



**CASTLE MEAD**  
**ACADEMY**

# **A guide to being an excellent scholar at Castle Mead Academy**

**From Scholars to Scholars**



# Welcome - Class of 2028

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the guide to being an excellent scholar at Castle Mead Academy created by two scholars of the Founding Cohort at Castle Mead: Imran and Ishika. We aim for this guide to be a useful tool for all further scholars embarking on their CMA journey for years and years to come. This simple and easy guide will provide an overview of the livelihood of a CMA scholar as well as highlighting the necessary information and guidance required for you to have the best possible start to the Academy.

We understand that the transition from primary school to secondary school is sometimes a tough one, and the CMA team will be supporting you every step of the way. Essentially, that support starts here, with you, supporting yourself. We have attempted to answer and include as much information as possible we believe will aid you all. One of the most special things about this guide is that it is written from us, scholars, just like what you will become. We hope this can provide an element of reassurance knowing that we too are scholars and have shared the same thoughts and worries as you. But now, we are here to help you with your own.

From a scholar's perspective, we want to let you know that Castle Mead is not like any other secondary school across the country, or even world. Our community is so incredibly unique, diverse, and special. Castle Mead is a second home to us, and we cannot imagine what life without CMA would be like. Secondary school is an incredibly special journey, with its ups and downs. We have only been through four years of this impeccable journey, and now it is time to start yours.

**Turn over and begin your journey to becoming an excellent scholar at Castle Mead Academy.**



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**Dear scholars,**

It is a privilege to write this introduction, as the Principal of Castle Mead Academy.

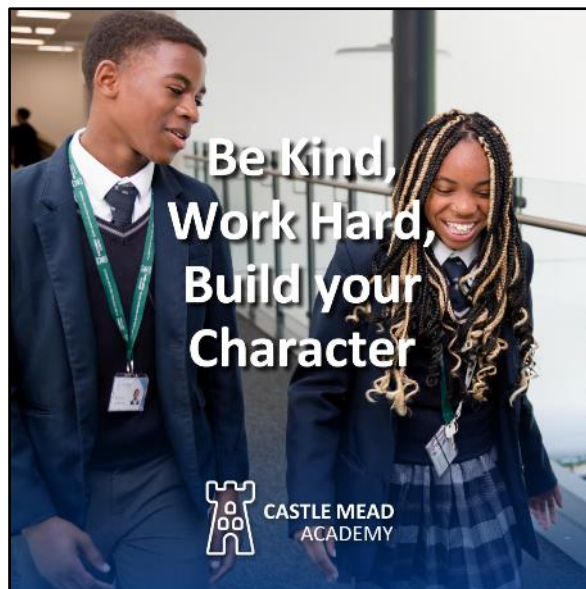
I always say to anyone who might listen, that the scholars of Castle Mead are our greatest asset. Never have I met such an ambitious, charming, and determined groups of young people. The very idea for this guide was incepted by two of our founding scholars, Ishika and Imran, which shows the incredibly kind nature of our school community.

Sometimes, schools can be complicated places with lots of moving parts. Moving from one lesson to the next, soaking up all the rich knowledge being taught to you by your teachers and embracing all the opportunities afforded to you is plenty for our scholars to keep on top of. Therefore, we try hard at Castle Mead to keep things as simple as possible for you. I always say to scholars, your responsibility is to focus on following our Castle Credo: Be Kind. Work Hard, Build Your Character. If you do these things well, you will be a successful scholar at Castle Mead, and we will celebrate your successes with you. The Castle Credo should be your focus, so as our excellent staff can teach you the absolute best lessons so as you can learn well each day. As a scholar, hang on your teachers every word, as their words are gold dust!

