



Prospectus

2022-2023



CASTLE MEAD
ACADEMY



Welcome from the Chief Executive Officer



The Mead Educational Trust (TMET) is a family of 13 primary and secondary schools all based in Leicester and Leicestershire. Together, we seek to Make A Positive Difference to the lives of the children attending our schools.

Castle Mead Academy is one of the newest schools in TMET. The aim for Castle Mead is to build on the outstanding provision enjoyed at our flagship secondary academy, Rushey Mead Academy. Rushey Mead Academy routinely far exceeds national averages for the progress and attainment of its students, placing it year after year in the top 5% of schools nationally. We wish to extend this strong offer to other families in the city. We do this by drawing on first class leadership and outstanding teaching and learning practices to support each learner, making sure that they have every opportunity to achieve.

Sarah Ridley
Chief Executive Officer, The Mead Educational Trust

Welcome from the Director of Secondary Education



It has been an immense privilege to be part of the team which has helped shape Castle Mead as a new secondary school for Leicester. The school has already caught the imagination of parents in the city who want their children to benefit from an uncompromisingly ambitious curriculum, impeccable standards of behaviour and conduct and a compulsory rich extracurricular offer, which makes for an extended school day. This simple vision has also caught the imagination of talented teachers and leaders who now make up the high calibre staff team at the school.

Having served in local schools for 21 years, I can honestly say I have never come across such expert and enthusiastic teachers! They have seized the once-in-a-life-time opportunity to design and hone the best curriculum from scratch, rather than unpicking and refining existing provision as happens in other schools. Then there is the fantastic opportunity for your children to be taught in our brand new state-of-the-art building which further enhances our offer.

Castle Mead is one of our growing number of schools in The Mead Educational Trust where we all exist to make a positive difference to the life chances of children and young people and to our wider community, and believe that any young person from any background deserves an equal chance to be successful in whatever they choose to do.

With all these favourable elements in place, we are determined to expend every effort to secure the best possible education for every child who attends Castle Mead, from wherever they are in the city.

Gulbanu Kader,
Director of Secondary Education

Welcome from the Principal



Castle Mead Academy is characterised by high expectations, doing the simple things well, and the belief that all children can succeed. Situated in the heart of historic Leicester, we are driven by a moral commitment to 'grow a community of excellence' for the benefit of all children in the city.

Our scholars and staff are truly first class and focus on maximising learning in the classroom by micro-scripting every facet of the school day. Our Castle Credo drives us on daily, as we work with scholars to 'Be Kind, Work Hard and Build Your Character'. With extended opportunities our scholars will have more time to acquire knowledge, skills and understanding, as well as more opportunities to broaden their learning and expand their horizons. Therefore, every scholar will have access to the best provision, being enabled to achieve highly regardless of prior attainment, needs or background.

We are fortunate to be 'standing on the shoulders of giants', building on the successes of Rushey Mead Academy and learning from the best ideas from across other academies and free schools, the independent sector and schools internationally.

Our fifth year group, the class of 2028, will be very special to Castle Mead Academy. They will be cherished and challenged and will be the flagbearers of our academy values – setting the tone for the year groups to follow. Our goal is to give them both 'roots and wings', so as they can be grounded in good values and be able to fly to realise their ambitions.

Tom Hague
Principal, Castle Mead Academy

Vision and Values at Castle Mead Academy



We believe in the value of scholarship

We believe knowledge is power

We believe in positive relationships

We believe in the importance of identity

We believe in being unapologetically ambitious

We believe in giving 100%

We believe in rigorous routines



It is our aim that scholars leave Castle Mead Academy as articulate, resilient, well-rounded individuals who excel academically, in the arts and on the sporting field. Our scholars learn that success needs hard work and effort, and they will have the support of our staff along their journey. Castle Mead scholars enjoy the riches of an ambitious curriculum and develop key learning habits to equip scholars to be lifelong learners.

Our motto is 'growing a community of excellence'. Castle Mead Academy will focus on realising high academic achievement with a special focus on the EBacc subjects alongside spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We are an inclusive community where all are supported to achieve no matter what their starting point or need. Castle Mead scholars enact the Castle Credo:



Starting small and growing over the coming years has enabled both our scholars and staff to be immersed in our vision and values, as we grow to be a community of 1200 scholars across five year groups and become one of the most successful academies in the country.

Translating Vision and Values into Action

Castle Mead is built on strong respectful relationships between scholars and staff. Our traditional and research informed approaches to teaching and learning, along with our coaching culture, will continually develop teacher practice. We are creative and courageous in challenging conventions. This means that our classroom environments are ones where teachers can teach high quality lessons, and scholars experience uninterrupted learning.

Every detail of our academy is meticulously planned and we consistently evaluate our practices to ensure continuous improvement. Our academy community actively questions and develops all that we do so that we provide a first-class education for our scholars. We are not afraid to make changes along the way in the pursuit of growing a community of excellence.

We are an open and fair community. Our scholars and families know why we do things, and the purpose behind each expectation. Families are expected to play an active part in each child's education, and to support our staff. This will all grow from our family handbook which is introduced at the start of the year.

