



Prospectus

2023-2024





Welcome from the Chief Executive Officer



I'm delighted that you are interested in finding out more about Castle Mead Academy.

Castle Mead Academy is part of The Mead Educational Trust (TMET), a growing family of eight primary and five secondary schools in Leicester and Leicestershire.

While all Mead schools are unique, we are united in the belief that together we make a positive difference – to the life chances of our children, to our communities and to each other.

At the heart of all we do is a commitment to provide our scholars with access to a world-class education, our schools with excellent school-to-school support, and our staff with high quality professional development.

All Mead schools work closely together to provide a wide range of experiences and opportunities for our scholars, sharing expertise and widening their horizons.

We have seven values across our family of schools, called the Seven Cs: character, challenge, collaboration, community, courage, creativity and culture. We instil these values in our scholars and we use them as the basis of how we work together and treat each other.

All the staff at Castle Mead Academy will be excited to tell you more about the school and what they can offer your child. Please do get in touch if you would like to know more.

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 22 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 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 has access to the best provision, being enabled to achieve highly regardless of prior attainment, need 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 sixth year group, the class of 2029, 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

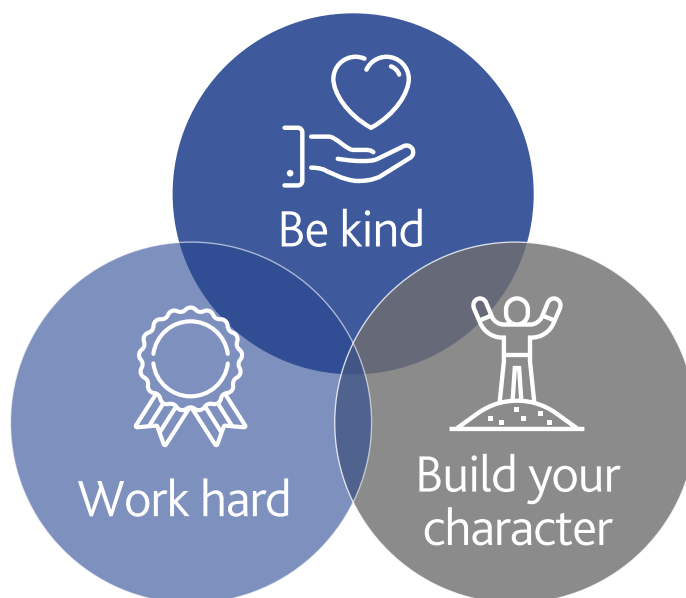
We believe in giving 100%

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 have grown 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.

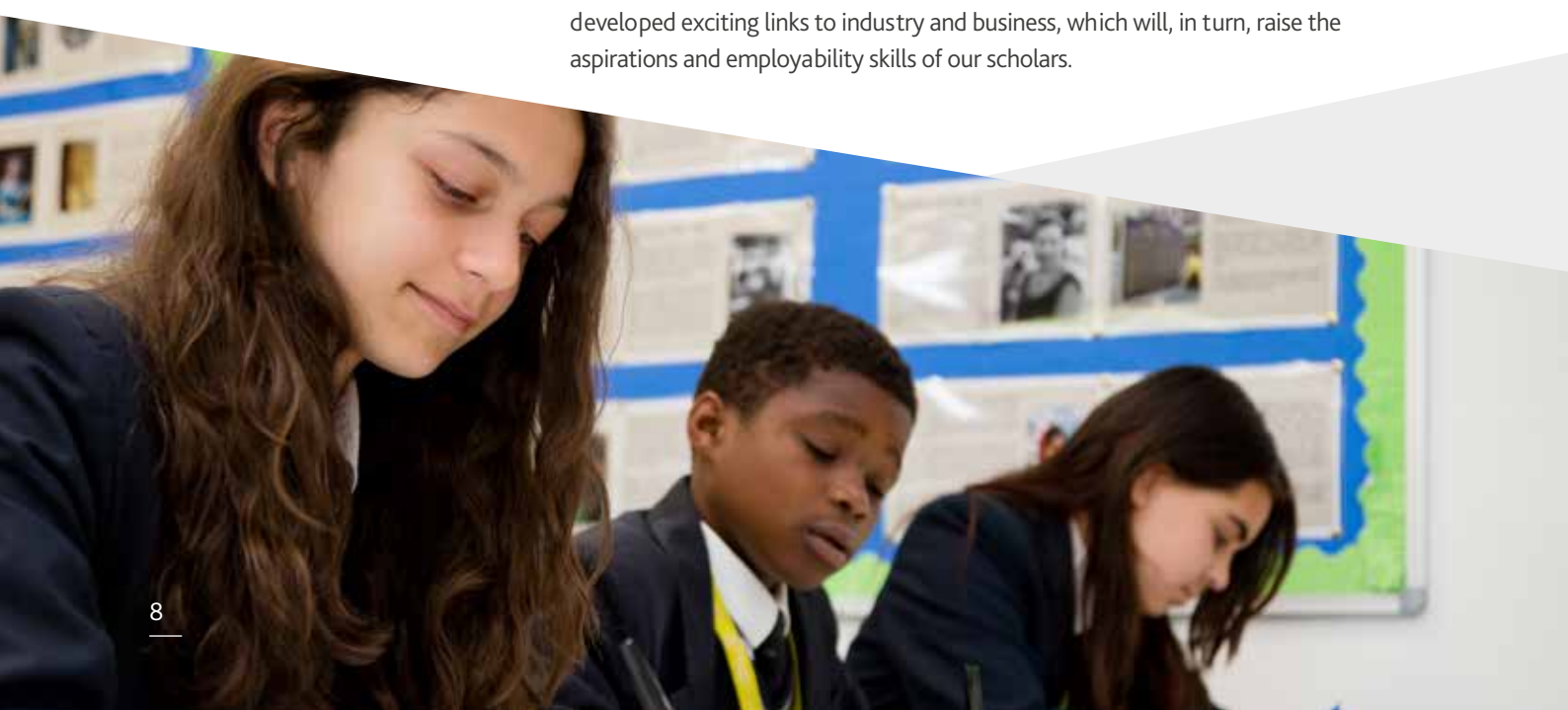
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Castle Mead's curriculum is one that engages, stimulates and challenges our scholars, underpinned by academic rigour. The curriculum is knowledge based, with an emphasis on the 'best that has been thought and said'. We believe that knowledge about 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, a language and Religious Education. 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.

