



Castle Mead Academy Newsletter (2025-26)

Message from the Principal

Dear families,

I hope you all had a fantastic summer. My two little boys kept me incredibly busy but we have certainly made lots of memories – I hope you all have, too!

The whole staff team at CMA is incredibly excited to welcome our scholars back to school next week. We have so many exciting developments to share, including the launch of our amazing 'Rewards Store', our new outdoor seating area, and the launch of our new bespoke provision,

The Bridge. We plan to make this the best year yet at Castle Mead, and you and your child will be a huge part of that!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the 'Welcome to...' events at the start of term. Before then, have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend and thank you for your continued support.

Miss French

Principal

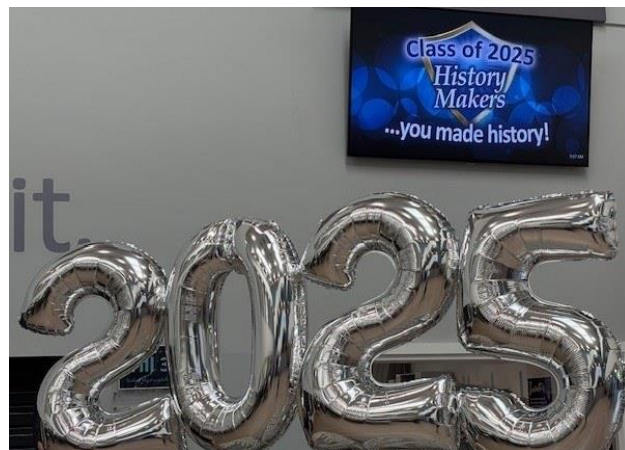


Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

GCSE Results 2025

We are extremely proud of the Class of 2025 and loved celebrating with them this morning as they opened their GCSE results! Well done, Year 11. You made history!

#HistoryMakers







Back to School



Arrangements for the start of term ...

- **Thursday 28th August:** NEW YEAR 7 SCHOLARS ONLY, 8.20am
- **Friday 29th August:** ALL YEAR GROUPS RETURN, 8.20am

On Friday 29th August we have a professional photography company into school, [Carmel Jane](#), who will be taking images of **Year 7 and 10 scholars** for their ID cards. Photographs will also be

taken of **Year 11 scholars** to create a year group image, which will be available to purchase in due course.

These images will be available to purchase at a later date directly from Carmel Jane Photography.

Important Information



Family Handbook

We have updated our Family Handbook, which is a one-stop-shop for key information which families require to support your children in being successful at Castle Mead.

Please take the time to have a read through this handbook, and you can refer back to it as the year progresses.

The Family Handbook can has been attached to this email.

Uniform

We ask for the support of our families in ensuring that our scholars get off to a strong start in the new term, by making sure that all scholars are equipped and ready for learning in terms of **uniform** and **equipment**.

We are very proud of our uniform and believe it contributes to the sense of belonging in our school community; we love to see our scholars wearing their uniform with pride and hope to

see every scholar doing so on the first day of term. As a reminder, our uniform expectations are as follows:

- Navy suit blazer from Uniform Direct
- 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

For PE, scholars will now be able to wear a plain navy T-shirt as their PE top and black or navy bottoms (tracksuit bottoms, mid-thigh length shorts, or leggings). **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, which is optional.

Where scholars are not in the correct uniform, parents will be contacted and sanctions issued. If you need any support with uniform, or you foresee any issues with your child's uniform ahead of the new term, please do get in touch.

Stationery

We will be issuing **all scholars** with a stocked pencil case (including black and green pens, a highlighter, and a pencil) on the first day of term. We want our scholars to take responsibility for being equipped and ready to learn and so we will not, as a school, be replenishing this equipment throughout the year. This year, we have given out pens whenever scholars have

failed to bring these to lessons, and we have reflected that this has resulted in not everyone taking personal responsibility for their own equipment. Looking ahead to the new term, all scholars must look after their stationery and take responsibility for replenishing this themselves (i.e. by purchasing new pens – we will be opening an in-school stationery store!) when a pen is lost or runs out. Failure to do so will result in a D3 and detention.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing the importance of taking personal responsibility around coming to school each day with the right tools for learning. Thank you.

Drop Off and Pick Up Arrangements

Drop Off Arrangements

Scholars can enter (and exit) 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.

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 families do not drive up Richard III Road towards the school. Bollards are due to be installed at the top of the road to prevent unauthorised traffic.** Scholars crossing the nearby roads must use the pedestrian crossing at all times, as this will ensure all members of our community stay safe.

The academy also has facilities for storing bicycles. Scholars are welcome to use the storing facilities; however, we would like to remind families of the importance of ensuring bikes are locked in the bike store when at school. **Please ensure if your child does bring a bike into school that they lock it securely in the store.**

Scholar Exit at the End of the Day

Scholars exit the site at the end of the day via the pedestrian entrance. The drop-off car park at the top of Richard III Road can still be used as usual.