Castle Mead is a truly special place, where real magic happens. I look forward to seeing you flourish and contribute to our school community in the coming years.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr T Hague**  
**Principal**



# Author Introduction

Hi, my name is Imran and I am a current Year 10 scholar as part of the Founding Cohort here at CMA. 3 words to describe me would probably be ambitious, determined and kind. I would definitely say I have seized every opportunity I've been offered during my time at Castle Mead, and with my recent appointment in the role of Deputy Senior Prefect, I've been able to shape and contribute massively to CMA's culture and its community. Inevitably, I enjoy putting myself out there and getting my views understood and articulated. I am able to exercise this passion through my Captaincy of the CMA Maesters Debate Team in which I see as one of my proudest and most accomplished extracurriculars I endeavour in aside from school life in order to build my character. I wouldn't say I began my CMA journey as one of the most confident people, however the experiences I have been exposed to throughout my 4 years as a scholar have been truly shaping of my person and my character and the person I will become in the future. Additionally, I am extremely fortunate to withhold a Music Scholarship, in which I engage in private violin lessons weekly. Learning to play an instrument has been a challenging but incredibly rewarding experience, and I look forward to achieving my Grade 3 ABRSM Violin Qualification later this year! My biggest advice for future Year 7 scholars is to be open-minded and seize every opportunity you are offered in order for you to have the best secondary school experience possible!

## Ishika – Current Year 10 scholar

Hi, I am Ishika, another Year 10 scholar part of the Founding Cohort of Castle Mead Academy! One of the things I enjoy most at Castle Mead is contributing to our amazing community via my new appointment of Senior Prefect, in which I can express my views on school and give fellow scholars their voice and any concerns they have about the school I am able to ensure it is actioned! I therefore think that becoming a scholar at Castle Mead is such an amazing opportunity because of all of the options and variety of roles and leadership opportunities which help you develop as a person and not just academically. I am a certified bookworm so the fact CMA has the opportunity of Library Assistant is wonderful. This essentially means I can help our school librarian with the process of running our amazing library that has such a variety, there is truly something for everybody! Another example of how I can build my character. Finally, as the captain of CMA Maesters Debate Team I am able to pursue my passion of public speaking and be able to further those communication and leadership skills that I need to develop my whole self. My biggest advice to all future cohorts of CMA is to do everything and anything that is offered to you! You might be nervous but in a year or even a month's time you'll be grateful you did it! You have got this!

# Key Members of Staff

The staff at Castle Mead Academy are some of the Academy's greatest assets and help us scholars in our day-to-day activities. Listed are some of our key members of staff for you to recognise, however, there are many more individuals behind Castle Mead's success!

## Mr Hague - Principal

It is a privilege to welcome our new scholars to Castle Mead Academy. As the Principal, it is my job to ensure that you are safe, have lots of support and that you can learn well. You are truly fortunate to be able to learn from the absolute best teachers in the country at Castle Mead. Your teachers are all experts in their subject and are all committed to what we are doing at Castle Mead in growing a community of excellence. Starting secondary school can be daunting - all of you will be nervous. Take comfort in the fact that all your teachers have worked hard over the past few months to welcome you into our academy, and all that you need to focus on is following our Castle Credo: Be Kind, Work Hard, Build Your Character. I look forward to meeting each of you at the start of term, and watching you flourish over the next five years.



## Miss French - Vice Principal

Hello to all our new year 7 scholars! My name is Miss French, and I am one of the Assistant Principals at Castle Mead Academy. I am extremely excited to meet you all and for you to experience what it is like to be a Castle Mead scholar. Every single member of the Castle Mead community is passionate about being kind, working hard and building their character. Think about what this means to you: why is it so important to be kind? Why is it so important to work hard? What does it mean to build your character and why is this important? I look forward to discussing these questions with you when you join us. Until then, please know that I have every confidence that you will thrive in your new school and together we will continue to grow a community of excellence.



## Miss Rueben – Vice Principal

Welcome to our new scholars! My name is Miss Rueben, and I am one of the Vice Principals at Castle Mead Academy. I am very much looking forward to meeting you all. At Castle Mead, we are growing a community of excellence and we cannot wait for you to be part of this. In terms of our Castle Credo, I would like you to consider how you will build your character. Moving to secondary school is an exciting time where you will face new challenges; resilience will be key in your transition. I hope you have the best summer and enjoy the activities set for you. Take part in the challenges, too.



