



Castle Mead Academy | Spring Newsletter 2025

Message from the Principal

Dear families,

What a special and jam-packed term this has been! It's been a momentous one for our KS4 scholars especially, with our year 11s sitting their final set of mock exams and securing their next steps post-CMA, and our Year 10s going out on work experience. They have all shone and have made all of the staff team at CMA so proud. We can't wait to see what the Class of 2025 achieves in the next few months.

This edition of the Newsletter has a very special introduction from two brilliant future leaders: Nabhi and Ranika – two of our Year 11 Prefects. I will leave it to them to capture the highlights of the last term, but just want to extend a huge thank you to all of our families for your continued support and for playing such an important role in our school community.

Wishing you all a restful break with your loved ones.

Miss French



A Summary from Our Senior Prefects

This past term at Castle Mead Academy has consisted of both excitement and reflection. First of all, Comic Relief: Red Nose Day on Friday, March 21st, brought a lively change, with scholars donating £1, wearing non-uniform, and buying sweet treats from the bake sale for a good cause. There was also sponge-throwing at teachers, such as Mrs McAuley and Mr Barker, during both lunchtimes. The school was filled with bright colours, laughter, and generosity as everyone came together to support charity.

At the same time, on the 26th of March, Year 11 scholars received their February mock exam results, marking a crucial step in their academic journey. Some were relieved, and others were determined to push harder, but for all, it was a moment of reflection as they geared up for the final stretch before GCSEs. With both fun and focus in the air, the school has been a place of energy, motivation, and community spirit.

Moreover, in the past week, we had both lunches merge on Thursday and Friday, as a trial run for the fantastic upcoming changes being implemented from next academic year. This

opportunity allowed and will allow for socialisation across all year groups as well as giving the older years a chance to set an example for the younger years, overall, creating a more efficient school day.

At the end of this term, there will be another non-uniform day on Friday, the 11th of April, to spread diabetes awareness. On the same day, Year 11 scholars are going on one of their final Castle Mead trips to their PGL revision weekend, consisting of both revision and exciting activities such as laser tag, canoeing, and more.

On behalf of the entire Prefect team at CMA, we hope you have a safe, fun, and restful half term.

Nabhi and Ranika

Attendance and Merits

Attendance

Our top five performing form groups for attendance are:

- **8 Ashby** - 94.87%
- **7 Durham** - 94.52%
- **9 Lincoln** - 94.39%
- **7 Monmouth** - 93.82%
- **9 Stafford** - 93.73%

Well done everyone!

Merits

Congratulations to Year 7, for the most amount of merits received up to the Easter holidays!

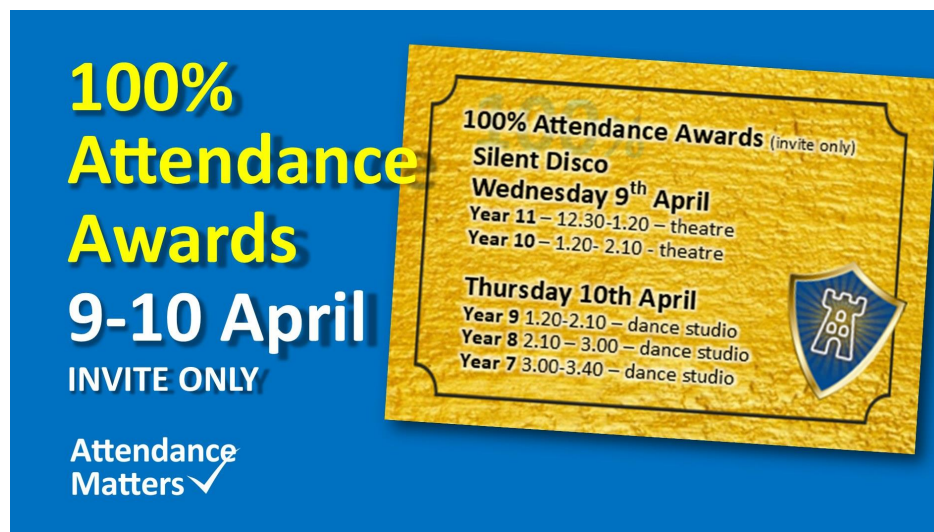
- **Year 7** - 225, 962
- **Year 9** - 184, 048
- **Year 8** - 178, 593

- Year 10 - 102,787
- Year 11 - 71, 195

*This term, on average, **staff awarded 6 merits for every 1 demerit!***

*In this same period of time, January to Easter, **304,024 merits in total** were given out. This time last year, only 190,826 merits were awarded; that means **merits have increased by 59%!***

Well done, scholars!