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. PE	Interim time e.g. Citizenship	Interim time e.g. Debating	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	PE
13:30-14:00	Lunch				
14:00-14:50	PE	English	Music	Geography	
14:50-15:40	PE	Extra-curricular activities e.g. Duke of Edinburgh, Drama, Sing, etc.			

NOTES

Photography Club





Sports



Our PE department extends many varied opportunities to compete in sport and physical activities that help to build character and to embed core values, such as fairness and respect.

Both boys and girls have the opportunity to compete against other schools locally and nationally. Our aim is to ensure that every child can access the opportunity to participate in a wide and varied range of physical activities, with the aim of promoting a sustainable future in sports for our scholars (with many joining local clubs).

Arts

The Arts are thriving at Castle Mead!

Our annual school productions offer scholars a range of opportunities to build their confidence in singing, dancing and acting. Within the school productions there is also the opportunity for scholars to get involved in a variety of backstage and supporting roles. Recent productions include 'Oliver!' and 'We Will Rock You'. Furthermore, our alliance with the Curve Theatre also allows scholars a wealth of opportunities within the field of Theatre.

Castle Mead Academy offers an annual Music Scholarship opportunity for every Year 7 cohort and recognises the power of music to engage and inspire scholars to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians.

All scholars study dance as part of our PE curriculum, taught by our specialist teacher in our Dance Studio. 'CMA Dance Company' compete nationally, enjoy the riches of our Dance enrichment offer and host our annual 'Dance Showcase' for families.

Cultural Enrichment Journey

At Castle Mead Academy our aim is to equip every scholar with the knowledge, learning power and character necessary for success in later life. We have hence mapped the enrichment experiences we want to extend to all scholars over their five years with us. These experiences build year on year, and include performances, workshops and experiences in school and on our doorstep in Leicester, as well as opportunities for international trips.

Careers

At Castle Mead Academy, our Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme mirrors the school commitment of 'Growing a Community of Excellence'. The programme is experienced as a rich culture that shines throughout the school. Throughout their five-year journey at Castle Mead Academy, we work collaboratively to empower scholars with the knowledge, skills, attributes, experiences and confidence to enable them to make well-informed decisions and ultimately flourish throughout each stage of their career journey as lifelong learners in education, training and the world of work.

The programme is built around two key elements: 'Roots and Wings'. The 'Roots' element builds the careers knowledge and transferable essential skills to empower scholars to be successful. The 'Wings' element provides rich experiences, encounters, and opportunities to inspire scholars to realise their potential.

