who are continuing in their leadership roles from Year 10 and will support and mentor younger council members:

Farhan (11X), Maryum (11Y) & Riya (11A)

We look forward to working closely with the new council as they take on their roles with confidence, integrity, and determination, helping to ensure that student voice remains at the heart of life at Dixons City Academy.

New enrichment opportunity - Latin club



We are pleased to be launching a Latin Club as part of our wider enrichment and personal development offer.

The club will run every Wednesday from 12:50–1:50pm, taking place over lunchtime. Latin Club will give students the opportunity to explore the foundations of language, culture, and history, helping to develop vocabulary, analytical thinking, and an understanding of how Latin has influenced modern languages and society.

The sessions are designed to be engaging and accessible, with students learning through discussion, translation, and exploration of classical stories and ideas. Latin Club also supports literacy development and encourages curiosity and academic confidence.

We look forward to welcoming students who are interested in trying something new and expanding their learning beyond the classroom.

National Year of Reading at DCA

This year, Dixons City Academy is proudly supporting the National Year of Reading, reinforcing our commitment to developing a strong reading culture for all students. Reading widely and regularly plays a crucial role in building vocabulary, confidence, academic success, and a lifelong love of learning.

As part of this launch, we are introducing curated DCA book lists designed to encourage reading for pleasure, expose students to a wide range of authors and perspectives, and support learning across the curriculum. These lists will be shared with students and used across school to promote regular, meaningful reading.

Families can also support this initiative by contributing to our growing school library. We have created an Amazon Wish List of carefully selected titles that reflect our students' interests and needs. Any contributions are hugely appreciated and will directly benefit our school community.



Amazon Wish List:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1V6IMZVYKLANG?ref_=wl_share



Thank you for supporting reading at DCA and helping us inspire confident, curious readers.

Basketball at DCA - Building opportunity, belonging, and aspiration

Basketball is continuing to grow at Dixons City Academy, providing students with exciting opportunities to stay active, develop skills, and engage positively with school and the wider community.

Working in partnership with LDM Basketball, students now have access to high-quality basketball provision that goes beyond sport alone. LDM Basketball uses basketball as a tool to support engagement, confidence, wellbeing, and positive life choices, combining coaching with mentoring and youth work.

Students can take part in free open basketball sessions every Wednesday evening (6:00–8:00pm) at Dixons City Academy. These sessions are open to 11–18 year olds and provide a safe, structured environment during key after-school hours. Sessions focus on skill development, teamwork, and enjoyment of the game, supported by experienced coaches.

Basketball is also being developed through enrichment opportunities within school, helping students build positive routines and confidence through regular participation.

Students who are interested in taking part can:

- Speak to their PE teacher for more information
- Attend the Wednesday evening sessions (6:00–8:00pm) at DCA

Winter festival at Dixons City Academy



Our Winter Festival was a positive and inclusive celebration that brought staff and students together at Dixons City Academy to mark the end of term. Students were invited to wear Christmas jumpers or clothing that celebrated their culture, and the academy was filled with colour, warmth and a strong sense of community throughout the day.

The festival provided an opportunity to celebrate diversity and togetherness, reflecting our core values of respect, integrity and determination. It was wonderful to see students engaging so positively and embracing the chance to express their identity in a supportive and respectful environment.

We are also incredibly proud to share that £542.00 was raised for Save the Children, helping to support vulnerable children and families both in the UK and internationally. Thank you to all staff and students who contributed to making the Winter Festival a meaningful and uplifting end to the term.