As a reward, students with 100% attendance were invited to a Silent Disco in the dance studio ... although from the photos, it appears that the staff had more fun!









Recommended Reads for the Easter Holidays

'Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson' by Lisa Williamson (*Recommended Inspirational Quick Read*)

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson is one of the most successful wrestlers in WWE history and one of the highest paid Hollywood actors. This book outlines Dwayne Johnson's journey, from a childhood where money was so tight his family were evicted from their apartment, to playing college football, the road to wrestling stardom and finally becoming a Hollywood superstar.

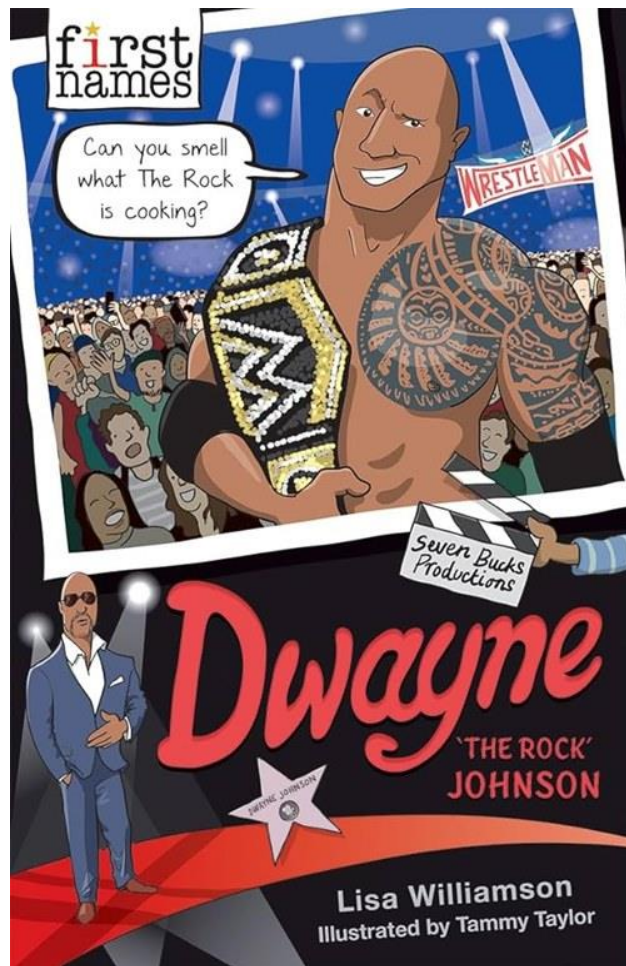
After teenage troubles and family strife, Johnson was determined to channel his energy into something positive. His story shows how he found ways to persevere through life's challenges by being adaptable when faced with trials, he ultimately succeeded in making his dreams a reality.

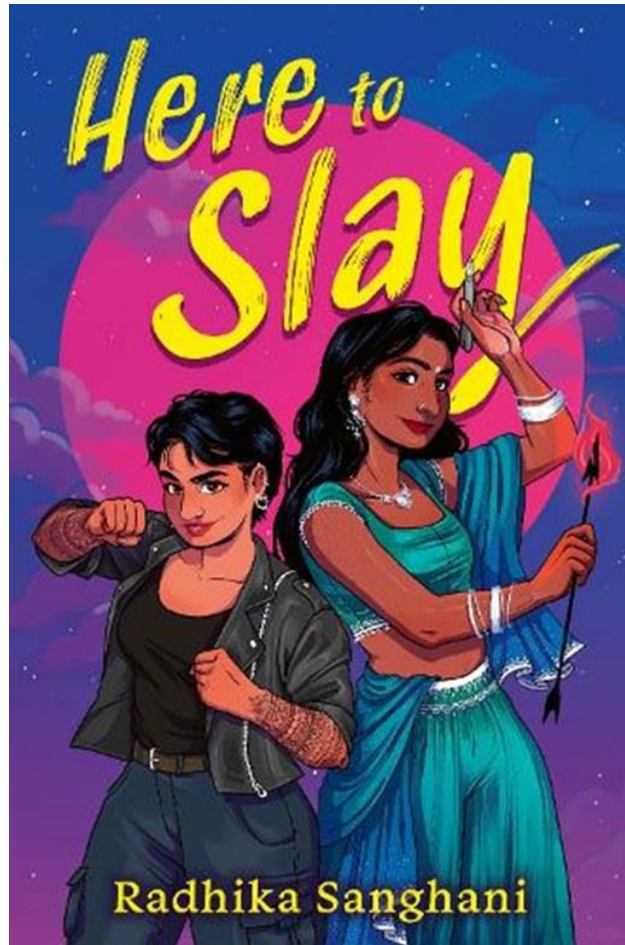
'Here to Slay' by Radhika Sanghani (*Recommended Love Story / Supernatural*)

