



Castle Mead Academy | Summer Newsletter 2025

Message from the Principal

Dear scholars and families,

I can't quite believe we are at the end of another academic year, and what a year it's been! The end of term is always a time for reflection and, as we approach the end of a remarkable academic year, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared together. I am immensely grateful, and thank each of you, for the unwavering support you've shown me during my first year as Principal.

It has been a privilege this year to see just how much our scholars have grown over the course of the last ten months. Seeing our Year 11s celebrate their Prom in style at Winstanley House was a particular highlight – we wish the Class of 2025 every success for the future and know they will go on to achieve great things. There have been so many other special moments, including welcoming our new year 7s and their families into school just last week for Transition,

celebrating with our incredible prize winners at Awards Evening on Monday, and seeing some of our (extremely brave!) scholars paddle into school by bell boat on Clean Air Day. Belonging is the most important thing to us at CMA, and we have shared in so many moments and experiences as a school community this year where the sense of pride and teamship has been palpable. It's these moments of connection, laughter, and shared experience that remind us all what it means to be a part of this incredible community, and I couldn't be more proud.

As we look ahead to next year, I feel excited to continue to grow our community of excellence together. We will see some changes – including moving to one lunch and break time – that will help us to keep on getting better as a school. I look forward to continuing to work together and seeking the feedback of our families to help us to grow and champion our scholars.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break making memories with your loved ones. I am sure my little boys will be keeping me busy!

Miss French

Principal



Attendance and Merits

Attendance

Our top five performing form groups for attendance are:

- **7 Durham** - 92.89%
- **7 Monmouth** - 92.73%
- **8 Appleby** - 95.33%
- **8 Durham** - 94.23%
- **8 Elvaston** - 92.10%

Well done, everyone!

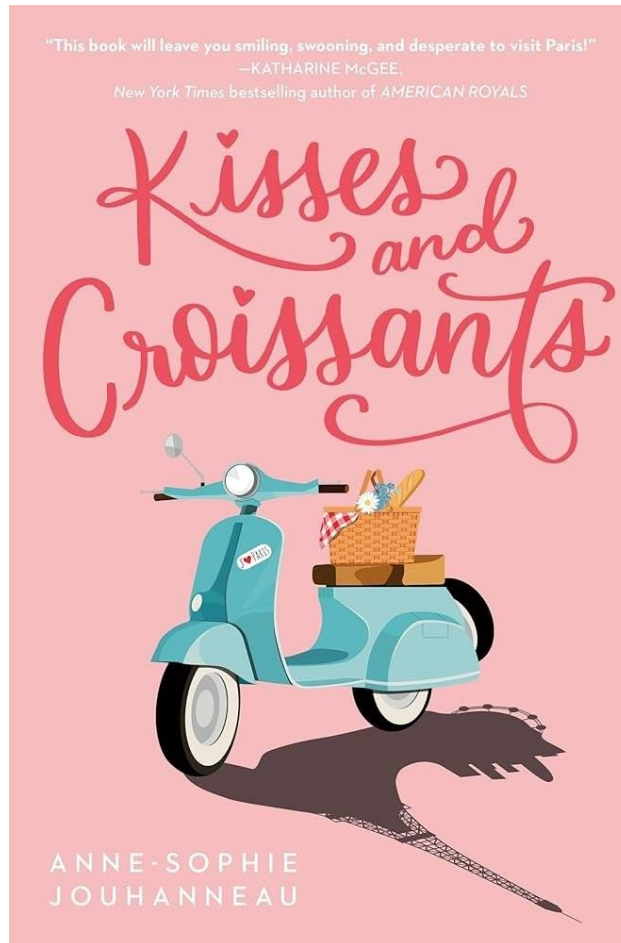
Merits

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

- **Year 7** - 49,659
- **Year 8** - 59,269
- **Year 9** - 51,775
- **Year 10** - 24,146
- **Year 11** - 2,358

