



**CASTLE MEAD**  
**ACADEMY**

# **A Guide for Families new to the Academy**

## **2025 - 2026**



Contents	2
Home Academy Agreement	3 - 5
Welcome	6
Key Members of Staff	7
Engaging with Parents/Carers	8
Vision and Values	8 - 10
The Academy Day	11 - 13
Castle Mead Pastoral Team	13
Transition	14
Eating at the Academy	15 - 16
Uniform	17 - 19
Behaviour for Learning	20 - 22
The Castle Mead Way Each Day	23 - 26
Systems for Detentions	27
Damage/Loss to Property	27
Mobile Phones and Other Devices	27 - 28
Academy Policy on Bullying	28
Scholar Rewards	28 - 31
Academy Communication	31-32
Attendance and Punctuality	33 - 34
Safeguarding Scholars at Castle Mead	34 - 35
Curriculum	36 - 38
Oracy	39
Music	40
Reading	41- 42
Term Dates	43
Contact Us	44

### **Commitment by the Staff of Castle Mead Academy:**

#### **Learning:**

- We believe every scholar at Castle Mead Academy is capable of academic success.
- We will support each scholar to achieve excellence in all aspects of school life.
- We will make sure we always come to lessons prepared and continually engage scholars in the challenging work that paves the way for success in school and life, by developing in our scholars a love of learning.
- We will provide rewards for scholars' endeavour.
- We will set appropriate homework regularly.
- We will take our scholars on relevant field trips and visits to broaden their horizons and enable them to have rich experiences.
- We will offer every child the opportunity to learn an instrument and be part of the orchestra.
- We will constantly strive to become better educators.
- We will enable each child to learn a language to GCSE level.

#### **Pastoral Care:**

- We will ensure that each Form Tutor will support each scholars' progress and wider development, ensuring they are set up for learning each day.
- We will go out of our way to get to know each of our scholars as individuals.
- We will care about our scholars' wellbeing, and protect their safety at all times.

#### **Communication with Families:**

- We believe that through regular communication, a relationship of trust between school and home can be created.
- We will hold progress evenings every year and issue achievement reports each term.
- We will make sure that scholars and parents will be able to contact their form tutor by email and will reply to all communications from parents as soon as possible.
- We will welcome families into the school community.

#### **Behaviour:**

- We will implement the Castle Mead Academy behaviour policy consistently and fairly.
- We will protect scholars from poor behaviour by insisting on high standards and holding scholars to account for their actions.

We understand that this commitment will require us to go above and beyond the average expectations of a school. We are committed to do so, because we believe that Castle Mead Academy is a partnership between the parents and staff that exists to create the best possible education for our scholars.

## **Commitment by the Families of Castle Mead Academy:**

We understand that by accepting a place at Castle Mead Academy, we will play a full role in our child's education by following the guidelines below.

### **Learning:**

- We believe our child is capable of academic success.
- It is through hard work on the part of our child, with our support, that they will excel.
- We will support our child to go on academy field trips and visits, so as they build their character.
- We understand that our child will have homework regularly, including over weekends, and that it will increase in length as they progress through the school. It is our responsibility to see that homework is completed. If homework is not completed our child will have to attend detention.

### **Healthy Living:**

- We understand that the Academy offers healthy meals each day. We will not give our child fizzy drinks, energy drinks, sweets or chewing gum to take into school, as these are banned items.

### **Attendance:**

- We will ensure our child arrives in school by 8.25am
- We will not plan for family holidays or other extended absences during term time. If we take our child out of school in term time, we accept that we may be fined by the local authority.
- We will make certain that our child attends school every day, except in cases of illness or another legitimate reason. We will schedule routine medical appointments during times when the school is not in session. If our child is absent, we will telephone the school before 8:30am on the day of the absence to report the reason.

### **Uniform:**

- We will make sure our child wears the full academy uniform to school each day.
- We understand that uniform violations will result in the scholar having to borrow academy uniform for the day; in the case of wrong shoes being worn, the scholar will be expected to wear loaned plimsolls.

### **Communication with the Academy:**

- We will always make ourselves available to the school by providing an up-to-date phone number.
- We will read all achievement reports and other correspondence carefully, and attend all parent meetings.
- We will treat Castle Mead Academy teachers with respect and courtesy.

### **Behaviour:**

- We support the Academy's behaviour policy including the consequences for misbehaviour.
- We understand that detention runs from 3.40 until 4.25pm, on a Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday and 2.10-2.55pm on a Friday. We understand that our child cannot be excused from detention.
- We understand that if our child breaks the Academy rules in a serious way, then we will be required to come to the school to attend a meeting, prior to our child being allowed to return to lessons.

## **Commitment by the Scholars of Castle Mead Academy:**

### **Learning:**

- I will strive to achieve my best in all that I do and challenge myself to improve.
- I will do whatever it takes for other CMA scholars and me to learn.
- I will focus 100% on learning in lessons.
- I will arrive at CMA by 8.25am every day for line-up.
- I will raise my hand and ask questions in class if I do not understand something.
- I will complete all of my homework on time, and I will contact my teachers if I have a problem with the homework.
- I will attend homework detentions if my homework is not neat and complete, or if I hand in my homework late.
- I will abide by the Academy rules regarding food and drink, so as I have full concentration in class and we have a nice school environment.
- I will discuss any problems I am having at school with my parents, form tutor and teachers.
- I will follow all instructions given by staff so that I do not delay learning.
- I will report any bullying immediately.
- I will come to school equipped to learn every day, with my pencil case, reading book and PE kit (on the correct day).
- I will take part in opportunities through Castle Character Time.

### **Growing a Community of Excellence:**

- I will wear my CMA uniform smartly and with pride every day.
- I agree to follow the school rules and I understand there will be consequences if I fail to do so, including detentions.
- I will follow instructions first time, every time.
- I will focus 100% on learning in lessons.
- In lessons, I will follow STAR instructions, so that I can listen well and be respectful.
- I will always treat everyone at CMA with respect. I will always listen to and care for other CMA scholars.
- I am responsible for my own behaviour.

I will follow and promote the Castle Credo, by being kind, working hard and building my character.

By accepting your place at Castle Mead Academy, both scholars and parents/carers, agree to abide by the above Home Academy Agreement.

## Welcome

Dear Families,

I am delighted to welcome you to our wonderful school community and look forward to working with you all as your child embarks on their journey as a CMA scholar. Over the past six years, we have been growing a community of excellence in the heart of our city. We are immensely proud of our achievements so far, but we know that we are very much still growing: your child is now a part of that journey.

We focus on being brilliant in the basics at Castle Mead Academy: doing the simple things really well, so that teachers can teach, and scholars can learn. We have extremely high expectations because we know, without exception, that every child is capable of excellence and will flourish in our school. Our teachers are passionate subject experts and will provide your child with an excellent education across the curriculum. Our routines are designed to ensure a calm and orderly atmosphere, and we look for all our parents' support in upholding the values, systems and rules that make our school an orderly and respectful environment for all. We place maximum emphasis on excellent behaviour and a thoughtful caring attitude to each other. This is supported by a strong pastoral system which ensures we get to know every child well. We build a strong sense of belonging in our school and this is underpinned by the value we place on relationships between staff and scholars.

As well as wanting our scholars and staff to feel pride and belonging in our school, it is very important to us that our families feel this way, too. We pride ourselves in the relationships we build with our families and, year on year, want to provide even more opportunities for families to be actively involved in school life. We have a commitment to keep on getting better, and our families play a big role in supporting us to do this. We look forward to fostering this relationship with you and thank you in advance for your support.

This handbook is an essential manual to help you to support your child at Castle Mead. Please keep it, refer to it and do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any queries, at any time.

We will do everything in our power to communicate really effectively with you in the future and wish you and your child a happy and successful Castle Mead experience.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Chloe French', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Chloe French  
**Principal**

## Key Members of Staff



**Miss French**  
**Principal**



**Miss Rueben**  
**Vice Principal**



**Miss Harris**  
**Vice Principal**



**Mr Gardner**  
**Assistant Principal**



**Miss Simpkin**  
**Assistant Principal**



**Mr Gilbert**  
**Assistant Principal**



**Mr Mayes**  
**Head of Behaviour**



**Miss Murphy**  
**Head of Safeguarding**

## Engaging with Families

Evidence shows that strong and positive home-school links can lead to improvements in children's learning, in their completion of homework, and their behaviour and attendance. At Castle Mead Academy creating and sustaining effective relationships with every family is our priority.

We look forward to seeing you at our many and varied events for families, including parents' information evenings where you can learn more about our curriculum and how you can most effectively support your child; regular parents' evenings where you will meet your child's teachers to discuss his/her progress; our Awards Evening and performances and exhibitions.

We actively seek the views of families and we welcome and respond to feedback. This includes ensuring that there is a parent governor on the Academy Council and that there are effective channels of feedback to other families, for example through our Family Forums.