## **Miss Murphy – Head of Safeguarding and Pastoral Care**

Hello Year 7 scholars, my name is Miss Murphy, and I am the lead for Behaviour and Safeguarding at Castle Mead Academy. This means that it is my job to make sure that you are always safe at Castle Mead and at home. I will be working very closely with you all when you start, to help you understand the expectations at the Academy, what our routines are like and how you can make sure you have the best start to your secondary education. Starting secondary school is an exciting time in your life, but it can also be a bit worrying. Rest assured that you have wonderful staff waiting to meet you and make sure you feel safe and comfortable in your new school. I look forward to meeting you all very soon.



## **Miss Harris - Assistant Principal**

A very warm welcome to our Year 7 scholars! My name is Miss Harris, and I am one of the Assistant Principals at Castle Mead Academy. I am excited for you to settle into your lessons, our routines, and our new classrooms to begin to experience all the knowledge that your teachers have planned for you to learn over the next five years. I know that you will work hard to develop your knowledge, to build your character and to take all opportunities to be kind to each other and our school community. I am looking forward to getting to know you all very soon.



## **Mr Biggs - Assistant Principal**

Welcome Year 7 scholars! My name is Mr Biggs, and I am one of the Assistant Principals at Castle Mead Academy. I'm excited to support you as you build strong relationships with your teachers and fellow scholars by working hard in lessons and showing kindness to everyone in our school community, as well as helping you to build your character by embracing new experiences at Castle Mead. I look forward to meeting you all soon as you start an exciting new chapter with us.



## **Miss Thorley – Assistant Principal**

Hello to all our wonderful new Year 7 scholars! My name is Miss Thorley, and I am one of the Assistant Principals at Castle Mead Academy. I am really looking forward to meeting you and seeing you all begin your secondary school journey as a Castle Mead scholar. You are joining a community where being kind, working hard and building your character is at the centre of everything we do and we cannot wait for you to be a part of it too. I am excited for you to learn lots of new knowledge from our expert teachers, develop your character and show kindness to everyone every day. I look forward to meeting each of you and seeing you thrive over the next five years.





### **Mr Rule - Assistant Principal**

Welcome Scholars! I'm Mr Rule and I am proud to be one of Castle Mead's Assistant Principals. I use the word proud quite often when I talk about our academy. I'm proud to work in such a new and exciting building in the Leicester I love, I'm proud to be part of an amazing group of staff who work so hard to ensure our scholars get the best education and opportunities possible. But, most importantly, I am proud of our scholars and how hard working they are, how kind they are, and how they take every possible opportunity to develop their character. It is so exciting to include you as part of this as our new year 7 scholars, a group I'm sure I'll be just as proud to work with. Please do say *hello* when you see me out and about! I wish you all the best as you start with us at Castle Mead Academy and look forward to working with you all as you take your first steps as secondary school scholars.



### **Miss Simpkin - Assistant Principal**

Hello year 7 scholars! My name is Miss Simpkin, and I am one of the Assistant Principals at Castle Mead Academy. Here at CMA, we have so many new and exciting adventures for you to embark on and we can't wait to see you enjoy new experience and develop your character throughout your school life and beyond. They'll be lots of opportunity for workshops, trips, visits, careers and much more where you can explore and learn more about yourself and meet lots of new people and make friends along the way. I will be around to support you throughout these journeys and school lives, my door is always open for you to share stories or ask questions you may have.



I am so excited to meet you all and get to know your interests and aspirations. The next 5 years are going to be incredible, so let's embrace it and grab each opportunity with both hands and make the most of it!

### **Mrs Sharp – Academy Manager**

Welcome to our new scholars! My name is Mrs Sharp, and I am the Academy Manager at Castle Mead Academy. This means it is my job to make sure that the school has the equipment and resources, to ensure teachers have everything they need to teach you to be an outstanding scholar at our school. I also ensure the building and grounds are safe and secure. I look forward to meeting you all, have a great summer!





