



Prospectus

2026-2027



CASTLE MEAD
ACADEMY



Welcome from the Chief Executive Officer



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sarah Ridley
Chief Executive Officer,
The Mead Educational Trust

Welcome from the Principal



It is a huge honour to take on the role as Castle Mead Academy's new Principal, having been a part of the senior leadership team since we opened in 2019, and I am delighted that you are considering our wonderful school as your child's secondary school.

At Castle Mead, we live by our Castle Credo to 'Be Kind, Work Hard and Build Your Character'. We focus on being brilliant in the basics: doing the simple things really well, so that teachers can teach, and scholars can learn. We have extremely high expectations because we know that every child is capable of excellence and will flourish in our school. The Castle Mead curriculum is highly ambitious and equips scholars with powerful knowledge and skills to ensure they can confidently pursue their next steps for future learning and employment, whatever they may be. We want our scholars to feel challenged, happy and motivated in their lessons, and we see this each and every day. We also want to expand horizons beyond the classroom, and our Castle Character Time programme and wider menu of enrichment opportunities ensure that our scholars have plentiful opportunities to build their character.

We place maximum emphasis on excellent behaviour and a thoughtful, caring attitude to each other. We build a strong sense of belonging in our school: we want every child to come to school every day knowing that they belong, that they are cared for deeply and that they are safe. This is underpinned by the value we place on relationships between staff and scholars. Likewise, it is very important to us that our families feel a sense of belonging connected to our school. 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.

Over the past seven 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 are driven by a commitment to keep on getting better: as we enter our eighth year, we are incredibly excited about this next phase of growth and hope that your child now becomes a part of that journey as a prospective Castle Mead scholar.

Chloe French,
Principal, Castle Mead Academy

Vision and Values at Castle Mead Academy

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We believe in the value of scholarship

We believe knowledge is power

We believe in positive relationships

We believe in the importance of identity

We believe in being unapologetically ambitious

We believe in giving 100%

We believe in rigorous routines

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It is our aim that scholars leave Castle Mead Academy as articulate, resilient, well-rounded individuals who excel academically, in the arts, and on the sporting field. Our scholars learn that success needs hard work and effort, and they will have the support of our staff along their journey. Castle Mead scholars enjoy the riches of an ambitious curriculum and develop key learning habits to equip them to be lifelong learners.

We place maximum emphasis on scholars' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We are an inclusive community where all are supported to achieve no matter what their starting point or need. Castle Mead scholars enact the Castle Credo:



Starting small and growing our community of excellence together has enabled both our scholars and staff to be immersed in our vision and values. We now have over 1200 scholars across five year groups, are rated as an Ofsted Outstanding school, and are excited to continue the mission to grow a community of excellence as we enter our eighth year.

Translating Vision and Values into Action

Castle Mead is built on strong, respectful relationships between scholars and staff. Our traditional and research-informed approaches to teaching and learning, along with our coaching culture, ensure we continually develop teacher practice. We are creative and courageous in challenging conventions. This means that our classroom environments are ones where teachers can teach high quality lessons, and scholars experience uninterrupted learning.

Every detail of our academy is meticulously planned and we consistently evaluate our practices to ensure continuous improvement. Our academy community actively questions and develops all that we do so that we provide a first class education for our scholars. We are not afraid to make changes along the way in the pursuit of growing a community of excellence. Our Culture of Critique quality assurance model helps us to continuously review and refine what we do. We are an open and fair community. Our scholars and families know why we do things, and the purpose behind each expectation. Families are expected to play an active part in each child's education, and to support our staff. This will all grow from our family handbook which is introduced at the start of the year. Castle Mead's culture is one of high expectations. We go about embedding our culture and our values with simplicity and thoroughness each and every day.





The Curriculum at Castle Mead Academy

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We will provide for all our scholars access to the best which has been thought, said, written and created in every field of human endeavour so that they are knowledgeable, critical, enriched and well poised to lead fulfilling lives.

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Castle Mead's curriculum is one that engages, stimulates and challenges our scholars, underpinned by academic rigour. The curriculum is knowledge based, with an emphasis on the 'best that has been thought and said'. We believe that knowledge about the world is central to our scholars' success. Only when they have acquired this knowledge will they be able to actively lead and participate in a global society.