## Vision and Values

**At Castle Mead Academy we are growing a community of excellence by giving our pupils both roots and wings so as they can create a better future. We do this by being kind, working hard and building our character.**

### Vision, Ethos and Values

Castle Mead Academy's mission statement is 'Growing a Community of Excellence'. Whilst we are now a 'full' school, we recognise that we are still very early on in our school's history and hence very much still growing our community of excellence.

'Community' is a key driver of the academy, both in terms of the internal school community and our wider community in the locality. Within the school, we have a diverse and comprehensive intake; inclusive practices will allow all scholars to achieve. The school reflects its citywide catchment in the diversity of languages, religions, cultures and social backgrounds represented. It acknowledges and celebrates all of the rich facets of a modern British identity in a vibrant, urban and diverse city, reaching out to, reflecting and embracing all. This diversity is seen in the scholar body, staff team, the curriculum, extra-curricular activities and the daily life of the school.

In each facet of the school, 'excellence' is the standard all stakeholders are expected to strive for:

- *Excellence in conduct*
- *Excellence in work*
- *Excellence in facilities*
- *Excellence in outcomes*
- *Excellence in safeguarding and scholars' welfare*
- *Excellence in the wider development of all.*

### Our Beliefs

*It is unequivocal that at CMA...*



Everyone is capable of excellence	We develop the whole self	We make no excuses	We see feedback as a gift	Everyone belongs
We believe everyone is a leader	We believe in giving our scholars roots and wings	We believe in being unapologetically ambitious	We believe in developing experts	We believe that every member of the CMA community should go home feeling safe, happy and valued, each day.
We believe in the value of scholarship	We believe in positive relationships	We believe in giving 100%	We believe that we can always improve	
We believe in working hard	We believe in building cultural capital	We believe in rigorous routines	We believe in caring personally and challenging directly	
We believe knowledge is power	We believe in spiritual and moral development	We believe in taking responsibility	We believe that we are humans first, professionals/learners second	
We believe that teachers should teach and scholars should learn	We believe in being kind	We believe in equality		
We believe in subject autonomy	We believe in the importance of identity	We believe in social mobility		
	We believe in building character	We believe inclusion is everyone's responsibility		
		We believe behaviour is everyone's responsibility		

### Principles: The key values upon which CMA is based

Castle Mead Academy is characterised by high expectations, doing the simple things well, and the belief that all children can succeed.

Our academy is focused on providing our scholars with both 'roots and wings'.

- Roots so that they are grounded in strong values. They are polite, courteous and respectful. They are taught social interactions including etiquette and debating, so that they receive the same advantages as the best schools in the country. They are taught to know the difference between right and wrong so that they are able to positively contribute to society, and becoming well-rounded, ambassadors for our academy.
- Wings so that they learn the best which has been thought, said, written and created in every field of human endeavour. Their education extends knowledge, experience and imagination in ways which develop critical and analytical capability, awareness of moral values and capacity for enjoyment. Thus, our scholars reach their academic potential, achieve the very best grades and have access to high quality destinations.

### Curriculum and Learning

The curriculum has a particular focus on English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects, namely English, mathematics, science, the humanities and a language. It is our aim that scholars leave Castle Mead Academy as articulate, resilient, critical individuals who excel academically, in the arts, languages and on the sporting field. Our scholars will enjoy the riches of an ambitious curriculum and be 'heirs of all that has gone before', inheriting all of the rich knowledge from the past to better shape the future. Of equal importance within our curriculum is developing the whole self through a rich arts

and sports offer. We want to develop our scholars' practical, creative and artistic talents alongside the academic, and are proud of the breadth of our curriculum in this way.

Castle Mead Academy is predicated on the development of expertise. Our staff are challenged and coached to become 'experts'. Likewise, our scholars are taught to be experts in each of their fields: to speak like a scholar, to read like a historian, to draw like an artist. We recognise that the best way to become an expert is through practice; we aim for mastery.

### Our scholars

A scholar is a learned or very knowledgeable person. Our pupils are all scholars: every day they learn new things and build their knowledge capital.

From the moment a scholar arrives at Castle Mead Academy, we ask them to live "The Castle Credo" to be kind, work hard and build your character - this permeates all that we do.

### Castle Mead scholars are...



Scholars' welfare is a key driver for our work, so as we proactively ensure that scholars are safeguarded effectively. Layers of support for scholars include:

- Pastoral care, including the Year Team, form tutor, and well-being team. We have our own in-school counsellor as part of this.
- Inclusion support, including our team of Key Workers, the SENDCo and Lead Teacher for Inclusion.
- Teaching staff: our teachers, and all staff, know that relationships and consciously building a sense of belonging is the most important part of their role.

## The Academy Day

Your child should arrive at Castle Mead by 8.25am ready for line-up, which will then start promptly. Whilst a late mark is not issued until 8.30am, it is important that scholars arrive on time to ensure do not miss any key messages in the morning.

Monday - Thursday	
8.00 – 8.30am	Site open for Breakfast Club
8.20am	Hand-up, begin Line-up
8.25am	Morning address
8.30am - 8.45am	Registration
8.45am - 9.35am	Lesson 1
9.35am - 10.25am	Lesson 2
10.25am – 11.15am	Lesson 3
11.15am – 11.35am	Break
11.35am – 12.25pm	Lesson 4
12.25pm – 1.15pm	Lesson 5
1.15pm – 2.10pm	Lunch
2.10pm – 3.40pm	Lesson 6 and 7 (Double lesson)

Friday	
8.00 – 8.30am	Site open for Breakfast Club
8.20am	Hand-up, begin Line-up
8.25am	Morning address
8.30am - 8.45am	Registration
8.45am - 9.35am	Lesson 1
9.35am - 10.25am	Lesson 2
10.25am – 11.15am	Lesson 3
11.15am – 11.35am	Break
11.35am – 12.25pm	Lesson 4
12.25pm – 1.20pm	Lunch
1.20pm – 2.10pm	Lesson 5

***Please note the Academy day ends at 2.10pm on Fridays for staff training.***

### **Access to School**

Scholars can enter the academy grounds via a pedestrian entrance, accessible at front of the school on the riverside Richard III Road. Our staff will be on hand to greet our scholars in the morning and to see them off safely at the end of the day. We strongly encourage scholars coming to Castle Mead, to walk, cycle or to use the widely available public transport. The academy has excellent facilities for storing bicycles. If you intend to bring your child to Castle Mead via personal transport, you may use the drop-off car facility in the first car park on Richard III Road. We ask that parents/carers do not drive up Richard III Road towards the school. Scholars crossing the nearby roads must use the pedestrian crossing at all times, as this will ensure all members of our community stay safe. Scholars leave the site at the end of the day out of the back gate.

### **Travelling to School**

Our scholars will be very distinctive in their school uniform and we expect the highest standards of behaviour at all times. If there is unacceptable behaviour on the streets or on public transport we will look to deal with this in school. If such behaviour occurs, the usual practice would be to send a letter home offering an appointment to discuss the issue as a matter of urgency. We do ask parents to respond with the same urgency in such circumstances.

### **Breakfast Club**

We operate a Breakfast Club from 8.00am each day. We believe that breakfast is the most important meal of the day for everyone. Many studies have found a relationship between eating breakfast and learning ability, attention span, and general well-being. Children who regularly eat breakfast think faster, clearer, solve problems more easily, and are less likely to be irritable. Breakfast is free to scholars, each day.

Breakfast Club is also a great place for scholars to meet with friends and get set for the day ahead.

### **Castle Character Time**

Our extended school day allows us to deliver our enrichment curriculum for all scholars during the school day, through our 'Castle Character Time'. Castle Character Time runs on Monday and Thursday.

This programme is carefully tailored to offer a range of activities including sport, music and academic support for scholars. The Castle Character Time offer is wide-ranging, with something for everyone, regardless of prior experience. Scholars will be provided with the full enrichment programme from which they can choose their electives. This includes debating, learning Mandarin, rock climbing, cross-stitch, chess and countless more opportunities! Music and rowing scholarships are also available. Sports teams run in each year group, with scholars having opportunities to try new sports and represent the academy in fixtures.

We strive for as many scholars as possible to achieve at least one nationally accredited co-curricular qualification during their five years at the academy, e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Award, National Maths Challenge, National Enterprise Project or a grade in a musical instrument. These such experiences will then support scholars in the future when they apply for sixth form and university.

In addition to enrichment, there will be numerous opportunities to attend trips and visit special events that support learning and personal development. Scholars who have demonstrated good behaviour and attitudes will have an opportunity to go on rewards trips.

## Castle Mead Pastoral Team

Each year group in the academy will be split into nine tutor groups. There is a staff member with special responsibility for each year group.