Learning in each year has a key focus:

YEAR 7 Awareness

YEAR 8 Explore

YEAR 9 Consider

YEAR 10 Experience

YEAR 11 Decide

“ I am really grateful to my school and the LEBC for organising my year 10 work experience! I have developed so many new skills and now feel confident that I will pursue a career in law in the future. ”

CMA year 10 scholar

“ [CMA scholar] has been a pleasure to work with, polite, punctual and hard working. We have loved seeing her grow in confidence and ability throughout the week. ”

Placement provider

A highlight of the CMA scholar journey is the opportunity to participate in a one-week work experience placement. A week's work experience provides scholars with an opportunity to gain an insight into and experience of the world of work; to develop an understanding of the work environment and expectations of employers; to explore possible career options and to increase their self-understanding, maturity, independence, self-confidence and essential employability skills.

Find out more about the careers programme at Castle Mead Academy by visiting Careers – Castle Mead Academy | TMET Leicester MAT (castle-tmet.uk)



Partnerships

We are proud of the Partnerships we have sought and developed at Castle Mead, with local partners who enable wider opportunities for scholars in line with our key driver to 'develop the whole self'. Our partnerships add significant value to our work, and we believe are a significant 'USP' of our offer. We aim to continue to enhance these partnerships, and carefully chosen other activities, as part of our continued commitment to grow a community of excellence.

Leicester Rowing Club

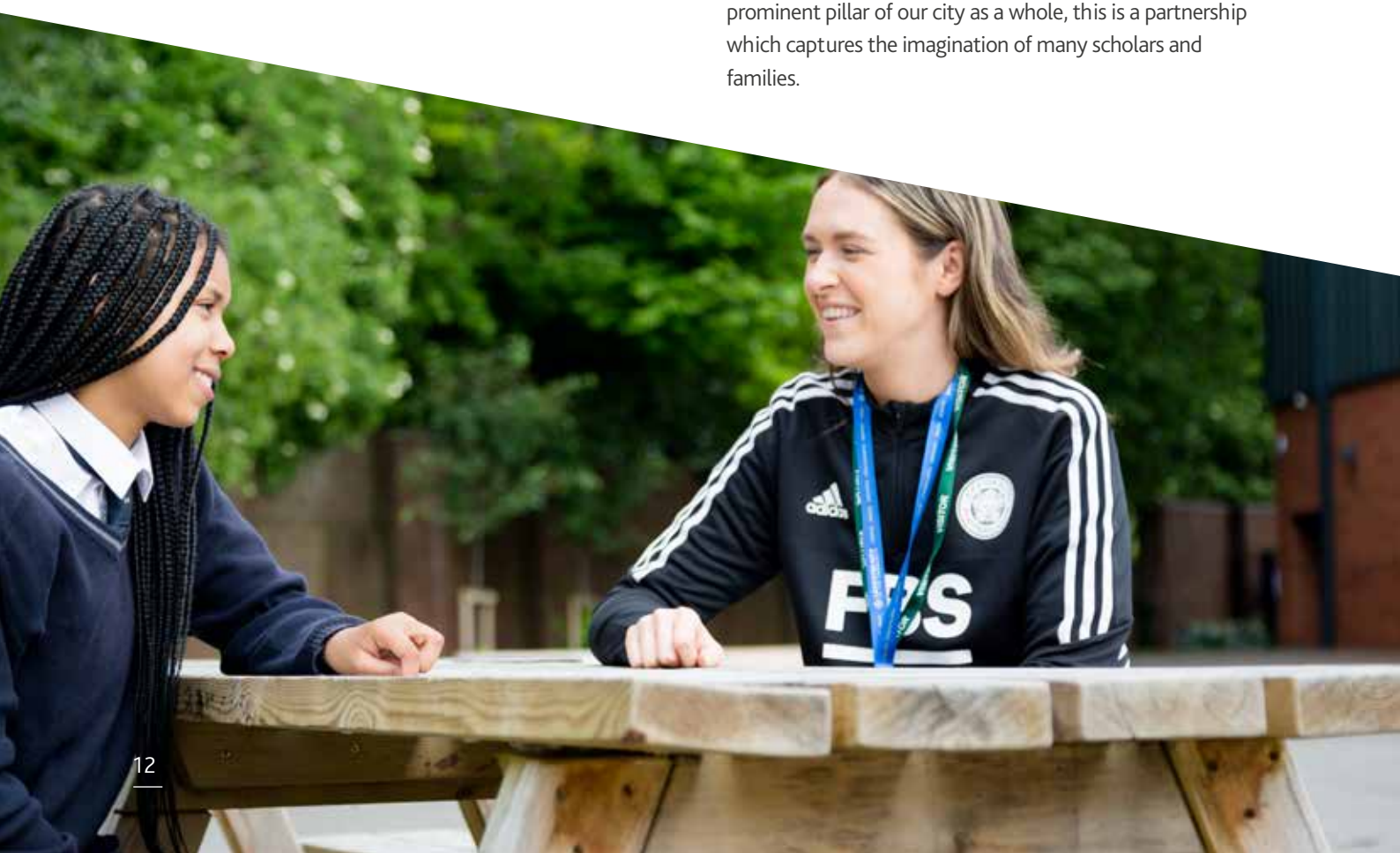
Rowing scholarships are in place for Castle Mead scholars, in partnership with Leicester Rowing Club. All year seven scholars gain an opportunity to experience a rowing masterclass, with those who would like to benefit from further specialist coaching then joining our 'Castle Mead Academy Rowing Club' from year eight onwards. We currently have two squads in our Rowing Club, who have two training sessions per week each, rowing on the 'Mile Straight' on the canalised River Soar directly outside of the main entrance to our school. We continue to be supported by Henley Royal Regatta Charitable Trust and our squads are now competing nationally.