# Unique, Diverse, Home

Future Year 7 scholars, we just want to reassure you that everything will be okay! Castle Mead is such an inspiring place to be, it is unbelievable. It is a safe and understanding space, so mistakes are worked on and successes are celebrated. Here at Castle Mead, scholars are given their time to shine and discover their true potential. All members of our exceptional community, whether a scholar, member of staff, or a member of the wider community, are treated fairly and we will help new members into this forever growing family settle in and find out who they are and what they want to be. Finally, we have lots of opportunities to try and learn new skills and knowledge to benefit us in later life.

Moving to Secondary School is a huge challenge, but we know you will succeed well, and meet amazing people who will be lifelong friends. As we said, CMA is a family, and we all work together as one to create a growing community of excellence. At CMA, you will meet teachers who are experts in their subject, and staff members who are keen to give you the richest and most useful knowledge all to provide you with future happiness and prosperity.

By starting as a Year 7 scholar here at Castle Mead, you get to look forward to having a new start, a new leaf, and a new chapter for yourself. At this time back in Year 6, I was also amongst those who felt worried and anxious about this new change, but also excited. And I am sure you may feel the same too. But Castle Mead teachers are experts in their fields, including Transition, and you are in amazing hands.

**Current Year 10 scholar**

Castle Mead Academy is an amazing school that displays that everyone is capable of excellence. My favourite things about this school are the Castle Credo and how we always come together as a community. Some advice from me to the Year 6's is to not worry when transferring schools, we are all here to help and you will adapt to this school very quickly. Also, make sure to create a good impression and follow that through when you join this amazing school.

The first impression always counts. Lastly, good luck!

**Current Year 10 Scholar**

Inevitably, one of the main stereotypes regarding the move to secondary school is the false picture of them being extremely strict and demeaning towards young people. At Castle Mead, this notion is opposed greatly! Instead of having a long set of winding rules and guidelines on how to behave, the Academy asks all scholars of two things. We call these our underpinning **ground rules**.



## Behaviour

Here at Castle Mead, our exemplary behaviour underpins our Castle Credo and everything we do. We truly believe that behaviour is the key to success, this is reflected through performance and academic progress of scholars. The Academy utilises a simple and concise system to record, log and maintain behaviour in school, this is explained as follows.

**MERITS:** Merits are the main form of reward here at Castle Mead with a grand total, depending on the threshold, resulting in several prizes and access to further rewards such as trips. Merits are given every day for attendance, punctuality, homework, and effort.

### **DEMERITS AND THE BEHAVIOUR LADDER:**

Scholars who fail to follow instructions will fall under our behaviour ladder:

**D1 (Demerit)** - a demerit is our first form of consequence; it is provided for minor offences such as talking without permission during lessons. These can act as a reminder before the more serious consequences.

**D2 (Second Demerit)** - if a scholar continues to act inappropriately, they will be issued with a D2. These are your final reminder to fix your behaviour before you are subject to an after-school detention.

**D3 (After-school detention)** - if a scholar fails to follow the Castle Credo after their second demerit, they will be removed from lesson and provided with an after-school detention. These are logged and tracked, with a large

amount of D3s resulting in the scholar being on behaviour report which teachers will track throughout the course of your report period.

The staff team here at Castle Mead are always consistent in being fair with our merits and demerits.

Having a few demerits across the year is fine and completely acceptable, we all make mistakes! It is just worth keeping in mind that these should not be building up weekly and that you should keep a suitable track of your behaviour in school, after all, your behaviour and determination solely will indicate your success and progress within your time here at Castle Mead.

## Rewards

At Castle Mead, as you might already know, we are referred to as 'scholars': a person who is dedicated to learning and strives for excellence. We personally think that this has an input with how we are rewarded for our achievements. All achievements at Castle Mead, no matter how big or small they are, and these are appreciated through a 'Celebrating Success' assembly at the end of each half term. It allows the school to gather as a community and applaud those who have put maximum effort and 100% into everything they have done in that certain term.

Scholars are able to earn what we call 'Merits', for anything from answering questions during lessons, paying attention, putting maximal effort into their work, or going over and beyond expectations. These merits lead to different badges, which can be earned through reaching a certain threshold of merits which is displayed.