Kali has a lot to deal with. Her crush doesn't notice her, her parents love her cousin more, and a big family wedding is overshadowing her 16th birthday. So, she really did NOT need a demon appearing in her bedroom and for the fate of the world to rest in her hands.

Lucky for her she isn't alone in this mess! She's got the very cool, very confident K to teach her how to be a demon slayer.

Now, if only she could also figure out how to slay at life...





Y11 Mock Exam Result Celebration - A Huge Success!

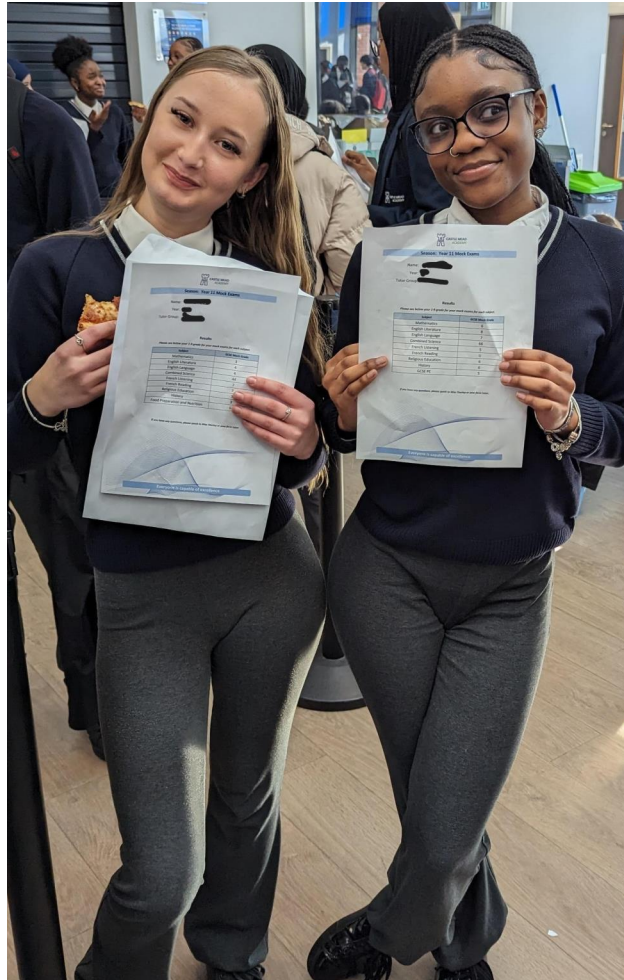
What a fantastic event! It was truly amazing to see so many of you at our Year 11 Mock Celebration. The energy and enthusiasm in the room were incredible, and we couldn't be prouder of our scholars. And, as for the pizza – we can't believe it all disappeared so quickly! It seems like everyone was ready to recharge after all that hard work.

A massive congratulations to all our Golden Ticket winners – you've earned every bit of recognition, and we're so proud of your accomplishments.

As we enter the final 4 weeks before GCSEs, remember that the hard work you've put in so far will pay off. Keep pushing, stay focused, and don't forget to take care of yourselves. You've got this!

Let's finish strong!







Girls Handball and Volleyball Winners!

The Girls Handball team put on an outstanding performance in their first competition, showcasing determination and skill as they proudly represented both the school and themselves. Their effort and teamwork were truly commendable.

Similarly, the Girls Volleyball team demonstrated great character and resilience while facing some formidable opponents. Despite the challenges, they embraced the experience and left with a newfound passion for the sport.

Well done to both teams for their hard work and commitment!

Oh ... and they won the competition!!!