From Year 7, scholars study English language and literature, mathematics, the sciences, the humanities, a language, and Religious Education. All scholars will continue these subjects to GCSE. This core curriculum is enhanced by lessons in art, computer science, design and technology, drama, music, and PE. We implement a carefully planned educational support package which includes high impact reading and literacy strategies, delivery of personal, social and health education and debating through our tutor programme, and a distinct homework strategy which champions knowledge and retrieval practice.

Each subject's curriculum is carefully crafted and sequenced, with deliberate revisiting and over-learning of key concepts. Something we're proud of is our scholars' understanding of the big picture in relation to their learning: they can articulate the purpose of their learning and how it connects to what has been taught previously. This stems from the meticulous design of the curriculum and the way in which teachers narrate the 'big question' at the start of every lesson. Our curriculum is enacted in line with our Invigorating Instruction framework for excellent teaching: six principles, underpinned by the science of how we learn, which support teachers in planning their lessons to the detail.

The experiences provided for our scholars throughout the curriculum are planned with their futures in mind. We have planned opportunities for scholars to develop their skills in entrepreneurship, innovation, research and experimentation – all of which are applied to the world around us and the world of work. We have developed exciting links to industry and business, which will, in turn, raise the aspirations and employability skills of our scholars.



Enrichment - Castle Character Time

Our extended school day allows all scholars to benefit from our enrichment curriculum, which we call 'Castle Character Time'. Castle Character Time provides scholars with a choice of electives, which they all do on a Monday and Thursday.

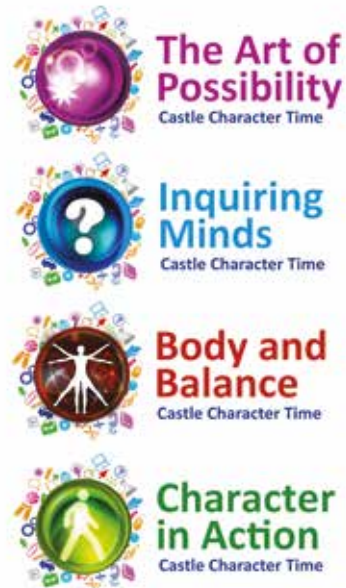
The co-curriculum offer at Castle Mead is wide-ranging, with something for everyone, regardless of prior experience. Scholars will be able to participate in drama productions, sports teams, trips abroad and academic activities such as debating and public speaking. Our 'Poetry in Voice' model means that all scholars will learn our school's poem 'Invictus' by heart.



Our current electives on offer to Year 7 include:

Mandarin, Crochet, Ancient History, Rock Climbing, Debate, Chess, Anime Film Club, Origami.

Music scholarships are made available to scholars, who are provided with an instrument of their choice, are given weekly peripatetic music lessons by professional teachers and practise weekly as part of our orchestra.



Sports



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

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

Arts

The Arts are thriving at Castle Mead!

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

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

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

Cultural Enrichment Journey

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

Careers

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

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

Learning in each year has a key focus:

YEAR 7 Awareness

YEAR 8 Explore

YEAR 9 Consider

YEAR 10 Experience

YEAR 11 Decide

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

CMA year 10 scholar

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

Placement provider

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

Find out more about the careers programme at Castle Mead Academy by visiting the Careers page at castle-tmet.uk