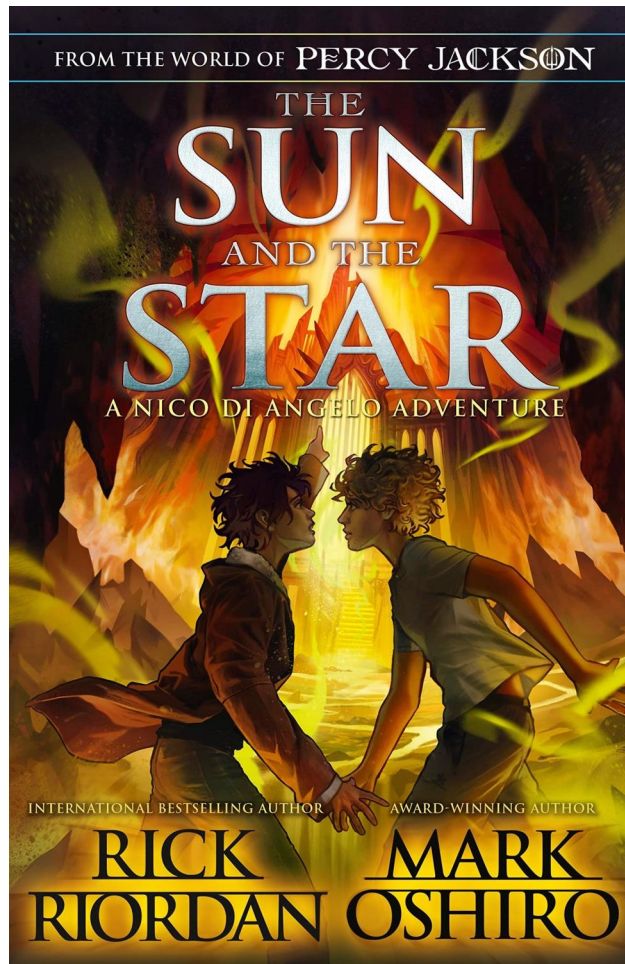
Well done, scholars!

Recommended Reads for the Easter Holidays



'Kisses and Croissants' by Anne-Sophie Jouhanneau

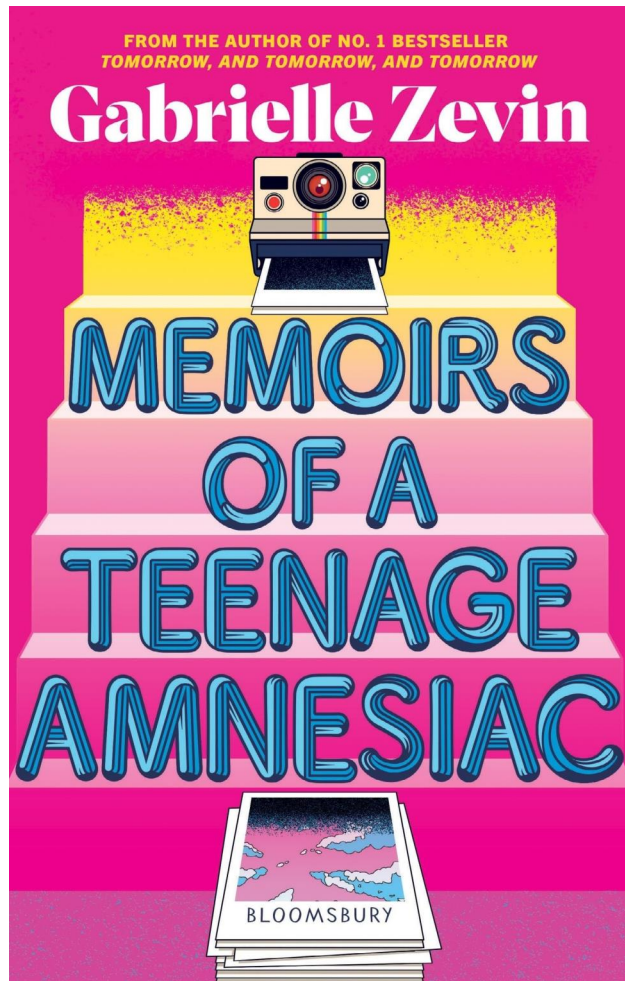
Seventeen-year-old Mia, an American girl at an elite summer ballet program, has six weeks to achieve her dreams: to snag an audition with one of the world's best ballet companies. But there's more to Paris than ballet—especially when a charming French boy, Louis, wants to be her tour guide—and the pair discover the city has a few mysteries up its sleeve.