Head of Year 7	Mr S. Elliott	sellott@castle-tmet.uk
Head of Year 8	<i>TBC</i>	
Head of Year 9	Mrs T. Lunn	tlunn@castle-tmet.uk
Head of Year 10	Miss H. Parmar	hparmar@castle-tmet.uk
Head of Year 11	Miss T. Lea	tlea@castle-tmet.uk

## Other Key Staff

Wellbeing Mentor	Mrs C. Mumford	cmumford@castle-tmet.uk
Family Support Worker	Ms Y. Malek	ymalek@castle-tmet.uk
Family Support Worker	Ms R. Kaur	rkaur@castle-tmet.uk

### How does the school help my child settle in?

Transition work goes on months before the start of the new year. For new Year 7s, we communicate with primary schools and their Year 6 teachers and SENDCOs so as we gather all of the information we need to allow our scholars to learn really well.

New scholars are tracked and closely monitored in the first few weeks of term by all of our staff, who work with our scholars to identify any learning needs. Form tutors and subject teachers play a key role in also monitoring new scholars closely, and then passing on comments to the Pastoral team.

Our team are experts in Transition, and between us we have done it many times before, so your child is in good hands!





## Eating at the Academy

Castle Mead's onsite restaurant offers every child healthy, hot meals, cold and hot snacks and drinks. These meals are cooked onsite daily by our own chef and catering team.

### How is the Identity Card used?

All staff and scholars are issued with a free ID card when they join the academy. They should wear this card on their lanyards at all times. The card allows scholars to purchase food, print from the academy computer network and borrow books from the library.

### Payments for School Lunches

As we operate a cashless catering system, scholars will have to use their ID cards to purchase food or drink, as money will not be accepted. £2.35 is a sufficient amount for a balanced and healthy meal each day. You will be able to top up your child's ID card as and when necessary, by using the 'School Gateway' app. The app enables you to see how much credit your child has on their card, as well as seeing what your child has had to eat each day. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, the card will be automatically credited with the correct amount each day, please note that Free School Meals allowance cannot be carried over to the next day.

Here is an example of a typical week's menu:

<b>TILL 1</b> Sweet Chilli Chicken Pasta, Vegetable Bolognaise, Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans <b>TILL 2 + 3</b> Spicy Chicken Pitta, BBQ Quorn Pitta, with Rice & Salad <b>TILL 4</b> Ham & Cheese Panini, Cheese & Tomato Panini <b>Salad BAR</b> Salad Bar .selection.... <b>THE Fort</b> Chicken Meatball Panini, Rainbow Veg Panini, Quorn Sausage & Buffalo Sauce Panini	<b>TILL 1</b> Chicken Italiana, Tomato Mascarpone Pasta, Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans <b>TILL 2 + 3</b> Double Cheese Burger, Vegetable Quarter-pounder (v), with Wedges & Corn on the Cob <b>TILL 4</b> Ham & Cheese Panini, Cheese & Tomato Panini <b>Salad BAR</b> Salad Bar .selection.... <b>THE Fort</b> BBQ Chicken Pizza, Margarita Pizza,
<b>TILL 1</b> Chicken Pasta, Tomato Mascarpone Pasta, Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayo or Beans <b>TILL 2 + 3</b> Chicken & Veg Tikka Masala, Rainbow Veg, with Rice, Naan and Salad <b>TILL 4</b> Chicken Fajita Panini, Quorn Sausage & Buffalo Sauce Panini <b>Salad BAR</b> Salad Bar .selection.... <b>THE Fort</b> BBQ Southern Fried Chicken Wrap, Beetroot & Feta Burger,	<b>TILL 1</b> Chicken Tikka Pasta, Veg Bolognaise Pasta, Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans <b>TILL 2</b> Mac 'n' Cheese, with a choice of topping; Crispy Onions, Peppers, Med Veg, Chipotle Sweetcorn, served with Salad <b>TILL 3</b> <b>TILL 4</b> Chicken Meatball Panini, BBQ Quorn Panini <b>Salad BAR</b> Salad Bar .selection.... <b>THE Fort</b> Chicken Fajita Panini, Rainbow Veg Burrito
<b>TILL 1</b> Southern Fried Chicken and Chips, Vegan Sausage Roll and Chips, with Beans or Salad. <b>TILL 2</b> <b>TILL 3</b> <b>TILL 4</b> Chicken Fajita Panini, Vegetable Burrito <b>Salad BAR</b> Salad Bar .selection.... <b>THE Fort</b> Southern Fried Chicken, Vegan Sausage Roll, with Chips, & Beans or Salad	<b>Desserts:</b> Muffin, Biscuit, Cookie, Ice Cream

Scholars are welcome to bring a packed lunch, however the following foods and drinks are banned from the academy:

1. Sweets
2. Chewing gum
3. Fizzy drinks of any description
4. Lucozade or other 'energy drinks'.

Scholars who bring banned food or drink into school will have the items confiscated. They will be disposed of and therefore not returned to the scholar at the end of the day.

### **Access to Drinking Water**

Mild dehydration is also one of the most common causes of daytime fatigue. Scholars can access drinking water from the canteen and water fountains during break, lunch and before and after school. We would encourage scholars to make use of the Castle Mead drinks bottle which they receive on the first day.

### **Free School Meals**

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

### **How to Apply for Free School Meals**

- Apply online at [www.leicester.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)
- By telephone on 0116 454 1009. Make sure you have your National Insurance number to hand.
- By post - you can also pick up an application form from Castle Mead Academy, or from any of Leicester City Council Customer Service Centres.

For more information as to how to apply for Free School Meals, please contact the academy or look on our website.

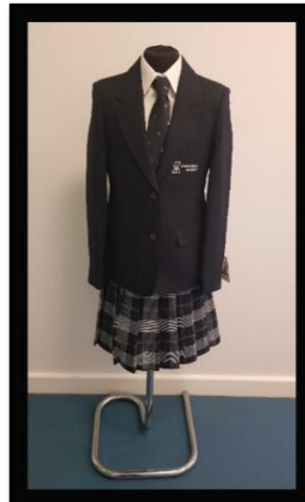


## Uniform

At Castle Mead, we believe that uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the positive ethos of our academy, by setting an appropriate tone. We are very proud of our uniform and believe it contributes to the sense of belonging felt in our school.

- It enables scholars to wear clothes appropriate for working in a safe and inspiring environment.
- It clearly signals our high expectation of scholars and our strong work ethic, instilling pride in the school.
- It protects scholars from social pressures to dress in a particular way, nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations between different groups of scholars.
- It helps scholars to prepare for their futures in the world of work, where dress codes are usually expected.
- Our uniform is used to identify us in the local community and the scholars wearing it, reflect the academy motto of 'Growing a Community of Excellence'.

It is expected that all scholars will travel to and from the academy every day in neat, clean uniform, giving the clear message to the public that our scholars take pride in belonging to the academy. Scholars in incorrect uniform will be sanctioned in line with our behaviour policy. In the case of wrong footwear, scholars will be loaned and expected to wear plimsolls.



- Navy suit blazer from Uniform Direct. (Scholars may be permitted to remove these on 'non-blazer' days during periods of hot weather. We will notify families in advance if we are anticipating a period of hot weather and intend on having a 'non-blazer week').
- White shirt/blouse, tucked in at all times.
- Grey suit trousers or Castle Mead kilt skirt (worn as intended and not rolled over at the waist). Scholars are permitted to wear plain grey tailored shorts during the summer months.
- Castle Mead tie
- Black school shoes or all black trainers. These must be all black, including trim and logo.
- Scholar ID card, card holder and lanyards
- School jumper from Uniform Direct (optional – must not be tied at the back)
- Plain black tights may be worn under a skirt
- An outdoor coat, which should be removed when indoors

We would also like to remind families of the following:

- Any jewellery worn should be discreet and not pose a health and safety risk. For example, hoop earrings are not permitted
- Hooded tops and zip tops must not be worn
- Tracksuits bottoms or shorts must not be worn underneath school trousers
- Nail extensions are not permitted as these pose a health and safety risk i.e. in PE
- Where our uniform expectations are not met, scholars will not be permitted to be in circulation with their peers

**All scholars must have the following PE uniform:**

- Scholars can now wear a plain navy T-shirt (such as the one below, which costs £4.50 from Amazon) as their PE top. Scholars may continue to wear their green Castle Mead branded polo shirt next year if they wish to do so.



- Scholars will also be permitted to wear a navy hoodie (such as the one below, which costs £11.50 from Amazon), which is optional.



- For PE scholars may now wear black or navy bottoms (tracksuit bottoms, mid-thigh length shorts, or leggings).
- Trainers.

The branded items of our uniform are available to purchase from Uniform Direct, either in store or online. The following items can be ordered from School Reception using the MCAS App: lanyard, I.D. cards, card holders, ties.