Y7 Scholar Flag Goes All the Way to Antarctica!

One of our Year 7 scholars, Idris, has designed a flag that has made its way to Antarctica!

Castle Mead Academy Geography department runs the Antarctica Flag each year in collaboration with the UK Polar Network to celebrate Antarctica Day on 1st December.

This year, the judges chose Idris's design due to its representation of Antarctica in the middle (and of course the sparkle!!). The UK Polar Network then assigned our flag to a polar researcher and we have been eagerly awaiting an update since then.

We are very proud of Idris's work and delighted to have work from Castle Mead Academy photographed on Antarctica!

His flag is photographed with PhD student Kat Turner, who is currently aboard the 'Sir David Attenborough' with the British Antarctic Survey.

Brilliant work, Idris!



CMA and BMA Spring Concert | 20 March 2025

This spring term, the scholars at Castle Mead have dedicated themselves to learning pieces and songs for preparation for our Spring Music Concert. We joined forces with scholars from Brook Mead Academy with solo and ensemble performances learnt during Castle Character time and within the music scholarships.

On Thursday 20th March, after a lot of hard work and rehearsals, the scholars finally had the opportunity to perform to parents and teachers from the CMA and BMA communities. The experience was a fantastic opportunity for all, and we eagerly anticipate more opportunities to showcase our talents in future performances.









Red Nose Day | Friday 21 March

At the end of March, some of our Castle Mead teachers were having soaking wet sponges thrown at them, all in the name of charity!

Congratulations to Mr Gilbert, Mr Jordan, Mr Hagyard, Mr Mayes, Mr Carrington, Mr Barker, Mr Dunsby and Mrs McAuley for being willing volunteers for our Red Nose Day Soak the Teacher event! Thanks also to all the scholars and staff who took great delight in throwing the sponges; it would have been rubbish without you!

Huge thanks must go to Miss Simpkin for organising all the Red Nose Day Activities that took place across the school, not just the wet sponges (although she took great delight in throwing one or two!). There was also a bake sale and staff and scholars donated £1 each to come to school wearing red / non-uniform. Overall, we raised around £710! Congratulations everyone!





CMA Dance Show | 10 April 2025

On Thursday 10th April, we had the pleasure of hosting our annual Dance Showcase, a much-anticipated event that brought together 55 of our talented scholars to perform and celebrate their dedication to the art of dance. The evening was a resounding success, filled with vibrant energy, diverse performances, and a wonderful sense of community.

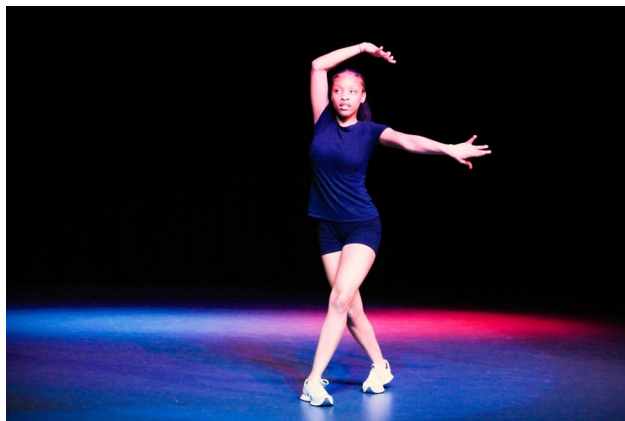
Our scholars took to the stage with confidence and passion, demonstrating a wide range of dance styles and techniques. Their hard work, creativity, and commitment were clearly evident in every performance, and it was truly inspiring to witness their talent and enthusiasm.

This year's showcase held particular significance for our Year 11 students, for whom this was their final performance with us. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to them on successfully completing their BTEC Dance course. Their contributions to our dance community have been invaluable, and they will be deeply missed. We are immensely proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

A sincere thank you goes out to everyone who attended the showcase and supported our scholars. Your presence and encouragement mean a great deal to both the performers and the staff involved. Your support helps make events like this possible and memorable

Thank you,

Miss L Appleby







Clean Air Day | Thursday 19 June

On Thursday 19th June, Castle Mead Academy will be celebrating Clean Air Day in partnership with Leicester City Council. This will involve lots of exciting extra-curricular activities and ways to enjoy our natural surroundings throughout our school day without the vehicle fumes or car traffic.