'The Sun and the Star' by Rick Riordan and Mark Oshiro

As the son of Hades, Nico di Angelo has been through so much, from the premature deaths of his mother and sister, to being outed against his will, to losing his friend Jason during the trials of Apollo. But there *is* a ray of sunshine in his life—literally: his boyfriend, Will Solace, the son of Apollo. Together the two demigods can overcome any obstacle or foe. At least, that’s been the case so far...

Can a being made of light survive in the darkest part of the world? And what does the prophecy mean that Nico will have to “leave something of equal value behind?”



'Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac' by Gabrielle Zevin (YAF)

If Naomi had picked tails, she would have won the coin toss. She wouldn't have had to go back for the yearbook camera, and she wouldn't have hit her head on the steps. She wouldn't have woken up in an ambulance with amnesia. She certainly would have remembered her boyfriend, Ace. She might even have remembered why she fell in love with him in the first place. She would understand why her best friend, Will, keeps calling her "Chief." She'd know about her mom's new family. She'd know about her dad's fiancée. She never would have met James, the boy with the questionable past and the even fuzzier future, who tells her he once wanted to kiss her. She wouldn't have wanted to kiss him back.

But Naomi picked heads.

Supporting a Strong Start: Uniform and Equipment

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.

Equipment:

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.

Update | Year 11

As we come to the end of a hugely important chapter for our Year 11 scholars, we want to take a moment to celebrate all they have achieved and the memories we've made together. Over the past few weeks, our Year 11s have shown incredible resilience, determination, and maturity as they tackled their GCSE exams. We are so proud of the way they conducted themselves throughout the exam period.

One of the most special moments this term was the Guard of Honour, where the whole school lined up outside to cheer our Year 11s on as they walked to their final exam. It was a powerful and emotional send-off that truly reflected the unity and pride within our school community.

Following the last exam, we came together for an amazing Leavers' Assembly, filled with laughter, memories, and a few tears too. It was a wonderful chance to look back on their journey through school and celebrate the individuals they've become.

Now, as we look ahead to Results Day, we are excited to see all their hard work pay off. We know how much effort they have put in, and we are confident they will be proud of what they've achieved.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support. We all wish Year 11 the best of luck in their next steps following their Castle Mead Academy journey!

Bring on Results Day!

Miss Thorley, Vice Principal





Cricket, Rounders and School Games GOLD Mark Award Winners!

Boys Cricket

CMA U13's and U15's Boys Cricket teams have played well this season against some tough opposition. The weather has provided a fantastic opportunity for some excellent batting conditions but not bowling. The runs have tallied up high, but the wickets failed to fall. The boys were a credit to the school and each other with their performances and showed great camaraderie even in defeat. It was a pleasure and an honour to accompany them to fixtures.

CMA Dragons Rounders

June was a fantastic month for our Year 7 and 8/9 rounders teams, with both teams taking to the field for two exciting evenings of fixtures. Representing CMA Dragons with pride and determination, the teams faced strong opposition but showed outstanding teamwork and sportsmanship throughout.

Across the fixtures, both teams experienced the full range of results—celebrating well-earned wins, battling to hard-fought draws, and learning from narrow losses. Highlights included some spectacular batting displays, fielding, and several superb rounders that had the team cheering!

What truly stood out was the spirit, support, and effort every player brought to the pitch. Their enthusiasm, resilience, and teamwork made them a privilege to take out and a credit to the school.

Well done to all our CMA Dragons!

School Games GOLD Mark Award

We are delighted to announce that we, **Castle Mead Academy**, have achieved the **School Games GOLD Mark Award** for the 2024/25 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. We are thrilled to have been recognised for our continued success.