Castle Mead's culture is one of high expectations. We go about embedding our culture and our values with simplicity and thoroughness each and every day.



The Curriculum at Castle Mead Academy

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We will provide for all our scholars access to the best which has been thought, said, written and created in every field of human endeavour so that they are knowledgeable, critical, enriched and well poised to lead fulfilling lives.

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Castle Mead's curriculum is one that engages, stimulates and challenges our scholars, underpinned by academic rigour. The curriculum is knowledge based, with an emphasis on the 'best that has been thought and said'. We believe that knowledge about the world is central to our scholars' success. Only when they have acquired this knowledge will they be able to actively lead and participate in a global society.

The curriculum at Castle Mead is broad and balanced with a special focus on the EBacc subjects. This means that from Year 7 scholars will study English language and literature, mathematics, the sciences, the humanities and a language. All scholars will continue these subjects to GCSE. This core curriculum is enhanced by lessons in art, computer science, design and technology, drama, music and PE. We implement a carefully planned educational support package which includes successful reading and literacy strategies, delivery of personal, social and health education and debating through our tutor programme, and a distinct homework strategy which champions knowledge and retrieval practice.

The curriculum in each subject is meticulously planned; scholars are taught the background and context of what they are learning, enabling them to understand and make connections. Sequencing of topics is carefully considered so that scholars grasp key concepts and develop a strong understanding of each subject. This technique combats the 'forgetting curve' by deliberately instilling a culture of revision across the curriculum from Year 7 onwards.

The experiences provided for our scholars throughout the curriculum are planned with their futures in mind. We have planned opportunities for scholars to develop their skills in entrepreneurship, innovation, research and experimentation – all of which are applied to the world around us and the world of work. We have developed exciting links to industry and business, which will, in turn, raise the aspirations and employability skills of our scholars.



Enrichment - Castle Character Time

Our extended school day allows all scholars to benefit from our enrichment curriculum, which we call 'Castle Character Time'. Castle Character Time provides scholars with a choice of electives, which they all do on a Monday and Thursday afternoon. All scholars at Castle Mead will grow from our Castle Character Time pillars of Mastery, Courage and Fulfilment, as well as partaking in our Future Leaders Programme.

The co-curriculum offer at Castle Mead is wide-ranging, with something for everyone, regardless of prior experience. Scholars will be able to participate in drama productions, sports teams, trips abroad and academic activities such as debating and public speaking. By learning great poems from the Castle Canon off by heart and reciting them confidently and expressively, scholars will leave us with a rich inheritance and be the "heirs of all the ages that have gone before".

Our current electives on offer to Year 7 include:

Public speaking, Pi society, Board Games, School newspaper, Drama, Law society, Sustainability society, Photography, Choir, Basketball, Netball, Chess.

Music scholarships are made available to scholars, who are provided with an instrument of their choice, are given weekly peripatetic music lessons by professional teachers and practise weekly as part of our orchestra.

EXAMPLE TIMETABLE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:30-09:20	Maths	Computing	History	Languages	Science
09:20-10:10	Drama	History	Geography	Science	Maths
10:10-10:30	Break				
10:30-11:00	Interim time e.g. Assembly	Interim time e.g. P.E	Interim time e.g. Citizenship	Interim time e.g. Religious	Interim time e.g. Reading
11:00-11:50	Technology	Languages	Science	Maths	English
11:50-12:40	Technology	Science	Maths	English	Languages
12:40-13:30	Science	Maths	English	Art	IT
13:30-14:00	Lunch				
14:00-14:50	P.E	English	Maths	Geography	
14:50-15:40	P.E	Extra-curricular activities e.g. Duke of Edinburgh, drama, sports, enterprise			

NOTES

Photography Club

CASTLE MEAD ACADEMY



Support for Scholars

Our support for scholars begins before they join Castle Mead with our comprehensive transition programme. Information is gathered from Year 6 teachers about each scholar so that their needs, strengths and dispositions are known, which allows scholars to settle into our academy community smoothly. We want our scholars to be safe and happy from their very first day and feel a real sense of belonging. We work with our scholars through their induction to ensure that our expectations of them are clear and transparent.

Scholars are supported to develop their character and leadership skills through a number of opportunities such as being a part of our Student Council. Our Castle Growth rewards scheme champions our academy values.

Our Heads of Year work with our scholars and families in a supportive capacity, allowing us to maximise scholar learning. They are experts in their field, and intervene swiftly where necessary and broker the right support on behalf of the scholars in their year group.

In order to succeed, the academy and families must work together. Families will want to assist the academy in securing the high achievement of their child by ensuring their child:

- Attends each day
- Is fully equipped
- Completes all homework
- Gets to bed by a reasonable time
- Arrives in correct uniform
- Has monitored access to technology and digital-platforms
- Reads every day at home.

Families also have high expectations of the academy. Castle Mead staff welcome your feedback, so that we can create an environment where we are all striving together on behalf of our scholars.



Dear prospective scholars...

My name is Saduni. I'm a scholar now moving into Year 10 here at Castle Mead Academy.