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Bronze            | 150 points in year |
| Silver            | 325 points in year |
| Gold              | 500 points in year |
| Principal's Award | 625 points in year |



## Subject Badge

Subject badges are awarded to those who show expertise and effort in a certain subject. Scholars can be nominated for a subject badge by the Head of Department or by a teacher in the department.

You do not necessarily have to be the most excelling and academically achieving in that subject to earn a subject badge, all it takes is effort and dedication to the subject!

## Scholarship Badge

Scholarship badges are awarded to scholars who are putting extreme effort into all subjects and extra-curricular activities they are involved in and are always at 100%.

## Creative Arts Badge

The Creative Arts Badge is awarded to scholars who show determination and effort in Creative Arts subjects, this could be through being part of the Castle Choir, or any dramatical performances. These are celebrated during our Celebrating Success Assembly.

## Principal's Award Badge

The Principal's Award Badge is awarded to the most exemplary and prestigious scholars of Castle Mead who have achieved 625 or more merits over the course of the year.

The scholars who are provided with this badge are selected due to their constant dedication to the Academy over the year.

**Prizes are awarded annually to scholars for outstanding effort and achievement in subjects, for success in examinations, for sporting endeavour and for services to the academy.**

# Scholar Leadership Opportunities

|   |
|---|
| Senior Prefect  |
| Deputy Senior Prefect                                 |
| CMA Prefect   |
| Equality Diversity and Inclusion Panel Representative |
| Scholar Council                                       |
| Reading Ambassador                                    |
| Reading Buddy   |
| Maths Leaders   |

# A Typical Lesson

All lessons at CMA are extremely detailed, and as scholars, we believe it is important that you are aware of what a typical lesson would include. Miss French, the teaching and learning leader here at Castle Mead has developed in-class routines that have further benefited the quality of our education. These are explained as follows:

## Tutor Time

Tutor Time commences at the beginning of the day and allows you to prepare for the day and talk to your tutor about any concerns you may have before the day begins. This also involves PSHE: Physical, Social, Health Education in which we explore how to be a successful CMA citizen and a citizen in the outside world.

## Lesson Content

A typical lesson at Castle Mead consists of a few main elements, which will be explained.

- **Do Now:** a period at the start of the lesson, which lasts approximately 3-5 minutes in which a few questions are displayed linking to your previous lesson. It is completed in silence so the teacher can do the register.
- **Knowledge:** teachers will ask for silence as the main body of the lesson is taught to the class, this may involve a variety of quick checks for understanding through the use of Mini-Whiteboards and Hinge Cards as explained below.
- **Mini White Board Checks:** all classroom tables at CMA are equipped with whiteboards and pens, which the teachers may use throughout the lesson to check for understanding of content. This may be in the form of simple or more complex questioning. All you need to do is write what you think the answer you think is correct and show your board when called. This is a great method to use in the classroom, as it ensures collective understanding. If the majority of scholars are unsure or answering incorrectly, this may signpost to the teacher that content needs to be retaught!
- **Hinge Questions:** a period of the lesson where a question is displayed, and you must respond to it using cards which have letters 'A, B, C and D' on them. This allows the teacher to see everyone's answers quickly to ensure understanding.
- **Independent Practice:** a period of the lesson where you are to work in silence independently on a set of practice that relates to what you have been studying in class. This may be to solve a sheet of maths problems, write a Cornell note, etc!





# Homework

Homework is a very intrinsic and imperative part of Castle Mead and allows teaching staff to see what our scholars can do outside of the classroom. All homework at Castle Mead is set with a specific purpose and is not there for the sake of it. Teachers will only set your homework in which they believe would be beneficial towards your knowledge and future.

We for one know something that all Year 6 students would worry about before transitioning to secondary school, and that is homework. Many Year 6 students believe that the homework set at secondary schools is sky high and will take many hours to complete. However, that, especially at Castle Mead, is not the case. Homework is not always a bad thing, and it will have its benefits in the future.

One of the main things that the Teaching and Learning department at Castle Mead have considered is the acts of retrieval, and weeks of research have been implemented to explain to scholars the practice of retrieval, and the process it has through our brains. Not many schools do this, and it allows us to understand the way not only in which our brain works, but how retrieval practice is extremely helpful. One of the main examples of retrieval practice would be homework, as the homework would be based on topics you have revised during your lessons at the Academy.