To make this possible, we will be closing part of Richard III Road for the day. We will send information about the logistics of this in a letter from our Scholar Council in the new term.

Please note that families of children with disabilities, or emergency service vehicles will of course be permitted to use the road on this day, and everyday.

Thank you.



Art Exhibition | Tuesday 6 May

CASTLE MEAD ACADEMY

Art 2025 Exhibition



Tuesday May 6th 4-7^{PM}

Please join us in celebrating
the achievements of our
GCSE Art scholars.

A chance to view the amazing
artwork our year 11's have created.

DRINKS AND SNACKS AVAILABLE



Proud to
Be Part of



Update | Scholar Leadership

Our scholar leaders have been busy making a positive impact in our school community again this term, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts!

Recently, our scholar council met with Mr Hagyard, the manager of the canteen, to discuss ways to improve the dining experience for everyone. Their thoughtful input and ideas were invaluable in helping to enhance the quality and variety of food offerings.

Additionally, our Prefects were excellent ambassadors to their school by forming scholar panels for Challenge Partners and the TMET Central Team. Their articulate contributions demonstrated the strength of our student voice and the importance of engaging in open dialogue.

Finally, our Kindness Ambassadors are working towards badges in antibullying from the Diana Award in inclusion, wellbeing and diversity.

For me, a highlight of this term has been our Scholar Councillor Devon, delivering a presentation at the Spring Concert on our fundraising efforts and our school charity (LOROS). What an inspiring thing to do, Devon!

Coming up in scholar leadership again next term, the Kindness Ambassadors are looking forward to delivering a 'preparing for secondary school' session at Knighton Mead primary school and we are hosting our first ever TMET Climate Conference with Year 6 from Fosse Mead.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school!

Mrs Burt, Head of Scholar Leadership

Update | Careers

Changes to the Careers Team

As our current Careers Leader, Diana Walker, prepares to embark on a new challenge as an Enterprise Coordinator at the Leicester and Leicestershire Careers Hub, we are pleased to announce that Chelsea Robertson, has been successfully appointed to the role and will continue to develop our outstanding careers programme. If you have any queries about anything careers or post 16 related, or if you have any ideas or are able to support the careers programme at CMA in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us via careers@castle-tmet.uk.

Please visit the careers pages of the Castle Mead Academy website for more useful information [Careers – Castle Mead Academy | TMET Leicester MAT](#)

Year 11 PS16 Process

Our year 11 scholars are very busy attending college interviews, welcome events and receiving conditional offers; they will be asked to make their final decisions around the May half term. We are also sending weekly apprenticeship vacancies out to scholars via Satchel:One. If your child would like any support, please ask them to see a member of the careers team as soon as possible, particularly if they need any help with the Leicester College Learner Hub and/or are awaiting offers from applications. Please ensure that scholars continue to log in and check their PS16 accounts and emails, at least on a weekly basis, for updates from providers.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch via careers@castle-tmet.uk

Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 scholars recently took part in work experience week. Work experience is a huge undertaking and commitment for all involved and we are extremely proud of the scholars. We are so pleased that they fully embraced this opportunity to develop an understanding of the work environment and expectations of employers; to explore possible career options and to increase their confidence and independence. The experience also helped scholars to develop and improve key transferable employability skills such as communication, time management and teamwork. A huge thank you to all employers and to families for their support.

Scholars were asked to indicate how their work experience placement assisted the development of their personal skills and qualities.

- **91%** of scholars reported that their work experience placement enabled them to develop more awareness of the world of work.
- **89%** of scholars reported that their work experience placement enabled them to develop their communication skills.
- **86%** of scholars reported that their work experience placement enabled them to develop their independence and time management skills.

Parents were also involved in the evaluation process.

- **96%** of parents reported that their child's work experience placement enabled them to develop more awareness of the world of work.
- **96%** of parents reported that their child enjoyed their work experience.

Quotes from year 10 scholars

- *"Work experience was an amazing opportunity and gave me an incredible insight into the working world!"*

Quote from a year 10 parent/carers

- *"Taking responsibility for completing forms, arranging meetings and setting up a placement, [led to] Increased independence, time management and communication skills."*

Quote from an employer

- *"One of the best work experience students we have had! Really taking initiative and showing fantastic independence. Worked really well with team! Would employ!"*

STOP PRESS - Deadline Sunday 13 April! University of Leicester Year 10 Residential

When: Monday 28 July – Tuesday 29 July 2025

Where: University of Leicester

What: This is a fantastic opportunity to experience life as a university student, stay overnight in university halls of residence, learn new skills and meet new people. The best part? It's completely free! To find out more about the residential and how to apply, please visit the [UoL website](#).