I remember being nervous about starting at CMA but let me reassure you that will have a thorough induction on transition day where you will be given lots of information about adapting to life in a secondary school.

After your first week at CMA in August, you will have already settled into your classes and found some new friends (and maybe even your old friends from your primary school). I'm sure you still would be feeling a little nervous but rest assured that everyone at CMA (including staff and us, year 10s) are here for every single one of you if you have any worries or concerns.

Throughout your first year with us, you will be presented with many diverse opportunities, which allow you to shape your future here at Castle Mead and beyond. The first few weeks will consist of the following: receiving your timetable, getting used to your way around the site, getting to know your teachers and classmates, our simple but effective rules, and your teachers getting to know who you are as an academic and your ability across all the subjects we have to offer at CMA. We have recently moved into our impressive new building where we have state of the facilities. We are very lucky and there really is no better place to learn.

At CMA, we are very engaged in our Castle Credo: 'Be Kind, Work Hard and Build Your Character'. Every day, we come to school and these are our top priorities of the day and for the rest of time at CMA. This will ensure that each scholar will unleash their full potential and pursue their dreams and careers. Every CMA scholar will exceed in something, whether it's in sport, in music, in academia or in another extra-curricular field, and together we are working hard to grow a community of excellence. Learning at CMA is only difficult if you make it difficult; this advice applies to any task or activity you do at CMA or in the outside world. Our lessons are led by expert, convivial, yet professional teachers (which I must admit, once you get to know them, they're quite lively and fun to be around).

As I said previously, once you join our excellent community, please don't hesitate to talk to me, any other year 10 scholar, or a member of staff if you have any concerns or worries about your transition. Stay safe. I look forward to meeting you very soon!

Yours sincerely, Saduni

Scholar at Castle Mead Academy

Uniform

Our scholars take pride in their appearance and in their academy. Scholars are required to observe our uniform code. Families are expected to support scholars to help them look smart. The main items are available to purchase from a specified supplier. Our uniform comprises:

- Castle Mead Academy navy suit blazer with academy badge.
- White shirt/blouse.
- Castle Mead Academy grey suit trousers or kilt skirt
- Castle Mead Academy tie
- Plain black shoes.

Admissions

Castle Mead Academy will continue to grow by 240 scholars each year, until reaching full capacity of 1200 by the year 2023. Castle Mead has a city-wide catchment area, therefore offering our first-class education to any families who align to our values from across the city of Leicester.

We plan to hold our Open Events for perspective parents in September 2022. If you would like a personal tour of the academy during the day, please feel free to contact us and we will happily arrange this for you

Admissions to Castle Mead are coordinated by the Leicester City School Admission Service.

Website: www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning

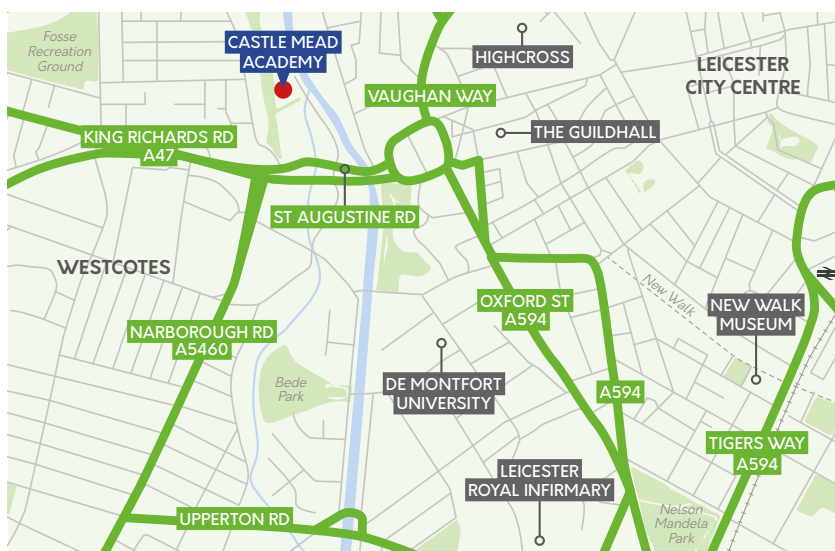
Telephone: (0116) 454 1009

Email: admissions.online@leicester.gov.uk

Site

Castle Mead Academy is situated in a very interesting central site by the riverside in the heart of historic Leicester, close to the Friars Mill regeneration area and the Highcross Shopping Centre, with excellent transport links. Our state-of-the-art building opened in August 2021. Our scholars, parents and staff are impressed by the facilities and opportunities available.

It is a privilege for our scholars to learn in such an innovative, professional and pristine environment. It is nothing less than they deserve, and we are fortunate to be the envy of many.





Our new school building

Our new school site has recently opened, and hence our scholars are the first to step foot in to our new facilities. We have been fortunate to design the buildings and site alongside our architects, seeing it grow from drawings to the impressive building, which can now be seen standing on the riverfront. Set over three floors, our brand new facilities include state-of-the-art specialist classrooms, a 300 capacity Theatre and sports facilities to include a sports hall, dance studio and sport pitches. There will no better place to learn in the coming years.







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