# Castle Character Time

Scholars at Castle Mead Academy live through and rely on the Castle Credo to guide them through their decisions, and actions when situated at our Academy.

**Be Kind  
Work Hard  
Build Your Character.**

The main reasoning behind Castle Character Time, which is delivered to all scholars at Castle Mead two times a week, is to ensure that all scholars are able to complete the final aspect of our Castle Credo: Build your Character. The Academy is fortunate to have recruited members of staff from all backgrounds with talents outside of teaching and working with children, who can express their interest with certain scholars, encouraging them to give whatever it is a go, no matter the difficulty, and to go out of our comfort zone, to further enhance our character.

Castle Mead also has a high emphasis of 100% out of the classroom, and extra-curricular work outside of our Academy is highly appreciated and celebrated. Castle Mead strives for scholars to be ambassadors and flag bearers of our Academy to the wider society and partaking in extra-curricular activities out of school is a great way to be representing our school, whilst building your character on the way.

Castle Character Time electives are chosen at the beginning of each cycle and are changed at the end of this so that all scholars have an opportunity to take part in as many Castle Character Time options as possible. Scholars are given a first, second and third choice of which elective brings the most interest to them but are highly influenced to choose electives that will allow them to be out of their comfort zone.

Below is a table with examples of Castle Character Time electives that would be listed, however, the list is not exhaustive.

|                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Photography Society         | Mandarin Society                     |
| Poetry by Heart Society     | Tai Chi Society                      |
| Castle Mead Quizzers        | Movies that have inspired us Society |
| Handball Society            | Cross Stitch Society                 |
| Badminton Society           | Chess Society                        |
| Mindfulness Society         | Aspiring to University Society       |
| CMA Maesters Debate Society | Newspaper Society                    |
| Cooking Society             | Board Game Society                   |

# Purchasing Food and Drink

The Academy caters for a wide range of dietary requirements to ensure that all scholars that request one are offered a suitable lunch. Below is an example of what a typical lunch menu for the week would look like. They change every term.

| Week 1                               | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Main Meal</b>                     | Local Butchers Sausages or Quorn Sausages<br><br>Served with seasoned mashed potato or sweet potato mash, seasonal vegetables and onion or savoury gravy                          | Chilli Con Carne or Vegetable Chilli<br><br>Mexican Vegetables<br><br>Served with a selection of side dishes | Traditional Roast Chicken<br><br>Served with stuffing & crispy roast potatoes     | Beef Madras or <i>Vegan</i> Cauliflower, Sweet Potato & Spinach Curry | Catch of the Day<br><br>Served with lemon wedge & tartare sauce |
| <b>Vegetarian Main Meal</b>          |   |  | Classic<br><br>Macaroni Cheese topped with garlic mushrooms or roasted vegetables | Served with rice, naan bread & a selection of side dishes             | Potato, Spinach & Feta Wellington                               |
| <b>On the Side</b>                   | Choose from our selection of fresh vegetables, salad, potatoes, rice and pasta. Our daily menu will confirm the days offer<br>Chips are served on Fridays                         |  |   |   |   |
| <b>Soup Station</b>                  | Try our Home Made Soup served with a chilli flakes, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, and home made bread and croutons every day  |  |   |   |   |
| <b>Pizza, Pasta &amp; Jacket Bar</b> | Pasta, & Jacket Potato<br>Add your choice of hot topping from our freshly prepared selection<br>Daily Pizza Selection<br>we will offer both meat and vegetarian choices every day |  |   |   |   |
| <b>Family Favourites</b>             | Vanilla sponge & vanilla sauce  | Warm chocolate & beetroot brownie with Cream   | Toffee Apple crumble & custard  | Creamy Rice pudding & berry compote                                   | Fruity Flapjack & custard                                       |

## How are lunches paid for?

Lunch is paid for via a Student ID Card which is handed to scholars upon arrival at the Academy.