With a large number of young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our scholars for their dedication to all aspects of school sport —

including the incredible young volunteers, leaders, and officials who made our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce, and clubs. We are pleased that the collective effort and commitment of the entire Castle Mead community has been recognised with this award.

A special thanks to:

- The **PE Department** for their tireless work in organising, coaching, and inspiring our teams
- Our **office staff** for their essential support behind the scenes
- The **school leadership team** for championing sport as a vital part of our culture and curriculum

We look forward to building on this success and applying once again in 2026!

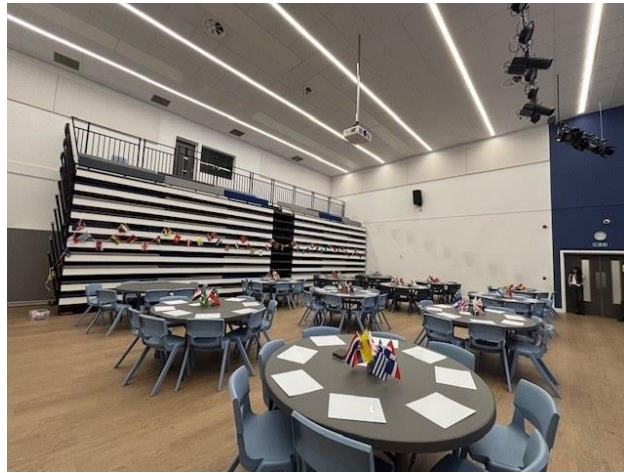


Y6 and Y8 Join Forces for a Climate Conference

On Tuesday 1st July we were joined by Year 6 students from Fosse Mead Academy for CMA's very first 'Climate Conference'.

Year 6 had just finished their Sustainability topic and on their arrival, Year 8 geographers delivered a keynote speech on the causes and impacts of climate change. Negotiations commenced after the break and discussion ranged from cutting the use of fossil fuels to meeting the growing demand for food whilst cutting greenhouse gasses.

Our Year 8 geographers showed excellent teamwork and leadership. We would like to thank Year 6 for coming and we hope we see you again soon!





Update | Scholar Leadership

Kindness Ambassador Visit to Knighton Mead

On Friday 13th June, our wonderful Kindness Ambassadors visited Knighton Mead Primary school to deliver a session that they had planned on transition to secondary school with the theme of Anti-Bullying. Our Kindness Ambassadors lead a few playground activities with inclusivity and kindness before delivering their classroom session. They spoke confidently and considerately answered questions from the Year 6 students to help them feel prepared for their next steps. We are so proud of our Kindness Ambassadors!

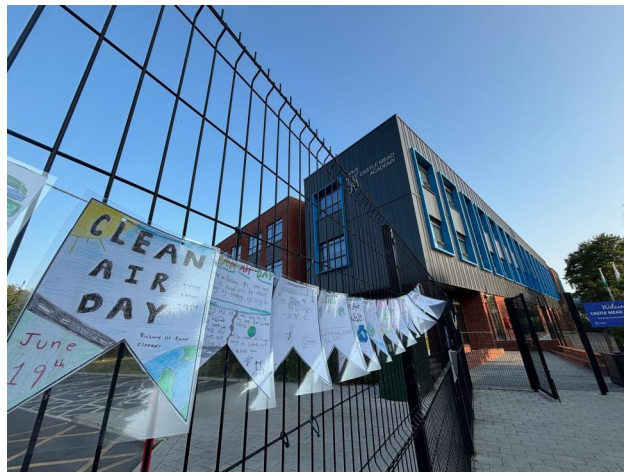
Clean Air Day

On Thursday 19th June our staff, scholars and families celebrated Clean Air Day which involved the closure of Richard III Road to address air pollution and continue our work to make the environment around our school safer and more sustainable. As part of this day, 20 of our scholars paddled to school along the river Soar and some of our lessons took part outside. We

would like to say a huge thank you for the support from Leicester City Council and the Canal and Rivers Trust, too!