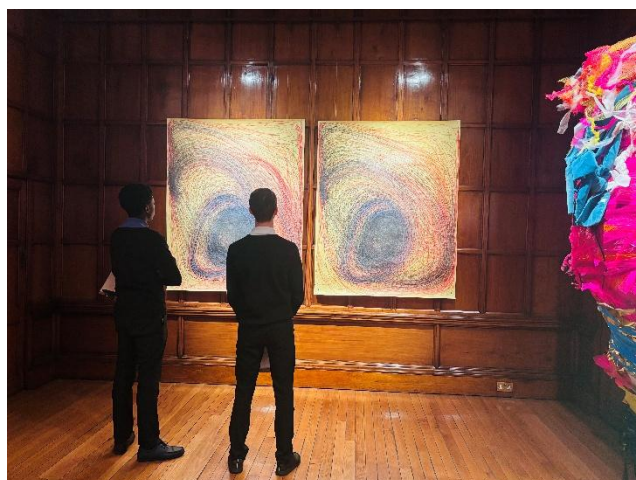
Year 11 Art trip to Cartwright Hall – Turner Prize exhibition

Our Year 11 Art students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to the Turner Prize exhibition at Cartwright Hall, led by artist-educator Naseem Darbey.

Students were guided through some of the most exciting examples of contemporary British art, exploring thought-provoking works up close and gaining valuable insight into one of the world's most prestigious art awards, the Turner Prize.

Stepping into the role of art critics for the day, students engaged in discussion, shared interpretations, and reflected on artists' intentions, gathering fresh ideas and inspiration for their own creative journeys. Experiences like this are invaluable in helping students develop confidence, critical thinking, and ambition within their artistic practice.

We're excited to see how this visit influences their upcoming coursework and creative outcomes.



Dixons City Academy recognised for quality in Music education

We are delighted to share that Dixons City Academy has been awarded the prestigious Music Mark of Recognition for ambition and quality by the Bradford Music and Arts Service. This award celebrates the academy's outstanding commitment to music education and its role in ensuring every student has access to high-quality musical experiences.

As one of only twelve schools in Bradford to receive this accolade, this recognition highlights the strength of our music curriculum and the rich opportunities we provide — from classroom learning to extracurricular ensembles and performances. It also reflects the passion and dedication of both staff and students who bring music to life across the school community.

This national recognition, awarded by the UK Association for Music Education, acknowledges schools that go above and beyond to make music accessible and engaging for all learners. The award underscores the importance of music as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and celebrates the positive impact it has on student confidence, creativity, and teamwork.

Congratulations to all members of our music department and the students whose enthusiasm and hard work have helped us achieve this fantastic honour. We look forward to continuing to grow and celebrate musical excellence at Dixons City Academy.

Golden ticket recognition event

On Friday 5 December, Dixons City Academy proudly hosted our Golden Ticket Recognition Event, celebrating students who consistently demonstrated our academy values of respect, integrity and determination throughout Learning Cycle 1. The event recognised students who achieved 95% or above attendance, no more than 5% authorised absence, and three or fewer corrections, reflecting the positive choices and commitment shown by our students each day.

The celebration was shaped by student voice, with students taking part in activities they had selected themselves, including a movie experience in the Theatre and tabletop games in the Library. All students attending also enjoyed treats, helping to create a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere across the academy. Sessions ran throughout the day for different year groups, allowing many students to be recognised while maintaining the normal flow of learning.



The Golden Ticket event is an important way we acknowledge and reward strong attendance, excellent behaviour and consistent effort. It was wonderful to see students enjoying their reward and taking pride in their achievements. We are incredibly proud of everyone who earned a Golden Ticket and would like to thank families for their continued support in helping students meet these high expectations.

Celebrating joy through poetry – DCA Poet Laureate competition

We were delighted to end the term by celebrating the success of our Poet Laureate Competition, where students were invited to submit an original poem inspired by the theme of Joy. The response was fantastic, with 33 thoughtful and creative poems submitted from across the academy. Well done to all students who took part—your words captured joy beautifully and showcased the creativity and talent within our community.