## Are scholars permitted to bring a packed lunch with them?

Yes, however the following items are not allowed on school premises.

- Sweets
- Chewing Gum
- Fizzy Drinks/ Energy drinks

## How much would a standard school lunch cost?

A standard lunch would cost £2.35.

# Our Library

The Castle Mead Library is the perfect place for avid readers, and even to those who may not enjoy the subject so much, our librarian is able to assist you in finding the perfect book for you. Castle Mead has a high emphasis on it being a 'Reading School', and there are many opportunities throughout the day for you to engage in reading. Firstly, here is an introduction of the Castle Mead library from our librarian.

**Do you speak Dragonese? Do you know if you are a Gryffindor or Slytherin? Do you fear the cheese touch?**

**Everyone is a reader at Castle Mead Academy, which is why we have so many amazing books in our library! There really is something for everyone, and you can even have a look at what we have got on our shelves from the comfort of your own home – simply go to our [library website](#) and browse. Not only that, but we have free eBooks and audiobooks too! If you are not sure which books you like yet, then our librarian will help you find a book that is exactly right for you. You can take part in the Reading Rampage, join the Literature Quiz team, and even start your own mini book club with your friends. The library at Castle Mead Academy is the perfect place to start your own new adventure.**

Castle Mead has so many opportunities throughout the school and that definitely doesn't stop with the library! We have started our annual Manga Day in the library where our amazing librarian: Mr Bensley has all things Manga for all enthusiasts of the genre. Whether that may be bookmarks or book talks or colouring and drawing activities. Any and all things Manga are here, make sure to keep a lookout for this!

Another opportunity for all scholars at CMA is Reading Buddies! Reading Buddies is essentially where you are paired with someone who perhaps needs extra support with reading and each week you are able to help them better their reading and comprehension skills but also your leadership, clarity and comprehension too. This is a great opportunity and is essentially a gift that keeps on giving!

If you love the idea of reading as a group or discussing books, then Team Reads is the perfect thing for you! Team Reads is an initiative that allows you and your friends to pick a book and set a deadline, after reading the book you are able to discuss it and pick apart your favourite characters, moments and plot twists. At the end you may be rewarded merits for your dedication and commitment!



# Our Academy Site

The Castle Mead Academy permanent accommodation opened in August 2021.

It is a privilege to have such a beautiful new school, and we must all work hard together to ensure it stays clean and tidy.



## Top Five Tips

We as scholars understand how intense and complicated transitioning to secondary school can be, but one of the main objectives of this guide was to assure you that this is not the case whatsoever. Here are our top five tips to a successful scholarship at Castle Mead Academy.

- 1. Always remain 100% focused during all lessons you partake in when at our Academy.**
  - Attending school is extremely important, however, there is no point in attending if you are not getting the absolute best out of your lessons. As Castle Mead likes to say, 'Your teachers' words are gold dust, hang onto every word.'
- 2. Always follow the Castle Credo: Be Kind, Work Hard, Build your Character.**
  - Live by the Castle Credo and embrace it. Really take opportunities to be kind, as you never know what someone is going through. Work hard and achieve the best for you and make your teachers/parents proud.

Finally, build your character. Go out of your comfort zone and build your extra-curricular knowledge and enhance your skills.

**3. Always speak to one of the members of staff onsite if you have any worries or concerns.**

- You must remember that there is one dominant reason why staff have chosen to work at a school. And that is because they want to support young people, just like us. Do not feel afraid by adults, they are just there to help you; they are quite amusing especially when you get to know them.

**4. Do not worry about moving to our Academy.**

- Castle Mead Academy is always extremely eager to welcome new members of our community and are all here for you. It is nothing to worry about, and as stated, there are so many people with open hands who can support you.

**5. Finally, be yourself and have the time of your life, as you step into the next big part of your future.**

- One of the most important things for you to do is to be yourself. Castle Mead is an extremely diverse place, and it is important that you are always being you. There are so many people here who will accept you for who you are, no matter your appearance, race, academic/sporting abilities, or anything else that you might think sets you back. You are you, and you should never let anything stop that. Go and succeed and have the time of your life, as one of the most exciting phases of your future begins!