**Address:**

Uniform Direct  
54-56 Humberstone Gate  
Leicester  
LE1 3PJ

**Telephone:** 0116 251 1844

**Website:** [www.uniform-direct.com/acatalog/Castle-Mead-Academy](http://www.uniform-direct.com/acatalog/Castle-Mead-Academy)

### **Scholar ID Card**

As previously mentioned, all scholars will be issued with a free ID card, cardholder and a lanyard when they join our academy. Scholars must visibly wear their ID card every day as part of their academy uniform. For scholars, the ID card enables them to be:

- Easily identified by staff
- Print from the academy computer network
- Borrow books from the library
- Purchase drinks, food and stationery equipment via our cashless operating system.

If the scholar ID card, cardholder or lanyard is lost or damaged, scholars will be expected to purchase a new one. Scholars will only be permitted to use till 4 for their food at lunch time due to serving times.

### **Equipment for Learning**

There are a number of items that a scholar needs in order to be able to take a full and active part in learning at Castle Mead. Therefore, all scholars should pack their school bag with the following items every night:

- Current reading book
- A pencil case with the following contents:
  - 2 x black or blue writing pens
  - 1 x green writing pen
  - 2 x sharpened pencils
  - 1 x ruler
  - 1 x rubber
  - 1 x highlighter
- 1 x water bottle
- Books/folders for the day
- PE kit if required.

All Year 7 scholars will be provided with a CMA clear pencil case, a CMA water bottle and a PE bag. All scholars in all year groups will be provided with a green writing pen and a highlighter, on the first day of term also.

Scholars can purchase equipment, replacement water bottles and replacement PE bags from the Scholar Support helpdesk. It is scholars' responsibility to ensure that they come to school and attend all lessons fully equipped and ready to learn. Sanctions will be issued if scholars do not have their basic equipment.



Without the highest standards of behaviour, outstanding teaching and learning cannot take place. We expect exemplary behaviour and conduct from scholars, both in the Academy and in the local community, and we expect scholars to respect staff and follow their instructions first time.

At Castle Mead Academy we have a number of routines that we use to ensure that the school day runs smoothly, to show respect to others and to maximise learning time. If one minute of learning time is lost every lesson, this adds up to almost twenty hours of lost learning time over the course of a year! It's therefore very important that we maximise every second of learning time.

These routines ensure that the school is calm, orderly and purposeful and enable scholars to follow our two 'ground rules':

- 1) Scholars focus 100% on learning in lessons.
- 2) Scholars follow staff instructions first time, every time.

To ensure an orderly atmosphere in lessons and around the academy, we have particular behaviour for learning systems in place. As part of this, scholars are issued with warnings or demerits if they are disturbing the learning of others.

### **Scholar Expectations:**

- To comply with and champion The 'Castle Mead Way Each Day' and the 'Castle Credo'.
  - To treat all members of the school with courtesy and consideration in all circumstances, showing respect for everyone.
  - To model good behaviour, to set an example in their attitude, learning and achievements.
  - To wear school uniform within the school environment and when travelling to and from school.
  - To show respect for the whole school environment and conduct themselves around the building in a safe, sensible, manner and show regard to others.
  - This is a non-gum chewing environment.
  - To aim for 100% attendance.
  - To aim for 100% punctuality to school and each lesson.
  - Bring equipment appropriate for the lesson.
- 
- ❖ Scholars focus 100% on learning in lessons.
  - ❖ Scholars follow staff instructions first time, every time.

# Behaviour for Excellence



We wear our CMA uniform with pride.



We make sure we have the correct equipment for learning every day



We do not use mobile phones in school, we keep them in our bags all day.



We wear our lanyards at all times. We show we belong by having our lanyard on!



We are kind to each other, show good manners and treat everyone with respect.



We are always on time to lessons. When arriving to lessons: we line up, in single file, quietly outside of our classroom and wait for our teacher.



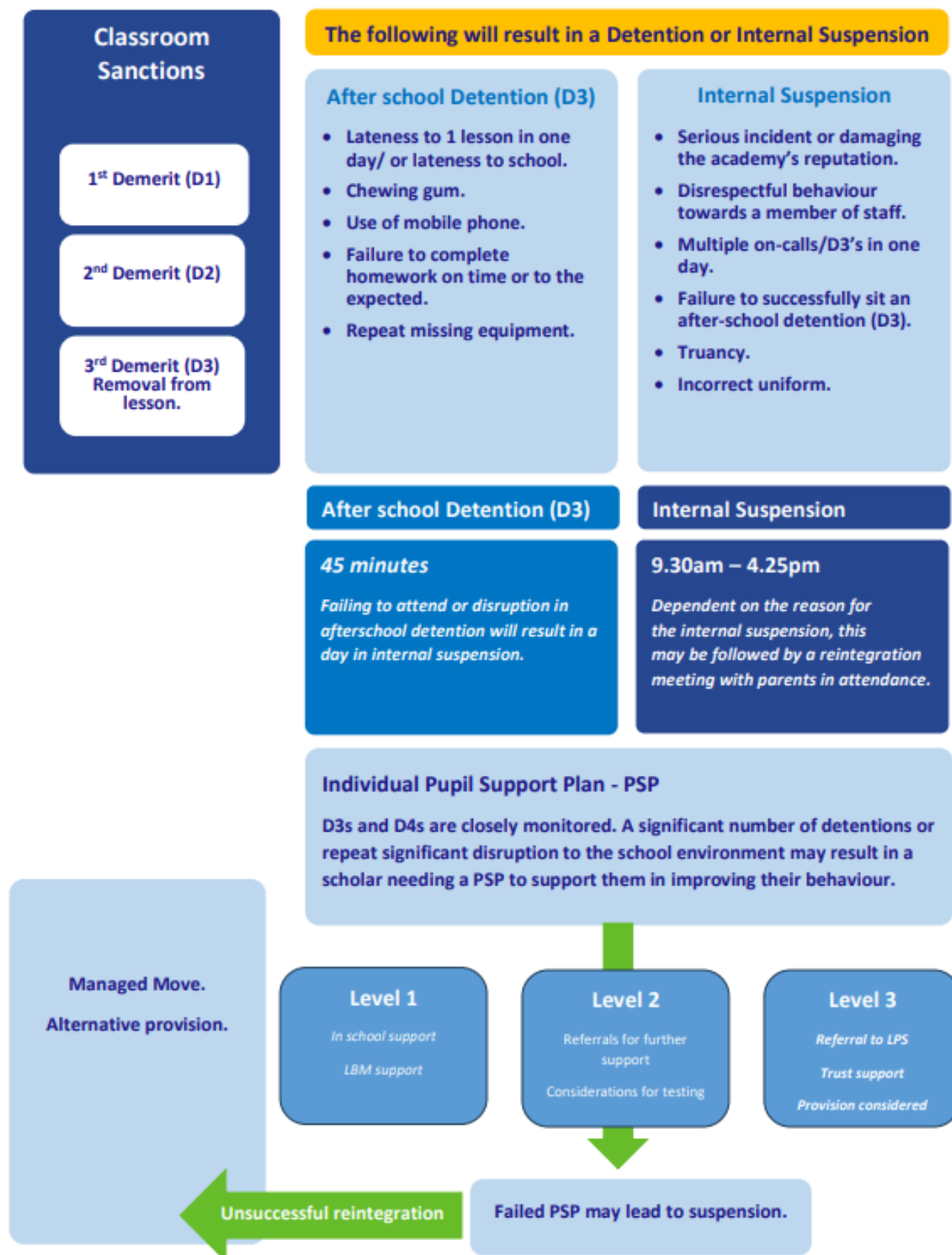
We follow staff instructions first time, every time.



We focus 100% on learning.