Congratulations to our DCA Poet Laureates 2025–26:

KS3 Poet Laureate: Ahmed (7C)

KS4 Poet Laureate: Ameerah (10B)

Honorary Poet Laureate: Ruqayyah (8X)

Joy - Ameerah – 10B

It may seem rare joy
fragile like pieces of glass
slipping out of your grasp
is hard to find

when in reality,
it is everywhere around us,
allowing us to blossom and thrive
allowing us to have pride

Each word or action does not hide
and it is added to the wide
that slowly crashes over
enveloping you in its embrace

Overwhelming and all-consuming
yet it is the fuel for our life

Encapsulated in one word,
written in three letters,

Joy.

The Logic of Joy - Ruqayyah – 8X

Joy is the mind's revolt against its cage,
a heresy of light, defying age.
It blooms where reason starves, where thought
grows thin—
a grammar born of everything but sin.

No saint has trapped it; no despair has killed.
It enters when the self is stilled,
a trespass of the infinite through bone,
an ache that feels at once our own,
and yet not ours—the borrowed breath of stars,
the pulse that trembles in what never mars.

Joy is not laughter—laughter dies of use.
It is the moment sorrow breaks its truce,
the instant ruin learns to rearrange
its dust into a music strange.

It knows the lexicon of loss by heart,
and still composes—part by fractured part—
a psalm that even silence must obey,
the sound of not forever, but today.

And when it fades (for joy must fade to prove
that time was worthy of its love),
it leaves behind—within the ash and air—
the ghost of something always there:
a pattern, barely felt, that grief employs—
its shadow named, and that shadow is Joy.

Joy - Ahmed – 7C

Have you ever felt it?
You know the emotion you get and your tongue
starts to tickle.
Or maybe you want to dance?
Or sing?
Or sigh with relief?
Or smile?
Or laugh?
Or cry?
Or share?
Or gift?
Or stop... time?
OR SCREAM?!

I know now!
Joy!

You've got it right?
Wait, you haven't?
Well that's okay!

You can find joy in the things you hold, borrow,
or even smell! Like –
Joy in nature's fresh cut grass,
Joy in the savoury fragrant smell of flowers,
Joy in the warmth of the first sunny day of spring,
Joy in the beauty of the birds' soft hums,
Joy in the vastness of a starlit sky,
Joy in the smooth breeze of the wind,
And joy in the vibrant hues of a stunning
environment.

You can also find joy in the comfort of your
situation. Like...
Joy in the glow of a warm beverage,
Joy of seeing a sympathetic child spreading
kindness,
The warmth of a pet's fluffy coat,
The comfort of a warm blanket with a pleasant
video to watch,
Joy in the sweetness of a fizzy drink,
In the melody in a piece of music,
In the reunion of a loved one,
Joy even in the contentment of a hug or the
amusement of a good chuckle!

But joy can also be found in wonder. Like...
Joy in the scenery of an artistic masterpiece,
Joy in the glimpse of illumination,
Joy in the stillness of a life,
Joy in fresh rain hitting dry earth,
Joy in the ocean's infinite rhythm,
The emptiness of space,
Joy in the accomplishment in a piece of
homework,
In the satisfaction of a piece of music,
In the fulfilment of a project,
In the confusion of a riddle making you need to
question intensely!

But to see joy, you must spread it, like...
Making a joke (at least you thought it was funny),
Including and chatting to others,
Giving gifts (even simple ones like magnets),
Helping someone understand,
Forgiving others,
Making friends,
Being courageous and helping someone feel
better (even if they lost).

Joy is never meant to stay locked inside.
It is the tide, demanding to be shared and sung.
So let it escape and run free, outside, through
wide open windows.
Let the laughter make the world colourful.

A Night at the Musicals

On Friday 30 January, students performed in A Night at the Musicals, an evening celebrating musical theatre and student performance. The event showcased a range of well-known productions, including Les Misérables, Wicked, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Everybody's Talking About Jamie, Dear Evan Hansen, Six and Hamilton.

Across the evening, students presented a mixture of solo and group performances, demonstrating confidence, commitment and clear enjoyment of performing. The programme included both reflective pieces and more energetic numbers, giving the audience a varied and engaging experience.