Scholars who stay late for have detention will also exit the site the same way.

Attendance and Absences

We are grateful to our families for continued support in ensuring scholars arrive to school on time. Please keep encouraging your children to attend school every day, on time. **If your child is ill, please remember to contact school on 0116 214 3150 (option 1) by 8.30am**, so we are aware of where they are and why.

Medical and Dental Appointments

Families should try to schedule medical and dental appointments **outside of school time** as work missed in lessons is difficult to catch up with.

We encourage parents to **schedule appointments after 2.00pm**, where possible, as only one lesson will be missed.

Lost Property

It would be most helpful if families could make sure scholars' belongings are **labelled with their name and tutor group**.

Inevitably, sometimes scholars mislay items of uniform, bags or other property. If they are clearly labelled, then we can make sure items are returned quickly to their owners.

Scholars can check for lost property at break or lunch time in Scholar Services.

Key Staff Members: Pastoral Team



Heads of Year

Head of Year 7 - Mr S Elliott

SElliott@castle-tmet.uk

Head of Year 8 - TBC

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

Learning and Behaviour Mentors

Mr J Dunsby

JDunsby@castle-tmet.uk

Miss A Ebrahim

AEbrahim@castle-tmet.uk

Miss B Jadav

BJadav@castle-tmet.uk

Mr T Barker

TBarker@castle-tmet.uk

Mr J Jordan (Learning and Behaviour Mentor for The Bridge)

JJordan@castle-tmet.uk

School Meals and Breakfast Club



Free School Meals

Did you know that your child could qualify for Free School Meals? You can apply for free school meals if you receive one of the benefits listed below:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- 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)
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Working tax credit run-on; paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for working tax credit
- Universal credit with annual net earned income of less than £7,400

If your child is eligible, it means they can enjoy delicious, healthy meals without the cost and fuss of making packed lunches. Many scholars at Castle Mead Academy are already enjoying Free School Meals, and your child may be entitled to have them too.

To apply, please click the link [here](#).

Why sign up for Free School Meals?

It's not just a free school meal, if you sign up for FSM you can benefit from the following:

- Additional trips
- Funding for paid trips
- Uniform / equipment purchases
- Priority laptop loans
- Priority for extra-curricular activities
- A free lunch
- Priority for tutoring
- Funding for revision resources e.g textbooks

Please can we remind families to top up your child's ID card with money if you intend for them to buy food at either break and/or lunch. You can do this in the usual way via the My Child at School (MCAS) app. If you require any help with this, please contact reception.

New Year 7 scholars will be issued with their ID card on the first morning of term. Details on how Year 7 families can top up online will be shared shortly.



Breakfast Club

We operate a Breakfast Club from 8.00am each day.

Castle Mead Academy is signed up for the 'National School Breakfast Programme'. This means that every day, all scholars can help themselves to free bagels and a selection of cereals and porridge from the Dining Hall. This is optional, free of charge, and there is no need to book places. Our Morning Supervisor will be available to lend a hand to scholars also.

We hope that many scholars will benefit from this scheme.



Dates for Your Diary



Parents Evenings (2025-26)

All Parents Evenings are 4pm – 6.45pm

Year 11

- Thursday 20th November 2025; C-band

- Tuesday 25th November 2025; M-band

Year 8

- Thursday 11th December; C-band
- Tuesday 16th December 2025; M-band

Year 7

- Thursday 22nd January 2026; C-band
- Tuesday 27th January 2026; M-band

Year 9

- Thursday 12th February 2026; C-band
- Tuesday 24th February 2026; M-band

Year 10

- Thursday 12th March 2026; C-band
- Tuesday 17th March 2026; M-band

Year 11

- Thursday 30th April 2026; C-band
- Tuesday 5th May 2026; M-band

'Welcome to Year ... ' Events

Welcome to Year 7 Family Event - Thursday 4th September

Welcome to Year 11 Family Event - Monday 8th September

Welcome to Year 10 Family Event - Monday 15th September

Open Events (2025-26)

The highly anticipated dates for our Open Evening and Open Mornings are now live!

Choosing a secondary school is an important decision for you and your child. Our Open Days and Open Evening provide a golden opportunity to immerse in our school's ethos and values and for you to hear about how we can support your child's aspirations, through quality teaching, extracurricular activities, and strong pastoral care.

We can't wait to meet the next cohort of CMA scholars in the making at our Open Events in September!

Register now to start your CMA journey ...

- **Open Evening** registration: <https://forms.office.com/e/FBpmV6yKYc>
- **Open Mornings** registration: <https://forms.office.com/e/1Cued3hJh6>

YEAR 5/6 OPEN EVENTS

Growing a Community of Excellence



Join us for a tour of the school, so we can share with you
our ethos and ambitions for your child.

Friday 12th September, 9.00am - 10.15am

Wednesday 17th September, 9.00am - 10.15am

Thursday 25th September, 9.00am - 10.15am

Year 6 Open Evening
Tuesday 23rd September, 4.30pm - 7.30pm.