## The Castle Mead Way Each Day

Time	Activity	Expectation	Reason why
<b>08.00 - 08.30</b>	Arriving at school	<p>Arrive on the school site wearing full correct uniform and with lanyard and ID card displayed.</p> <p>There should be no playing inside the building. Those who wish to run around should be in the playground.</p> <p>When the whistle goes, signalling hand up, scholars are to raise their hand, stand still, and wait in silence to be instructed to make their way to line up.</p> <p>Scholars should be in register order and waiting silently to be dismissed. Facing the front, single file.</p> <p>When dismissed scholars should walk in single file facing the front, sensibly, quietly and quickly.</p> <p>Remove your coat before entering the building, do not put your coat back on until you exit the building.</p> <p>Arrive at your tutor room and follow your tutor's instructions regarding entering.</p>	<p>To look smart and represent the academy well.</p> <p>To ensure the academy is a calm environment.</p> <p>To ensure we are ready for learning and start our day in a calm and orderly fashion.</p> <p>To ensure your uniform is smart and avoid clothing being damaged during poor weather seasons.</p> <p>To avoid corridors being crowded and reduce the risk of accidents.</p>
<b>08.30 – 08.45</b>	Tutor Time	<p>Enter your tutor room quietly. When greeted by your tutor, respond positively and politely, making good eye contact. Stand behind your chair in silence.</p> <p>Sit in your place and take out equipment ready for checking. Scholars should wait silently unless there is another activity in progress.</p> <p>Answer your name politely when the register is taken, saying 'good morning'.</p>	<p>To show respect and ensure you are ready for the day.</p> <p>To enable you to learn. So that there is an accurate register of who is on site. To allow a safe and orderly exit from the room.</p>

		At the end stand behind your chair, with your blazer and lanyard on until dismissed by your tutor.	
<b>08.30 - 08.45</b>	Assembly	<p>Line up at your assembly point in silence and wait to be collected by your tutor.</p> <p>Remove your coat before entering the Theatre.</p> <p>Enter quietly, sit according to the seating plan and leave no empty chairs.</p> <p>Remain in STAR throughout and listen carefully.</p> <p>When dismissed leave to your lesson in a calm way.</p>	<p>So that it does not cause disruption in the Theatre.</p> <p>So that your tutor group can all sit together and your tutor can accurately take the register.</p> <p>To show respect and take away the important messages from the assembly.</p> <p>To ensure a quiet and safe exit from the assembly.</p>
<b>09.35</b> <b>10.25</b> <b>11.35</b> <b>12.25</b> <b>14.10</b>	Lesson change overs/ corridors	<p>During lesson change overs scholars are expected to be CALM.</p> <p>C- Consider those around you (Examples: Hold doors open; walk on the correct side of the corridor; help to ensure everyone gets to their next lesson)</p> <p>A – Acknowledge one another (Examples; Smile! ‘Good morning!’ ‘Have a good lesson’ ‘Thank you’)</p> <p>L – Listen to instructions (Examples: Respond instantly and respectfully if a member of staff reminds you to walk in single file)</p> <p>M – Move swiftly and safely. (Examples: Walk with purpose; take the correct route to where</p>	<p>To ensure lessons begin promptly and learning time is maximised.</p> <p>To enact our credo of being Kind.</p> <p>To keep everyone safe and avoid corridors being congested.</p> <p>To keep the environment pleasant for all.</p> <p>To avoid corridors being crowded and reduce the risk of accidents.</p>



		you are going; keep up with the person in front of you)	
	At the start of lessons	<p>Arrive punctually.</p> <p>When greeted by your teacher, respond positively and politely, making good eye contact.</p> <p>Enter the teaching room in silence and in an orderly manner and take out the right equipment and books for the lesson.</p> <p>Your bag should be placed on the floor under or beside your desk or chair.</p> <p>Complete the 'DO NOW' activity that has been set by your teacher.</p>	<p>To ensure lessons begin promptly and learning time is not lost.</p> <p>So, as we demonstrate respect, be kind and ensure we have a nice school community.</p> <p>To ensure a positive learning atmosphere.</p> <p>To ensure you are organised for the lesson.</p> <p>To keep the classroom safe.</p> <p>To engage with the lesson and prompt retrieval practice.</p>
	During lessons	<p>Answer your name politely when the register is taken, saying 'good morning' or 'good afternoon'.</p> <p>Work hard throughout the lesson, following all instructions and only conversing as directed by the teacher.</p> <p>Follow instructions from the teacher first time, every time. 'STAR' when asked, 'track' when directed and be ready to show your green pen or raise your hand and fall to silence in response to your teacher raising their hand.</p> <p>At the end of the lesson, pack away and stand silently behind your chair</p> <p>Put blazer on and exit the room quietly and calmly when dismissed by your teacher.</p>	<p>So that there is an accurate register of who is in school.</p> <p>To learn as much as possible.</p> <p>To allow final instructions from the teacher to be heard.</p> <p>Sit up straight, track the teacher, answer in full sentences and respect the speaker.</p> <p>To ensure an orderly end to the lesson.</p>

<b>11.15 – 11.35</b>	Break time	<p>Food purchased in the restaurant should be eaten in the restaurant. Other snacks may be eaten outside. All litter must be put in the bin.</p> <p>Be kind and courteous to all staff and scholars.</p> <p>Remain outside unless it is wet break.</p> <p>At the end of break, when the whistle goes, signalling hand up, scholars are to raise their hand, stand still, and wait in silence to be instructed to make their way to lessons.</p> <p>Remove your coat before entering the building, do not put your coat back on until you exit the building.</p> <p>Arrive at your next lesson and line up along the wall outside. Your teacher will greet you and tell you when to enter.</p>	<p>To keep the environment tidy.</p> <p>To create a positive friendly school community.</p> <p>So that corridors are clear and everybody gets fresh air.</p>
<b>13.15 – 14.10</b>	Lunch	<p>Food purchased in the restaurant should be eaten in the restaurant. Other snacks may be eaten outside. All litter must be put in the bin.</p> <p>Be kind and courteous to all staff and scholars.</p> <p>Remain outside unless it is wet lunch.</p> <p>At the end of lunch, when the whistle goes, signalling hand up, scholars are to raise their hand, stand still, and wait in silence to be instructed to make their way to lessons.</p> <p>Remove your coat before entering the building, do not put your coat back on until you exit the building.</p> <p>Arrive at your next lesson and line up along the wall outside. Your teacher will greet you and tell you when to enter.</p> <p>Arrive at your classroom and line up along the wall outside. Your teacher will greet you and tell you when to enter.</p>	

15.40	End of the school day	<p>Exit the school site promptly unless staying for an organised after-school activity with staff.</p> <p>Keep uniform looking smart and ensure mobile phones stay away until you are clear of the school gates.</p> <p>Leave via the scholar exit and follow road safety procedures at all times, including staying out of the road and avoiding any cars.</p>	<p>To allow cleaning staff to begin their work immediately.</p> <p>To respect our school ethos.</p> <p>To stay safe and avoid accidents.</p>
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### System for Detentions

Castle Mead Academy will always challenge behaviour which might cause offence or harm or disrupt the learning of others. We wish to ensure that every child is safe, happy and free to learn and make progress.

In order that scholars comply with these expectations, our detention system is simple, fair, swift and transparent. Detentions are sat on the day that they are issued (same day detentions). Detention runs from 3.40 until 4.25pm, on a Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday and 2.10-2.55pm on a Friday. There will be a text message sent to parents/carers on the day of the detention. As much notice as possible will be given. If the child misses the detention without good reason, the sanction will escalate.

### Damage/Loss to Property

A charge will be levied in respect of wilful damage, neglect or loss of Academy property (including but not limited to premises, furniture, equipment, books or materials), the charge to be the cost of replacement or repair, or such lower cost as the Principal may decide.

Failure to pay may mean that the scholar is not allowed to go on future school trips and/or GCSE certificates are withheld until the account is settled.

### Mobile Phones and Other Devices

- Use of mobile phones/devices **is not permitted and will lead to the device being confiscated.** Mobiles phones/devices that are seen by staff, in use or not, will be confiscated. If scholars need to call home, they can do so from the main office.
- Mobile devices/headphones must be switched off or on silent and stored in bags; scholars must not use a mobile device or headphones anywhere in school during the school day.
- Use of mobile devices includes, but is not limited to, answering telephone calls or texting during the school day; the use of mobile devices to threaten or bully; recording or watching inappropriate video footage; playing music; using inappropriate language; and uploading content to social networking sites.
- Certain types of mobile device usage, whether inside or outside of school, can be classified as criminal conduct. The school takes such conduct extremely seriously, and will involve the police or other agencies as appropriate. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to: sexting; threats of violence or assault and abusive calls, emails, social media posts or texts directed at someone based on ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation.
- Mobile devices in school are the scholars' responsibility. The academy accepts no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on academy premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while scholars are travelling to and from school.

- Confiscated phones can be collected from reception at the end of the same day. On the third instance of the phone being confiscated in the same academic year, the phone will only be returned to the parent/carer.

Please note that it is not necessary for scholars to bring mobile phones to school. In an emergency, the scholar will be allowed to use the academy telephone to phone home; parents can likewise phone school with a message, which will be passed on to their child.

### **Academy Policy on Bullying**

Neither physical nor verbal harassment of another member of the academy/community will be tolerated. All staff will take immediate action with any case of bullying. An academy Anti-Bullying policy is in place and available to view on our website.

## Scholar Rewards

The role of rewards in recognising and promoting Castle Mead's values and Castle Credo is a key part of developing the potential of our scholars by giving encouragement and praise.