Mrs Burt, Head of Scholar Leadership





CMA Awards Evening | Monday 7 July

Our annual CMA Awards Evening took place on Monday 7th July, recognising scholars who have particularly made an impact in different areas, from rowing to poetry.

The evening finished with the CMA Spirit Award, presented to a scholar from each year group whom our Senior Leadership team felt most encapsulated the spirit of Castle Mead, recognising them for their endeavour, effort, and encapsulating the Castle Mead Spirit.

Congratulations to all nominated scholars!





CMA Junior Chef Competition

Over the past five weeks, some of our scholars have been taking part in TMET's very first Junior Chef competition, run by chefs from Chartwells School Catering.

The scholars have been learning new culinary skills and showcased a selection of these in the final. Our Senior Leadership team judged all dishes (without knowing who had made what!) on presentation and taste, before deciding on a winner and a runner up.

A huge congratulations to our winner Promise in Year 10! We hope you enjoy your recipe book and kit, and very own CMA Junior Chef 2025 serving tray!





Update | Inclusion

Exciting times for The Intervention Hub as we move to a bigger space in school. We will be located in the opposite corner of the school building to where we are now. It is airier and lighter and we'll have more intervention spaces.

We've also recently been successful in securing £5000 of funding through The Shelia Coates Foundation rapid impact fund - [Giving opportunities to young people with autism](#) We will be asking a group of scholars to help with the planning, the creating and the maintenance of the garden. We'll post pictures on social media so that you can see what we create!

Update | Careers

Year 9 Speed Networking

On the 12th June, our Year 9 scholars had the pleasure of taking part in some Speed Networking, with a wide range of business volunteers joining us in the theatre!

Speed networking supports the scholars to explore a range of careers, build confidence speaking with professionals, and make real-world links between school and future pathways—supporting informed GCSE choices.

Thank you so much to all of our volunteers for giving up your time to come along; it was great to have such a wide range of professionals with us, and your knowledge and willingness to talk about your current and previous jobs will no doubt have an impact on our scholars.

Thank you!

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.

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.







Information from the School Nurse Team

As we near the end of this school term please be mindful when you are making referrals to the School Nurse team that although we work all year round, it is difficult to complete work with pupils during the school six week holiday period.

Please consider signposting pupils and/or parents to the following alternative services that they can access during the summer holiday:

Pupils

- **Health for Teens:** a health promotion website, covering subjects that promote a healthy body and mind. www.healthforteens.co.uk
- **ChatHealth:** young people's text service to access a public health nurse (school nurse) for confidential advice and support. **Leicester City text: 07520 615386**
- **Tellmi:** is a digital mental health service for anyone over the age of 11 that is available across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland free of charge. You can visit the Tellmi website or download the app from your phone's app store. Website: www.tellmi.help/hello
- **Able To:** Programs are based on cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT). CBT focuses on how thoughts, feelings, and actions are connected. You'll learn actionable skills based on these connections. 8-week programs, you'll work 1-on-1 with a therapist, coach, or both. Our digital self-care program is self-guided. Website: www.ableto.com
- **Calm:** The free Calm app allows you to relax and fall asleep with meditations, music, and more. There are meditations for stress management, deep sleep, anxiety reduction, and increased concentration. Website: www.calm.com/app

- **My Self Referral:** Referral point for young people under 18 seeking guidance about Mental Health. Website: <https://www.myselfreferral-llr.nhs.uk/>

Parents

- **Parents** can access support from their family G. P's or via the CAMHS Central Access Point which is open 24hrs a day: 0116 295 3060.
- **Parents** can access mental health support for their children from the family GP or via the CAMHS Central Access Point which is open 24hrs a day: 0116 295 3060.
- **Parents** Text a member of the public health nursing team via the parent/carer confidential text messaging service (CHAT Health) as follows:

Leicester City text: 07520 615381

Dates for Your Diary



School closes for this academic year on Friday 11th July at 12.15pm.

- **Summer holidays commence** - Monday 14th July 2025
- **School reopens for Year 7 scholars ONLY** - Thursday 28th August 2025
- **School reopens for ALL scholars** - Friday 29th August 2025

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

Contact Details

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