Applications close on Sunday 13 April.

If you have any questions about this opportunity, please email summerschool@le.ac.uk

Useful links for parents and carers

- [Castle Mead Academy - Careers Information for Parents](#)
- [National Careers Service](#) The National Careers Service provides high quality, free and impartial careers advice, information and guidance.
- [Skills for Careers](#) The Skills for Careers website has been designed to help young people and their families to understand post 16 and post 18 education and training choices.
- [Talking Futures](#)

When it comes to education and careers, parents, carers and guardians are a big influence in young peoples' lives. Talking futures is a resource created to help parents and carers to have informed and constructive conversations about the different training and education pathways available.



Update | Inclusion

The Intervention Hub has seen more than a hundred scholars receive 1:1 or small group interventions since its launch in January – from Zones of regulation to reading to ELSA. As well as providing a safe and calm space to talk to a keyworker when needed.

Nurture club has also proved successful and popular, where our scholars with additional needs can access their keyworkers and take part in activities, making friends and having fun in their social times.

Keyworkers are more present in lessons and are on hand to help scaffold learning for scholars that may struggle and need things breaking down a little or explaining again.

Please take some time to look at Leicester City's Local offer - [SEND local offer | LCC Family Hub](#) and Leicestershire's local offer - [Special educational needs and disability | Leicestershire County Council](#) These are an excellent source of information, advice and events that are happening in the community.

A Letter from Leicester Community Safety Partnership

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Leicestershire Police and Leicester City Council are committed to working together to address the root causes of crime and antisocial behaviour in our city. As part of this commitment, we collaborate closely with schools, community partners, and families to develop effective strategies to respond to incidents and prevent harm before it occurs.

We are reaching out to you today to seek your support in safeguarding our young people, particularly at the end of each school term, when we have observed an increase in risky behaviours among children and young people.

On December 20th, 2024, the final day of the Autumn term for most city schools, approximately 500 children and young people gathered in the city centre during the afternoon. This appears to have been a coordinated activity arranged via social media. Many of the young people involved were identifiable by their school uniforms, with the majority believed to be from local secondary schools.

While similar gatherings have occurred in the past, the scale of this event was unprecedented. The levels of antisocial behaviour were deeply concerning, including significant disruption to

businesses and people visiting the city centre, damage to police vehicles, and multiple incidents occurred requiring police intervention.

These incidents included two assaults on police officers, a sexual assault on a child, a breach of the peace, and several other assaults involving young people. At one point, the situation escalated to such an extent that a police dispersal order was necessary, and over 40 officers were deployed to restore order.

We are sure you will agree that this kind of behaviour is unacceptable. Not only does it risk drawing young people into criminal activity, but it also significantly increases the likelihood of them becoming victims of crime themselves.

To prevent a recurrence of such incidents, Leicestershire Police, Leicester City Council, and school leaders across the city and county are asking for your support. Together, we can help ensure the safety and wellbeing of our young people by:

- 1. Having open conversations** with your children about the risks associated with antisocial behaviour and the potential consequences of being involved in such activities.
- 2. Noting school finishing times** on the last day of term and ensuring you know where your children are during this period.
- 3. Encouraging participation in alternative activities.** Whether organised, informal or by accessing the range of facilities across the city, please highlight the opportunities to undertake positive activities out of school.

Our children and young people are a vital part of our community, and we want to support their freedom to enjoy the city in a safe and appropriate manner. By working together, we can ensure that the events of last December are not repeated and that our young people continue to thrive in a positive and secure environment.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to keeping our city safe place to live, work and visit.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Nicola Odom. Leicester City Council

Superintendent Paul Allen. Leicestershire Police



Dates for Your Diary



School reopens for scholars after the Easter Holiday on Monday 28 April 2025

- **Half Term Break** - Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May 2025
- **Summer holidays commence** - Monday 14th July 2025

All term dates can be found on the Castle Mead Academy website [here](#).

Parents' Evenings

Year 9 Parents' Evening - Thursday 8 May and Tuesday 13 May



Contact Details

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