CASTLE MEAD
ACADEMY

Proud to be part of The Mead Educational Trust



Term Dates (2025-26)

CASTLE MEAD ACADEMY TERM DATES 2025/2026



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

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

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

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

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

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

Bank Holidays

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

INSET Days

- 26th and 27th August 2025
- 27th October 2025
- 5th January 2026

NEWS



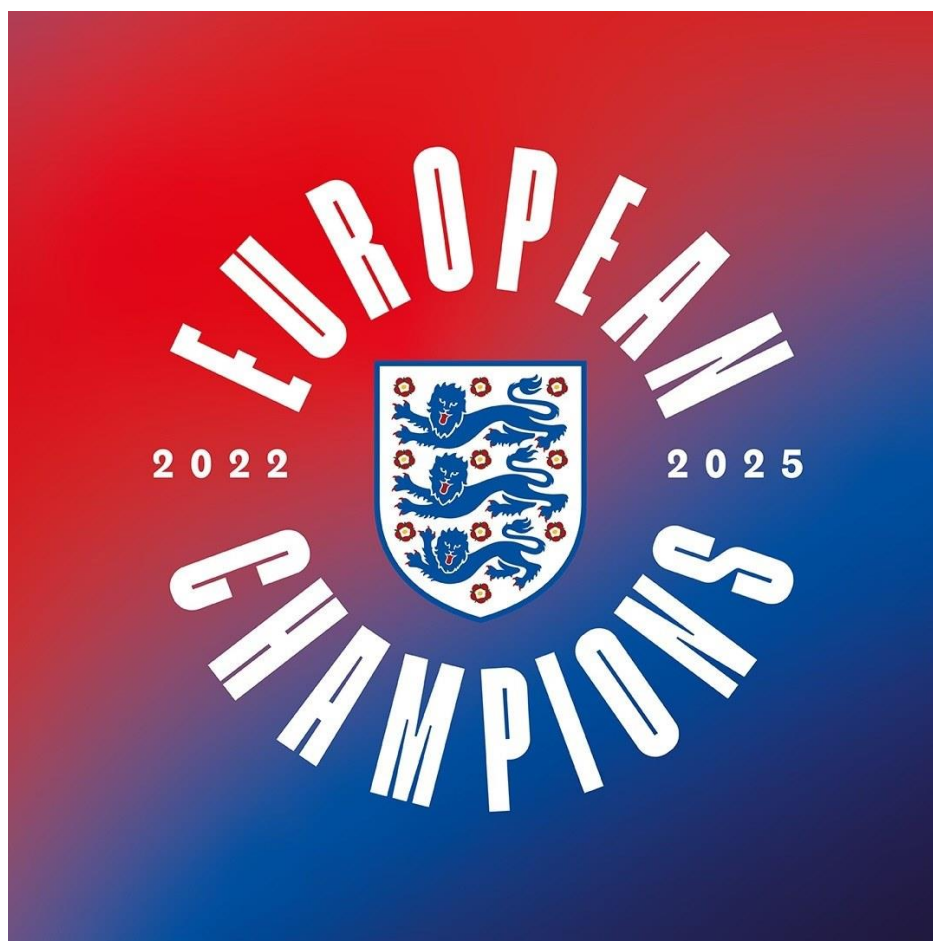
Teacher's poem for Lionesses' football team!

We are so proud of our AMAZING Drama teacher, Miss Panesar, who was asked to write this incredible poem for the Lionesses Football team, ahead of their European Championship win this summer.

The poem was shared on the Lionesses social media platforms, and you can hear it for yourself here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1CfE55f1bR/>

"This is for every little girl that dared to dream ..."

What an inspiration this will be to our scholars! We're so proud of you, Miss Panesar!



CMA is an Eco-Schools Green Flag winner!

Castle Mead Academy has been successful in achieving an Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction!

Our focus topics were Global Citizenship, Transport and Waste; some of the feedback we received said that *thanks to staff members incorporating environmental issues into the curriculum, pupils at your school are becoming more aware of sustainable living and the importance of being active in protecting our planet ...*

... Your Eco-Team has diligently kept their school community updated about their Eco-Schools work. Pass on our congratulations to your Eco-Team for confidently delivering during the Eco-Schools Roadshow as well as the Climate Conference ...

... You have shown a massive amount of effort this year in your Uniform Recycling Scheme and although it is hard not to feel down about the lack of donations for your revision guides, we

commend you for the hard work and have no doubt that with continued hard work you will see success with this as well.

Huge congratulations to all students on the Eco-Board and to Mrs Burt who works tirelessly with our scholars on eco initiatives within the school.



Contact Details

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

X [@CastleMeadAcad](#)

Facebook [@CastleMeadAcademy](#)

Castle Mead Academy

Richard III Road

Leicester

LE3 5QT

TELEPHONE: 0116 214 3150

WEBSITE: [Castle Mead Academy](#)

EMAIL: info@castle-tmet.uk