### Merits

Merits are used to recognise and record scholars' great academic and holistic efforts within Castle Mead Academy. These merits are then included in the calculation to award Castle Mead Rewards. Merits are awarded for:

- Attendance and punctuality to school
- Effort in lessons
- Acts of kindness and respectful behaviour
- Quality of homework
- Exceptional quality of work in lessons
- Exceptional developments of personal attributes as shown in reading, sporting, musical and performance opportunities
- Excelling in Castle Character Time activities
- Showing leadership and initiative

As well as being included in the Castle Mead Rewards calculation, the merits determine which scholars are invited to the acknowledgement lunches with the Principal. The Leadership Team will decide which scholars receive an invitation to these lunches.

Teachers are encouraged to bring good work and achievement to the attention of all staff. 'Examples of Excellences' are collected by all subjects. Effort and achievement are also acknowledged by displays of excellent work.

The number of merits awarded provide a good indication of a scholar's learning habits and attitude towards learning. The number of merits awarded is then banded into thresholds for Bronze, Silver, Gold and Principal's Award to show the scholars' cumulative performance. The results are displayed for all year groups around the school.

### Shout Outs

Teachers are encouraged to bring good work and achievement to the attention of all staff. This is done through 'shout-outs', which are presented to scholars during line ups to celebrate with the year group. Effort and achievement are also acknowledged by displays of excellent work. 3 merits are recorded by the member of staff awarding the shout-out.

### Merit Master

'Merit Master' is awarded to one scholar in each tutor group, who receives the most merits that week. Merit Master is awarded at line-up on a Friday morning, and scholars receive their prize (alongside their certificate) on a Friday lunchtime.

## Subject Badges

At the end of each cycle, three scholars from each year group receive a Subject Badge. These Subject Badges are awarded in each subject. These badges are presented to scholars during our celebration assemblies. Our celebration assemblies happen at the end of each term.

## Green Badges

At the end of each cycle, the Scholarship Grades for each scholar are considered across their subjects. This is also reflected on by scholars in Prep time. For scholars who have achieved an average of an 'Ambitious' scholarship grade across their subjects, a Green Badge is awarded. These badges are presented to scholars during our celebration assemblies.

The CMA Scholarships Characteristics are defined as follows:

'Scholar Descriptors' Ask yourself these questions...		If you can answer yes to the majority of these questions then you're being...	
<b>Ask Yourself...</b> <b>Are you everything in Active and...</b> Do you proactively seek out feedback? Do you ask relevant, thought-provoking questions? Do you complete additional/ optional work to support your learning?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	 	<b>Ambitious</b>
Are you fully prepared, on time, and equipped for your lessons? Do you follow all routines, first time, every time? Do you complete all your independent work? Do you actively engage in turn and talk activities? Do you ask for help when unsure?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	 	<b>Active</b>
<b>Are you some of Active but...</b> You don't always give 100% effort when completing independent work? You only sometimes engage in turn and talk activities? You do not ask for help when unsure?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	 	<b>Passive</b>
Are you not always fully prepared, equipped or on time for lessons? Do you not fully complete independent work? Do you not follow all routines first time, every time? Do you often receive demerits for not following the two ground rules? Do you not ask for help when unsure?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	 	<b>Resistant</b>

**We believe we can always improve.**

## Awards Evening

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.

### Communication with Families

There will be a 'Welcome to Year 7' event in early September, where parents and scholars will be invited into school together to celebrate the positive start scholars have had at Castle Mead.

We will have at least one Parents' Evening per year group, per year. The Parents' Evening are calendared and details will be shared nearer the time. This is an opportunity to see as many of your child's subject teachers, their form tutor and discuss with them the progress they have made during the academic year.

The school believes open and regular communication with parents is crucial to our success. If you have any concerns at all and would like to discuss something with us, please just call the academy on 0116 2143150 or email your son/daughter's form tutor (details will be provided when your child starts at CMA); sometimes a chat on the phone will settle your worries, but if not please do make an appointment rather than just turning up.

We will also keep you up to date through the newsletters and regular letters to parents. Please let us know if you need separate copies sent to each parent/carer.

A Family Forum is held half-termly, with a specific focus to discuss parents' views. These will be chaired by senior leaders.

### My Child at School (MCAS) - The easiest way to interact with our academy!

#### What can I do with the app?

- MCAS is our academy's app available on Android, iOS and the web. It will work on mobile phones, tablets and laptops.
- When you log into the app, each of the services we provide will appear in a list for you to choose from.

In summary, MCAS Parent App provides:

- Access to real-time Timetable, Calendar, Attendance and Behavioural data
- Communication facilities to improve contact between families and schools
- Instant access to Published Reports and Letters
- School Announcements

Please note, we have decided not to have the cash paying machines on site. These means the only way to top-up your child's ID card so as they can purchase items in the restaurant, is through MCAS.



### Attendance

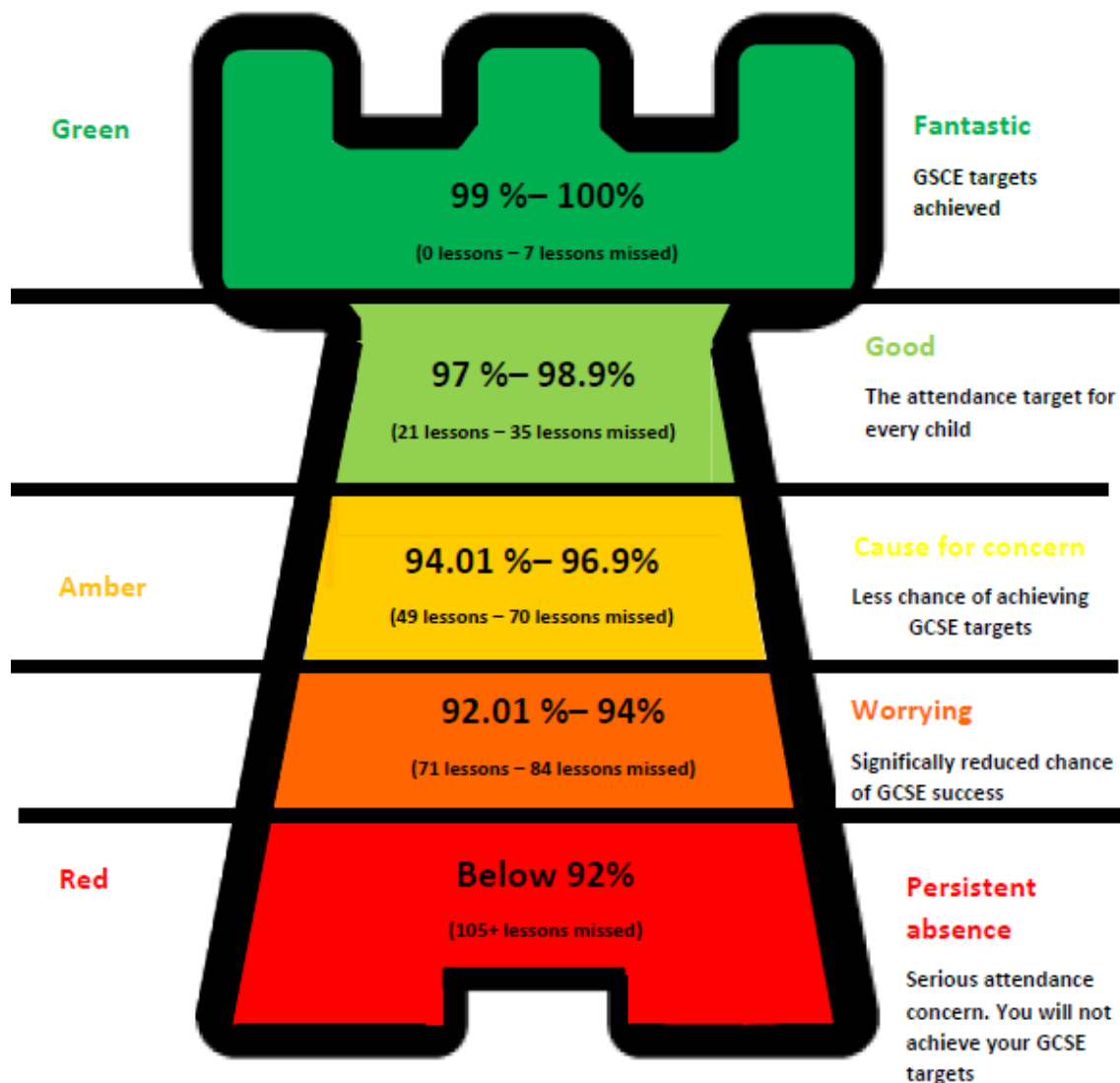
At Castle Mead Academy we work in partnership with families and scholars to ensure outstanding attendance.

Every scholar at Castle Mead Academy is set a target of 100% attendance.

If a child is going to do well at school, it is vital that they have a good attendance record. Therefore, scholars should only be absent if they are too ill to come to school or in exceptional circumstances. If absence is unavoidable then a family adult should telephone the academy in the morning of the first day of absence and every day thereafter. An adult family member should make a phone call before 8.30am on each day of absence. Alternatively, a parent/carer can send a message explaining the scholar's absence via the School Gateway App before 8.30am.