## Safeguarding and Pastoral Care/Support

We want to assure you that Castle Mead is an extremely inclusive place to be and being a scholar at Castle Mead is a privilege. Our Transition Team universally understands the worries and concerns you may have from such a transition, but they are always there to support you, and it is essential you know that. Castle Mead is fortunate to have recruited staff who are exemplary in supporting young people, and the staff at Castle Mead are always there to support you. Listed below are key members of our Inclusion and Special Educational Needs team who can support any scholar at CMA with any worries or issues they may have.

|             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Miss Murphy | Head of Safeguarding |
| Mrs Turner  | SENDCo               |

There are many more members of the team at Castle Mead who are open for you to talk to, this could be your Form Tutor, one of the kitchen staff, or even one of our cleaning staff. Anyone you feel comfortable with is available to talk to you and support you in any way you need.

Each year group has a dedicated Head of Year team, each equipped with a personal Pastoral Support Worker who is available every single day should you have any concerns, worries or need someone to talk to.

Overall, Castle Mead Academy is a safe place, and there are always people available to help you with anything needed. Wellbeing is an important factor to success, and teachers want to ensure your wellbeing is always stable.



# Frequently Asked Questions

We understand that Year 6 scholars may be very intrigued to find out more information regarding Castle Mead and may also have a few questions about our Academy: one of the main reasons this guide was compromised and crafted. Below are a few general questions which are answered about our Academy. We hope this is useful to you and answers some of your queries.

[Are phones permitted on school premises?](#)

We are not permitted to have mobile devices on site as with them in class, we are not able to focus fully on our learning. We also believe talking and socialising with each other is more beneficial for our wellbeing.

[What would we do if we do not have internet access, and we are set homework that requires this?](#)

Homework that requires internet access is set quite often, however, Castle Mead is a very understanding school, and there are many opportunities in which teaching staff can support those who may not have internet access.

[If we had a dietary requirement \(Halal, Vegetarian, Vegan, etc\), are we still able to have a hot lunch at school that meets our requirements?](#)

Castle Mead is a truly diverse and vibrant place to be, due to its extremely mixed and wide-ranged community from all different backgrounds. It is therefore important that the Academy can cater for a variety of dietary essentials, ensuring all scholars are fed appropriately with the fuel they need to drive and contribute successfully towards their lessons. The Academy caters for many requirements, and there are also daily Vegetarian options available. Our kitchen is also very lenient and are very dedicated to ensuring no scholar goes hungry. You are always able to talk to them if you do not like any of the options available, and they will be able to prepare you something simple so that you are able to eat something.

[How often are trips at the Academy?](#)

Castle Mead has a high emphasis for rewarding scholars for all the hard work they do over the course of their fifteen terms here, and one of the many ways in which they do this is through trips. Trips do occur quite regularly, and there are many opportunities to visit places of higher education and work also, providing us with a broad Careers Education so that we are ready for our next steps once we leave the Academy.

[How many lessons do scholars sit in a week?](#)

Castle Mead scholars sit on average of thirty lessons a week. Now, this may seem extremely overwhelming, but really it is not, and it allows so much knowledge to be passed forward in the space of this short period of time. Scholars get used to this very quickly and can adjust impressively well. It allows us to be in the best position for when we take our GCSEs also.



# Contact Us

We thank you for coming to the end of our guide and we hope it has brought much comfort and interest to you. If you would like to contact the Academy for any reason, the contact details are listed below. Thank you, and we hope to see you join our Castle Mead Academy community very soon!

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Address:</b>   | Castle Mead Academy<br>50 Richard III Road<br>Leicester<br>LE3 5QT |
| <b>Telephone:</b> | 0116 214 3150  |
| <b>Email:</b>     | Info@castle-tmet.uk  |
| <b>Website:</b>   | www.castle-tmet.uk   |
| <b>Facebook:</b>  | Castle Mead Academy  |
| <b>Twitter:</b>   | @CastleMeadAcad  |

**We hope to see you at our Academy very soon as we continue to grow a community of excellence.**

**Created by Ishika and Imran!**