Partnerships

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

Leicester Rowing Club

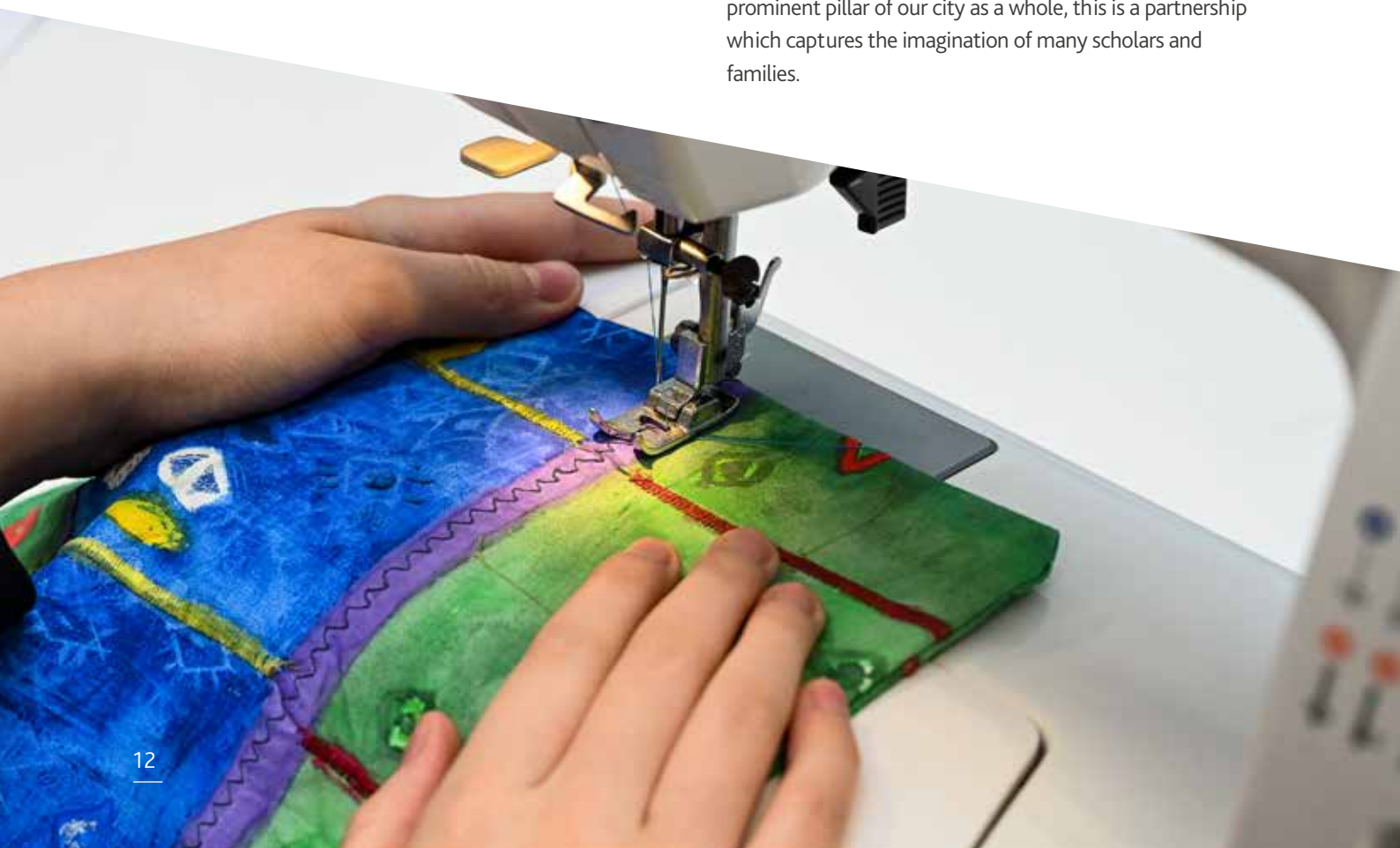
Rowing scholarships are in place for Castle Mead scholars, in partnership with Leicester Rowing Club. All year seven scholars gain an opportunity to experience a rowing masterclass, with those who would like to benefit from further specialist coaching then joining our 'Castle Mead Academy Rowing Club'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