Thank you to all students and staff involved in organising and performing, and to families and supporters who attended. The evening was a positive opportunity for students to share their work and perform in front of an audience.

What's Coming up?

Community Iftar – Wednesday 4 March



On Wednesday 4 March, our academy will be hosting a Community Iftar, bringing families, students and staff together to share in an important moment during the month of Ramadan.

Iftar is the evening meal where Muslims break their fast at sunset, and this event provides a valuable opportunity to celebrate our diverse community, strengthen relationships, and promote understanding of different cultures and traditions within our school.

The evening will be a welcoming and inclusive occasion, with time to come together, reflect, and enjoy food as a community. Events like this reflect our academy's commitment to respect, unity and belonging, and we are proud to be able to open our doors to families for this shared experience.

We look forward to welcoming those attending and thank everyone involved in helping to make the Community Iftar a special and meaningful event.

World Book Day – Wednesday 4 March

World Book Day at Dixons City Academy will be a celebration of reading, creativity, and storytelling, with a range of activities taking place across the academy to promote a love of books and reading.

Students will be encouraged to take part in a Track My Read – Read for Good Challenge, supporting a national charity that helps provide books for children in hospitals. This challenge will motivate students to read regularly while contributing to an important cause.

Across the academy, students will also engage with year group reading lists and a reading challenge, designed to support reading for pleasure and helping students discover new authors and genres.

To bring reading to life, students will also take part in shared reading activities, reinforcing the importance of storytelling and reading aloud as a school community.

All students will receive a World Book Day book token, giving them the opportunity to choose a book of their own and continue their reading journey beyond the classroom.



To finish the celebrations on a fun and creative note, staff will be dressing up as their favourite book characters, helping to bring stories to life and create a memorable experience for students.

We are looking forward to a joyful World Book Day that places books, imagination, and reading at the heart of academy life

To bring the celebrations to a close, staff and departments are invited to dress as their favourite book characters, adding fun, creativity, and a real sense of occasion to the day.

We are looking forward to another inspiring World Book Day that puts reading at the heart of academy life.

Year 11 Mock interview day – Thursday 26 March



On Thursday 26 March, Year 11 students will take part in our Mock Interview Day, an important personal development event designed to prepare them for post-16 pathways and future employment.

Students will complete a one-to-one mock interview with an external professional, gaining experience of a realistic interview setting. They will practise answering interview questions, develop confidence and communication skills, and receive constructive feedback to support their next steps.

This valuable experience helps students feel more prepared for college interviews, apprenticeships, and future employment. We are very grateful to the professionals who are supporting our students on the day.

Insight into Art

Still Life

Year 7 have been exploring the theme of still life, inspired by the work of Michael Craig-Martin. They have designed their own compositions, incorporating symbolic objects to create vibrant and expressive paintings. Their creativity and effort have resulted in some truly impressive pieces, marking a fantastic start to the year.



Year 9's Lino Feat!

Trying new techniques is always a challenge, but our Year 9 students consistently rise to the occasion with determination and creativity. This term, they explored the work of printmaker Angie Lewin, designing their own compositions inspired by her distinctive style. The real test? Carving their designs into lino for printmaking. The results speak for themselves -stunning, intricate pieces that showcase both skill and perseverance.



STRIKE! Workshop

At DCA our Year 10 students participated in the STRIKE workshop as part of Bradford City of Culture 2025. The workshop was led by Bradford-based collective **Mek Summat**, known for their involvement in the *Salt of the Earth Folk Festival* and other rather notable cultural events across the city. Over the course of the two days students explored the powerful story of the Manningham Mill strikes, learning about the historical significance and some of the voices behind the movement.



Attendance Update

Celebrating commitment and success at DCA

We are incredibly proud to recognise the outstanding commitment shown by our students during Cycle 1, with attendance across the academy reflecting a strong culture of consistency, determination, and high expectations.