Leicester City in the Community



Our partnership with Leicester City in the Community is now relatively longstanding, and we benefit hugely from the opportunities this provides. As part of the Inspires Programme, we have an Inspires Mentor based in school four days per week to work with identified scholars across all year groups. This mentoring relationship has proven to be transformational for many scholars, due to the close working of our Mentor and Castle Mead pastoral staff. Other opportunities have included participation in comedy workshops as part of the Leicester Comedy Festival, action research project based from the King Power Stadium and the UEFA Goals programme. With the football club being such a prominent pillar of our city as a whole, this is a partnership which captures the imagination of many scholars and families.





Uppingham School

UPPINGHAM

1584 Forward

Many scholars from Castle Mead enjoy coordinated visits to our friends at Uppingham School, to collaborate on extended opportunities in Sports (including basketball and netball), Music ('Rock Band' and 'LogicPro' workshops), Design Technology, Enterprise and Debating. Scholars gain from the insight of Uppingham staff, students and alumni as well as gaining the benefits of using the first-class facilities and experiencing a culture outside of their usual comfort-zone. We aim for this partnership work to enable our first Castle Mead scholars to gain 6th Form bursaries to study at Uppingham, this year.

Greenhouse Sports



We are fortunate to be the only secondary school outside of London who are currently benefitting from the Greenhouse Sports Programme. This means that we have a full-qualified and reputable Basketball Coach on our staff team, to work with our boys and girls in coaching and mentoring sessions throughout the week. Scholars can enjoy basketball sessions before school, at lunchtime and after school each day. Our Coach also runs free basketball camps over the school holidays, and in general is a popular and credible role-model to many scholars. We are proud that our teams compete in the National School Basketball Championship each year.

Enstruct

We appreciate the partnership we have formed with Enstruct. Enstruct is a small company within Leicestershire, set up and developed as a result of experience in working with young people who are hungry for an alternative and hands on education. Making use of our garden area onsite at Castle Mead and also our local surroundings outside of school, identified scholars can work with our visiting Enstruct Instructors through accredited courses and following an Outdoor Learning and Forest Schools ethos. Testimonies from scholars and families show the programme to have made a real impact on the self-confidence and self-esteem of our scholars – and we are proud of the physical imprint and legacy scholars have made on our school site, to benefit of all.





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.

Scholar Leadership

Developing Scholar Leadership across the Academy is a top priority of our approach, and helps to provide scholars with opportunities to develop and practice leadership skills that prepare them to be the 'leaders of tomorrow'.

Scholar leaders across all year groups work together to drive positive change in a number of important areas. Scholar leadership opportunities at Castle Mead Academy include:

- Prefects
- Scholarship Monitors
- Scholar Council
- Scholar Receptionists
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Panel
- Maths Leaders
- Sports Leaders
- Kindness Ambassadors
- Reading Ambassadors
- Eco Schools Group

Scholar leadership plays a significant role in how scholars learn to demonstrate tolerance, respect, and develop essential debating and oracy skills – giving our scholars a competitive edge in their next steps beyond Castle Mead.

Scholar Wellbeing

Wellbeing and mental health are big foci for us here at Castle Mead Academy and together are a strategic priority, embedded into the culture and ethos of our school.

We are wholeheartedly committed to providing the highest standard of care to all of our scholars, appreciating all scholars as individuals. A support network underpins our care for each scholar, and we have a dedicated in-house team who provide specific support. Our specialist team play a critical role in shaping the lives of our scholars and are placed to address the challenges they face by providing support around physical, emotional, and psychological wellbeing.



Dear prospective scholars...

My name is Saduni. I'm a scholar now moving into Year 11 here at Castle Mead Academy.

I remember being nervous about starting at CMA but let me reassure you that you 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 11 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 school building

Our new school site has recently opened, and hence our scholars were 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.







CASTLE MEAD
ACADEMY

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www.tmet.uk