*Holidays in term-time will never be authorised.*

However, if there are exceptional circumstances, parents should complete an 'exceptional scholar leave' form explaining the necessity for the request, including any necessary evidence.





### **Notification of Absence**

If you have not notified the Academy of your child's absence and they do not arrive to school, an automatic text message will be sent to alert you to their absence.

The law makes it clear that taking a child out of school without the school's authorisation is illegal. It is a Parents/carers duty to ensure their child attends school regularly under the Education Act 1996. Failure to meet this responsibility could lead to an appearance at Court which could then lead to further penalties.

A scholar taken on leave without permission will be marked in the attendance register as taking unauthorised absence (truancy). The matter will then be referred to the Education Welfare Service for discussion about further action.

### **Accidents and Illness**

If a scholar has an accident or feels unwell, they must tell a member of staff straight away. If they are too ill to remain then their parents/carers will be contacted by one of our Office team.

### **Medicines**

With the exception of asthma inhalers, scholars are not allowed to administer drugs themselves. All inhalers should be clearly labelled with the child's name and be carried by the child at all times. A second inhaler, clearly marked with the scholar's name, can also be left with the school reception if required. If a scholar needs to take a prescribed medicine at the Academy, please contact the school reception so as we can arrange this. No scholars will be provided with paracetamol unless permission has been expressly given by parents in advance. Scholars should not carry any medicines or pain killers on their person.

If your child suffers from any type of allergy or allergic reaction then they must bring in a letter from their doctor outlining the nature of the condition and the necessary remedial action required.

## **Safeguarding Scholars at Castle Mead**

Castle Mead Academy, its staff and governors, are committed to safeguarding the welfare of our scholars and to providing a safe environment with robust systems to ensure the safety and healthy development of all our scholars, within the academy and on related school trips and other activities.

Everyone working in or for Castle Mead shares the objective of helping to keep children and young people safe by contributing to:

- ensuring that Castle Mead provides a safe environment in which children and young people can learn and develop, and
- identifying children and young people who are suffering, or at risk of suffering abuse and taking appropriate action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe both at home and in school.

We recognise that some children *may* be especially vulnerable to abuse. We are committed to doing our best to identify such children and to working with the appropriate authorities to support and safeguard them. We are committed to providing all our scholars with a safe learning environment, free of bullying and other forms of harassment, and to teaching scholars to act safely in and outside school and online. We will always take a considered and sensitive approach in order to support all our scholars.

Scholars, and parents, can also access support at any time by visiting the 'Keep Safe' page on our website [here](#) or emailing [safe@castle-tmet.uk](mailto:safe@castle-tmet.uk).

### **Supporting the Child and Partnership with Parents**

Castle Mead Academy recognise that the child's welfare is paramount, and that good child protection practice and outcome rely on a positive, open and honest working partnership with parents.

- While, on occasion, we may need to make referrals without consultation with parents, we will make every effort to maintain a positive working relationship with them whilst fulfilling our duties to protect any child, acting with the advice of the local children's safeguarding board as appropriate.
- We will provide a secure, caring, supportive and protective relationship for the child.
- Children will be given a proper explanation (appropriate to age & understanding) of what action is being taken on their behalf and why.
- We will endeavor always to preserve the privacy, dignity and right to confidentiality of the child and parents.
- However, no member of staff can necessarily promise confidentiality to any child who should make a disclosure of abuse. If it is felt that a child is at risk of harm or is being harmed, the Designated Senior Person (DSP) has a responsibility to share this information with Social Care. In turn, the DSP will determine which members of staff need to know personal information and what they need to know to support and protect the child.



### **Our school is part of Operation Encompass**

This is a police and education early intervention safeguarding partnership. The partnership supports children and young people who experience Domestic Abuse, adverse experiences, or who are reported missing to the police. Operation Encompass means that the police will share information about incidents with our school prior to the start of the next school day when they have been called to support with an incident.

The information will be shared in confidence with the Academy's Designated Senior Lead (DSL). This ensures that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have experienced a domestic abuse incident or adverse experience.

Should you have any further questions regarding Safeguarding or Operation Encompass, please contact the Lead DSL, Miss Rueben or Head of Safeguarding, Miss Murphy.



## Curriculum

### What kind of Curriculum does Castle Mead provide?

The overarching goal of the curriculum at Castle Mead is to give all scholars access to the best which has been thought, said, written and created in every field of human endeavour.

The curriculum is framed with the intention of producing well-balanced students prepared for the responsibilities and opportunities that arise throughout life and to prepare scholars for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It extends knowledge, experience and imagination in ways which develop critical and analytical capability, awareness of moral values and capacity for enjoyment.

At Castle Mead, we have a special focus on the EBacc subjects, with extra lesson time in these subjects. This means that it is our intention that all scholars study English, Mathematics, Science, Geography/History and a Language to GCSE. The Arts still play a big part in our curriculum and enrichment offers.

The scholars' spiritual, moral and ethical development is addressed through the formal curriculum in a number of subjects, including religious education lessons. It also occurs informally through assemblies, numerous extra-curricular activities, residential experiences and in other intangible ways which permeate the ethos of the school. Castle Mead Academy has a full PSHE programme which is delivered to all scholars by their form tutors as part of the tutor/PSHE programme. It is also delivered by outside providers who have specialisms in required areas.

### How many Lessons of each Subject in a Week in year 7?

Subject	Number of Lessons
English	5
Mathematics	4
Science	4
French	3
Geography	2
History	2
Computer Science	1
Design and Technology	2
Art	1
Music	1
Drama	1

Physical Education	2
Reading for Pleasure	1
Religious Education	1

In addition to this, we have the Castle Character Time programme, as previously described. This means that the overall education being provided for your child is more than just the subject allocations. PSHE is taught by form tutors during Wednesday Prep time.

### **Learning Support**

Scholars at Castle Mead will be given every opportunity to fulfil their potential. For some scholars this will mean getting extra help in lessons and even out of lessons. To identify who the students might be we will spend the first half term assessing the needs of our scholars. For instance, we will pay close attention to the advice given to us by each child's primary school. We will also examine every child's year 6 teacher assessment and set some additional tests during our first few days of term to find out more about their reading, writing and numeracy. We will use all of this information, in addition to our own assessments, to get the right help to the right scholars. If you should have any questions about your child's learning support please contact the SENDCo, Mrs. Dakin.

### **Opportunities for Leadership**

There are many opportunities for your child to develop their leadership and strategic thinking by taking on a role of responsibility within the Academy community, including:

- Prefects
- Scholar Council
- Kindness Ambassadors
- Sports Captain
- Scholar receptionist
- Equality, Diversity, Inclusion representative

### **School Trips**

At Castle Mead, we believe that our scholars benefit significantly from visiting places of interest, and we know these experiences will broaden scholars' horizons and deepen their learning.

We will run regular trips to universities, museums, galleries, theatres and sports venues, particularly making full benefit of our city centre location and all of the cultural richness on our doorstep. You will be informed if your child is taking part in a small-scale, local visit. You then must tell the school office if you do not want your child to attend.

For trips which are further afield or for a longer time, you will be sent detailed information and asked to sign a specific form for that trip. We will ask parents for contributions to school trips where necessary.

### **Homework**

At Castle Mead we believe that homework is important to consolidate learning from class. Establishing good habits for homework early on will be crucial and your support with this is very much appreciated.

At the start of term, your child will be given their timetable and told about homework expectations. This might seem a little complicated at first, but they will soon get the hang of it. Homework at CMA is set on Satchel One. Scholars and parents will be introduced to Satchel One upon starting at CMA.

Please check your child's homework each evening and contact his/her Form Tutor if they seem to be spending either too long or not long enough on it.

### **Helping Your Child with their Learning**

There is a lot of help and support available in school for all our scholars, whatever their ability level. We have in place many strategies for different stages in your child's school career and for different curriculum areas, and we try to make all scholars aware of the many beneficial opportunities available to them in the media.

The first port of call in wanting to know more about your child's work is by visiting our school website. Here you will find up to date information about our own curriculum and the management of our school.

Your son/daughter will be accessing school resources, especially designed to support their lessons, homework and revision online linked to school through Satchel One. This is a secure portal on our school website. You can access it on any PC and/or download the mobile app. In the first few weeks, scholars will be given their access code and password for their own personal homework page. This site is an invaluable tool for your child. Parents can also use the site by clicking on the Satchel One link on the school website. You will be given a login and password for the site so that you can access to your child's personal homework calendar at ease.