At our end-of-cycle recognition event, 150 students were celebrated for achieving an exceptional standard of attendance and conduct:

- **0 missed days**
- **100% attendance**
- **0 corrections**

As part of this celebration, 65 students were randomly selected to receive a £15 Amazon voucher as recognition for their dedication and commitment to their learning.

In addition, a further 432 students were recognised for excellent attendance, having missed fewer than three school days and achieving 97% attendance or higher. This represents a significant number of students consistently making the most of every learning opportunity available to them

Why Attendance Matters?

Attendance plays a crucial role in academic success and wider life outcomes. Research consistently shows a strong link between regular attendance and achievement.

Attendance Ladder



Pupils who attend school 95–100% of the time are 1.9 times more likely to achieve a Grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths and English compared to pupils whose attendance falls between 90–95%.

Beyond exam results, good attendance supports:

- Stronger relationships with teachers and peers
- Better understanding and retention of learning
- Increased confidence, routines, and resilience
- Improved wellbeing and readiness for future education, training, or employment

Even small improvements in attendance can make a meaningful difference. Missing just two days of school a month can equate to almost 20 days of learning lost across a year, which is why every single day really does count.

Helping Your Child Stay Safe on Social Media

Social media is a big part of young people's lives, offering opportunities to connect, learn and be creative. However, it also comes with risks, including unwanted contact, exposure to inappropriate content and pressure around appearance and popularity. Parents and carers play a crucial role in guiding children to use these platforms safely and responsibly.

Practical tips for parents

1. Talk early and talk often

Regular conversations help children feel confident sharing concerns. Healthy, open discussions in a safe space promote ongoing, supportive dialogue about what children encounter online.

2. Review privacy and safety settings together

Simple actions such as turning off location sharing, setting accounts to private and helping children understand how to block or report harmful content.

3. Understand the risks and benefits

Children often use social media to build friendships, explore interests and express themselves creatively. However, they may also encounter harmful content, unrealistic body image expectations or unsolicited contact. Discuss these risks openly with your child and without judgement.

4. Work through safety tools on the apps they use

Many platforms include parental controls or content-limiting tools. The UK Safer Internet Centre provides clear guides to the safety features available on popular social networks.

5. Set family expectations together

Establish clear rules around screen time, sharing images and respectful online behaviour such as a time to turn phones off and hand them over for the night, a way of checking posts before they are uploaded and regularly checking the content of social media use.

Supporting responsible social media use

Helping young people build positive digital habits is just as important as preventing harm.

Encourage thoughtful sharing

Remind your child that what they post creates a lasting digital footprint. Help your child to understand who can see their posts and the impact of oversharing personal information.

Promote kindness and respect online

Online interactions can sometimes feel less "real", which may lead to unkind behaviour. Talk openly about respectful communication and what is acceptable to share or say online.

Help them balance screen time

As well as establishing family agreements around device use, make a point to hold regular check-ins about how certain apps/content might make children feel. These conversations support digital wellbeing as well as safety.

If your child is the victim of online abuse

It's vital children know they can always speak to a trusted adult if something online upsets them.

Here's how parents/carers can respond:

Stay calm, listen and reassure them

Children need to know they are not to blame.

The NSPCC provides guidance on recognising signs of cyberbullying and online abuse.

Save evidence and report the abuse

Take screenshots of messages or posts. Most social media platforms have reporting tools.

Support your child to use blocking and reporting features to stop unwanted contact.

Seek further help if needed

If you're worried about your child's safety, organisations such as CEOP offer help with reporting harmful online behaviour, and Childline provides confidential support 24/7.

These resources are signposted through the NSPCC's online safety hub.

Parents should contact the police immediately if the abuse includes threats of violence, evidence

of exploitation, blackmail, or persistent harassment.

If someone is sharing or threatening to share indecent images of a child – this is illegal, and reporting to the police ensures action can be taken swiftly.

Work with the school

If the issue involves peers in school and you are concerned of an incident escalating at school, please contact us. We will work with you and your child to ensure they feel safe, supported and protected.

Who to contact at school

Mr J Sparks – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr J Yale – Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Mr J Sandhu – Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Mr Q Mohammed – Head of Year 11

Miss Z Panayioti – Head of Year 10

Mrs S Naaz Mason – Head of Year 9

Mr T Hargreaves – Head of Year 8

Mr S Shazad – Head of Year 7

Recommended resources

NSPCC – Keeping Children Safe Online

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

NSPCC – Social Media Safety

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

UK Safer Internet Centre – Parents & Carers

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Internet Matters – Advice & App Guides

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Children's Commissioner – Online Safety Guide (2026)

<https://nasen.org.uk/news/childrens-commissioner-publishes-guide-parents-support-online-safety>

Childline – Online Safety

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/>

7 Steps to support your child with homework and revision

For students to be successful, independent study at home; homework and revision, applying what they have learnt in school is key. Your support at home can make a huge difference to your child's confidence, wellbeing, and academic success.

This guide offers simple, effective strategies to help your son or daughter get the most out of homework and revision. Our library is an excellent study space that students can use before school, at breaks and lunches and after school until 4:30pm.

1. Create the Right Space

A calm, organised environment helps your child focus.

Provide a quiet place to work, limit distractions such as TV and phones, and make sure they have basic equipment ready.

2. Build a Consistent Routine

Regular routines help homework feel manageable.

Encourage your child to complete homework at the same time each day and, where possible, to start it on the day it is set.

3. Encourage Independence

Homework is about learning, not getting it perfect.

Avoid giving answers. Instead, ask guiding questions and encourage your child to think, try, and learn from mistakes.

4. Support Effective Revision

Revision works best when it is active.

Encourage techniques such as self-quizzing, flashcards, diagrams, and revisiting topics regularly, rather than just rereading notes.

5. Break Tasks into Manageable Chunks

Short, focused sessions help concentration.

Working in 20–30 minute blocks with short breaks can reduce stress and improve **productivity**.

6. Look After Wellbeing

Wellbeing and learning go hand in hand.

Encourage regular breaks, physical activity, good sleep, and reassure your child that mistakes are part of learning.

7. Stay Connected with School

Working together supports success.

Check planners, Teams, and the academy website for homework, attend consultation evenings, and encourage your child to ask teachers for help.

Proven strategies for effective revision:

- ✓ **Retrieval practice** - Testing themselves (flashcards, quizzes, answering questions from memory).
- ✓ **Spaced practice** - Revising topics little and often over several weeks.
- ✓ **Interleaving** - Mixing different subjects or topics within one study session.
- ✓ **Dual coding** - Combining words with visuals (mind maps, diagrams, timelines).

PE extra-curricular timetable – Term 3 & 4

	Activity	Year Group	Time	Location / Staff
Monday	Fitness / Rowing Club	All years	3:40–4:40	Fitness Suite – Mr Yale
	Sport Studies Intervention	Year 9	3:40–4:40	C01 – Mr Ricketts
	Sport Studies Intervention	Year 10	3:40–4:40	M2 – Miss Langton
Tuesday	Boys Rugby Club	Year 7–10	3:40–4:40	Astro-Turf – Mr Ricketts
	Badminton Club	All years	3:40–4:40	Sports Hall – Mr Ignatowski
Wednesday	Climbing Club	Year 7 & 8	3:40–4:40	Sports Hall – Mr Ablett
	Girls Tag Rugby Club	All years	3:40–4:40	Astro-Turf (Green week) – Mr Ricketts
Thursday	Basketball Club	All years	2:45–3:45	Sports Hall – LDM Basketball
Friday	Boys Rugby Club	Year 9 & 10	2:45–3:45	Astro-Turf – Mr Ricketts

Important information

- All students must have a note from a parent/carer/guardian in their planner to attend clubs.
- If you do not have PE on the day of the club, you must bring your PE kit and change after school.
- Notes must be brought to the club and shown to PE staff.