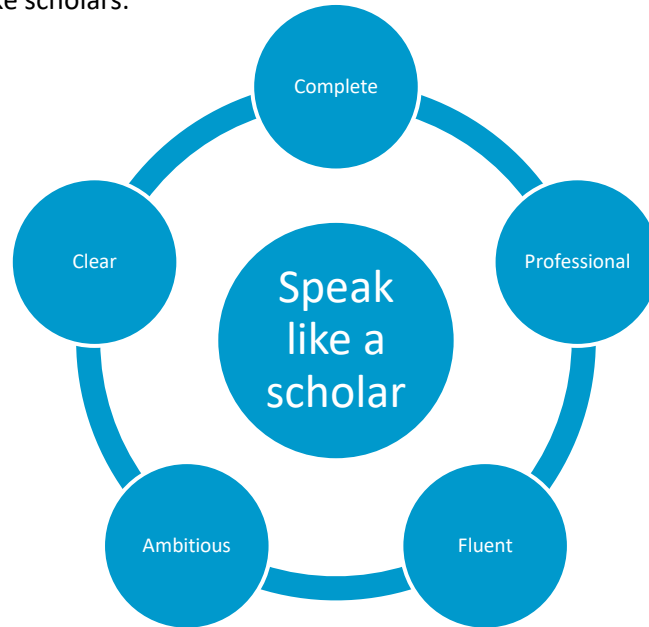
### **Assessment and Reporting**

Assessments are tests that scholars take three times during the academic year. They indicate a scholars' performance in each subject and their likely projected GCSE grades in the future. This is reported to parents two/three times per year. These reports are designed to be simple to understand, and will detail the progress and achievement of your child. Each report will also include additional information on your child's learning. A Scholarship Grade submitted by each teacher summarises their effort in class, with homework and with their assessments. Their percentage attendance for the year to date, and a summary of rewards and sanctions is also printed on each report.

Scholars will be made aware of when these assessments will be taking place so as they can revise accordingly. This will get scholars into good habits. However, if you child is becoming unduly stressed by assessments, please contact their form tutor.



At Castle Mead, teachers plan many opportunities for structured talk in class, such as debating, whole-class and paired discussion, and teacher questioning. In all forms of classroom talk, we encourage everyone to 'Speak like a scholar' and be 'loud and proud' with their verbal contributions in class. We call our pupils scholars because a scholar is someone who is very knowledgeable. We can show off our amazing knowledge by speaking like a scholar at all times. This is how we can all speak like scholars:



1. **Complete** sentences: *Scholars should always speak in full, complete sentences. When answering questions, scholars should use words from the question to help them to form a response.*
2. **Professional**: *Speaking in a professional way means only using Standard English; scholars should avoid ever using slang. Speaking professionally also means speaking with grammatical accuracy and using correct verb forms.*
3. **Fluent**: *Speaking in a fluent way means avoiding using fillers. Fillers are words such as 'erm', 'like' and 'basically', which do not add any meaning to sentences and instead disrupt fluency.*
4. **Ambitious** vocabulary: *Scholars should demonstrate their knowledge of ambitious tier 2 and tier 3 words.*
5. **Clear** contribution: *Scholars should speak clearly and audibly so that the rest of the class is able to hear their contributions.*



### Opportunities for Learning an Instrument

We have a thriving Music department here at Castle Mead and are keen for many scholars to learn an instrument and take part in our wide range of enrichment groups, such as our choir and orchestra.

At Castle Mead, scholars can take advantage of a wide range of instrumental lesson in addition to the timetabled music lesson, led by our peripatetic team. Learning an instrument has been scientifically proven to improve your concentration, communication and co-ordination so we urge you son/daughter to either continue learning an instrument, or to consider taking one up.



*‘Large-scale international research has demonstrated that reading for pleasure is “the most important indicator of the future success of a child” (OECD, 2002).*

The ability to read is fundamental to success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Reading can help you become more successful and happier with your life. Because of this, at Castle Mead, we take reading very seriously. Your child will have access to a wide range of literature in school in lessons and in our excellent library, and reading will feature as part of every day. We ask that you encourage your child to read their reading book every day.

### **The Academy Library**

We have an excellent library filled with a huge variety of fiction and non-fiction books. A scholar is allowed to borrow two books at a time and can seek advice and recommendations from our Librarian.

### **Reading for Pleasure**

All scholars participate in one Reading for Pleasure lesson per week throughout KS3 designed to give scholars the opportunity to spend time reading a shared class text. We use this time as an opportunity to learn new vocabulary and vary the ‘literary diet’ of great texts our scholars feel empowered to access. The discrete Reading for Pleasure lesson is in keeping with our belief that ‘reading trumps everything’ - scholars need to be able to read fluently and with enjoyment in order to access the whole curriculum.

In addition, there is a weekly tutor time dedicated to reading an article that is linked to the assembly for that week.

### **What can you do at home to help?**

Because reading is so important, it is essential that we work together in partnership to help your child.

Please contact us at any time to discuss your child’s reading habits.

Here are some helpful tips for reading at home:

- Read to and with your child every day. This shows that daily reading and spending time together is very important.
- Let your child choose the books you read together. This will help interest. You can also read magazines and newspapers with them. Anything they want to read is a good choice.
- Read aloud to your child. When you are reading together, they don’t have to do all the reading. This will help them to learn the language of books and encourage them to enjoy it.
- After reading a book, talk about the story. Talking about the main ideas in the book helps develop understanding.
- Let your child see you reading books, newspapers, and magazines. This sets a good example for them because it shows that you enjoy and value reading.
- Play word games with your child. They are a great way to help children learn how to read and spell e.g. Scrabble, Crosswords, Spelling tests.
- Take your child to the library. Libraries are a wonderful place to find books.
- Read a wide range of different things - e.g. directions when driving, menus, and instructions to new appliances at home. It doesn’t have to be books only!

Hints for listening to your child read

- Before reading, talk about the cover, the title, the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about.



- When reading a harder book together, take turns. Beginning readers can read the repetitive parts and more experienced readers can read a paragraph or a page.
- On finding an unknown word:
  - Pause to give your child time to work out the word
  - Prompt: go back to the beginning of the sentence, or read past the difficult word to the end of the sentence; look for a clue in the picture or the words; look at the first letter and think about what the words could be; ask “Does this make sense?”; try to sound out the word; if necessary tell your child the word. Praise your child for trying, even if mistakes are made.

### **Summer Reading**

There is some evidence to suggest that scholars’ performance dips between the end of Year 6 and the beginning of Year 7. To keep your child’s brains working over the long summer holiday, we would strongly encourage you to get them reading! Regular reading will keep their brains sharp during the summer months. To help with this, all of our scholars will be given a reading book as part of the Transition process. We will be discussing these books in tutor groups with the scholars when they start with us in August.

### **Our reading tips:**

- Choose books carefully. Read the blurb or reviews to decide if it’s right for you.
- If you don’t like to read, it’s probably because you haven’t found the right books yet - keep searching and ask Ms Rowley (our Librarian) for help when you’re in school.
- Choose books from a variety of genres - fiction and nonfiction.
- Read for at least 20 minutes a day.
- Visit your local library during holidays - they are free. Charity shops have books for sale at reasonable prices.
- Experiment by reading new authors to experience a wide range of writing styles.

*If you don’t like to read, you haven’t found the right book.*

*J.K. Rowling*

## Term Dates 2025-26

Term No 1	
<b>INSET DAYS 1 and 2</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025 (school closed to scholars)</b>
Schools Open	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2025 (Year 7 scholars only)
	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2025 (All year groups in school)
Schools Close	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
Autumn Half Term Holiday	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 to Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025

Term No 2	
<b>INSET DAY 3</b>	<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 (school closed to scholars)</b>
Schools Open	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
Schools Close	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
Christmas & New Year Holiday	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025 to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026

Term No 3	
<b>INSET DAY 4</b>	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (school closed to scholars)</b>
Schools Open	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Schools Close	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Spring Half Term Holiday	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026

Term No 4	
Schools Open	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026
Schools Close	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Easter Holidays	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 to Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026

Term No 5	
Schools Open	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
May Bank Holiday (schools closed)	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Schools Close	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
Summer Half Term Holiday	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026

Term No 6	
Schools Open	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026
Schools Close	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
Summer Holiday begins	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2026

### Bank Holidays

- 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025
- 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December 2025
- 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### INSET Days

- 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025
- 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Contact Us

<b>Address:</b>	Castle Mead Academy 50 Richard III Road Leicester 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>	@CastleMead

Our main reception desk will help you if you need to drop items into school for your child or to get a message to them during the school day. They will also be able to help you contact to the following key staff:

Name	Role
Miss C. French	Principal
Miss A. Harris	Vice Principal
Miss M. Rueben	Vice Principal
Mr D. Gilbert	Assistant Principal
Miss J. Simpkin	Assistant Principal
Mr T. Gardner	Assistant Principal
Miss N. Murphy	Head of Safeguarding
Mr M. Mayes	Head of Behaviour
Mrs R. Sharp	Academy Manager