Year 11 February mock timetable

Year 11 students will be sitting their February mock examinations from Monday 23 February. These exams are a vital part of preparation for the summer GCSE examinations, helping students to experience the full exam timetable, practise exam technique, and identify strengths and gaps in their learning.

We ask for your continued support at home by:

- Encouraging daily revision as part of your child's routine
- Supporting good sleep, attendance, and punctuality during the exam period
- Talking positively with your child about their preparation and confidence

Thank you for working with us to ensure every student is in the strongest possible position ahead of their final exams.

	Monday 23 February	Tuesday 24 February	Wednesday 25 February	Thursday 26 February	Friday 27 February
8:30am	Maths Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) 1 hour 30 minutes	Science Paper 2 - Biology Combined - 1 hour 15 minutes Triple - 1 hour 45 minutes	English Language Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes	Spanish Reading paper Foundation (F) 45 minutes / Higher (H) 1 hour Spanish Listening paper F 35 minutes / H 45 minutes	DT 2 hours Computer Science Paper 1 1 hour 30 minutes
11:00am					Computer Science Paper 1 (DT clash) 1 hour 30 minutes
1:20pm	English Literature Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes	Geography Paper 1 1 hour 30 minutes History Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes	Science Paper 2 - Chemistry Combined - 1 hour 15 minutes Triple - 1 hour 45 minutes	RE 1 hour 45 minutes	Geography Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes History Paper 2 1 hour

	Monday 2 March	Tuesday 3 March	Wednesday 4 March
8:30 am	English Language Paper 2 1 hour 45 minutes	Spanish Writing paper F – 1 hour H – 1 hour 15 minutes	Maths Paper 3 1 hour 30 minutes
11:00am			
1:20pm	Maths Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes	English Literature Paper 2 1 hour 45 minutes	Science Paper 2 Physics Combined - 1 hour 15 minutes Triple - 1 hour 45 minutes

	Monday 9 March
8:30am	Computer Science Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes
11:00am	Drama 1 hour 30 minutes Sport Studies 1 hour 15 minutes
1:20pm	Health & Social Care 1 hour 15 minutes Music – A27 1 hour 45 minutes

Exam Equipment *will be provided*

- Calculator needed for Maths P2, P3, Science, DT and Geography exams

Spanish Speaking Exams – Monday 9 March – Monday 16 March.

Your Spanish teacher will let you know about timings.

MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) – Staying connected with your child's school life

At Dixons City Academy, we are committed to keeping families informed and involved in their child's education. **MyChildAtSchool (MCAS)** is our online platform that allows parents and carers to access key information about their child's school life **anytime, anywhere**.

MCAS can be accessed through any modern web browser (such as Chrome, Edge, Firefox or Safari) and is also available as a **free app** for both **Apple (iOS)** and **Android** devices.

What can you see on MCAS?

Through MCAS, families can view:

- Attendance information in real time
- Behaviour and appreciation points
- Assessment data and cycle reports
- Student timetables and the school calendar
- Exam timetables and results (including GCSEs and Cycle 3 assessments)
- Important letters and school documents

All school communications are now sent via the **MCAS app**, including announcements and push notifications, rather than by text message. Parents can also use MCAS to message the school directly.

How do I get started?

If you haven't signed up yet:

1. Download **MyChildAtSchool** from the **App Store** (Apple) or **Google Play Store** (Android).
2. Once downloaded, select **"Request a password reset"**.
3. Follow the instructions to access your account and begin viewing your child's information.

Need support?

If you need any help accessing or using MCAS, please email info@dixonsca.com with **"MCAS"** in the subject line. A member of the team will be happy to support you.

We strongly encourage all families to use MCAS as the main way of staying informed and engaged with life at Dixons City Academy.