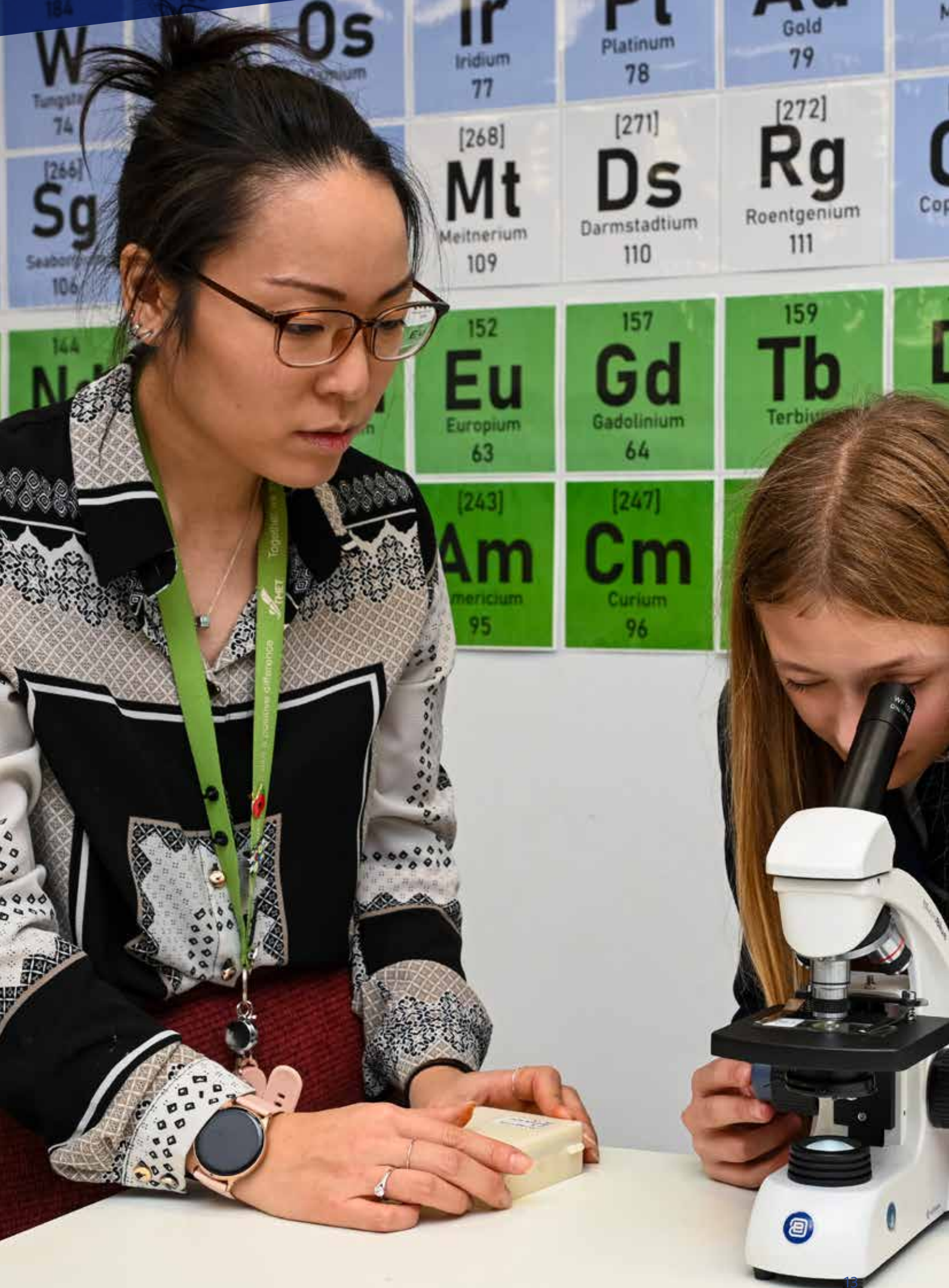


Leicester City in the Community



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







Support for Scholars

Our support for scholars begins before they join Castle Mead with our comprehensive transition programme. Information is gathered from Year 6 teachers about each scholar so that their needs, strengths and dispositions are known, which allows scholars to settle into our academy community smoothly. We want our scholars to be safe and happy from their very first day and feel a real sense of belonging. We work with our scholars through their induction to ensure that our expectations of them are clear and transparent.

Scholars are supported to develop their character and leadership skills through a number of Scholar Leadership opportunities such as becoming a Prefect or Kindness Ambassadors.

Our Heads of Year work with our scholars and families in a supportive capacity, allowing us to maximise scholar learning. They are experts in their field, and intervene swiftly where necessary and broker the right support on behalf of the scholars in their year group.

In order to succeed, the academy and families must work together. Families will want to assist the academy in securing the high achievement of their child by ensuring their child:

- Attends each day
- Is fully equipped
- Completes all homework
- Gets to bed by a reasonable time
- Arrives in correct uniform
- Has monitored access to technology and digital-platforms
- Reads every day at home.

Families also have high expectations of the academy. Castle Mead staff welcome your feedback, so that we can create an environment where we are all striving together on behalf of our scholars. We will host half-termly Family Forums where we invite families to support us in driving continuous improvement in a specific area.

Scholar Leadership

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

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

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

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

Scholar Wellbeing

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

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



Invictus

Out of the night that covers me
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance,
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.

'Invictus' by William Ernest Henley 1849-1903

Uniform

Our scholars take pride in their appearance and in their academy. Scholars are required to observe our uniform code. Families are expected to support scholars to help them look smart. The main items are available to purchase from a specified supplier. Our uniform comprises:

- Castle Mead Academy navy suit blazer with academy badge.
- White shirt/blouse.
- Castle Mead Academy grey suit trousers or kilt skirt
- Castle Mead Academy tie
- Plain black shoes or trainers.

Admissions

Castle Mead has a city-wide catchment area, therefore offering our first-class education to any families who align to our values from across the city of Leicester.

Admissions to Castle Mead are coordinated by the Leicester City School Admission Service.

Website: www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning

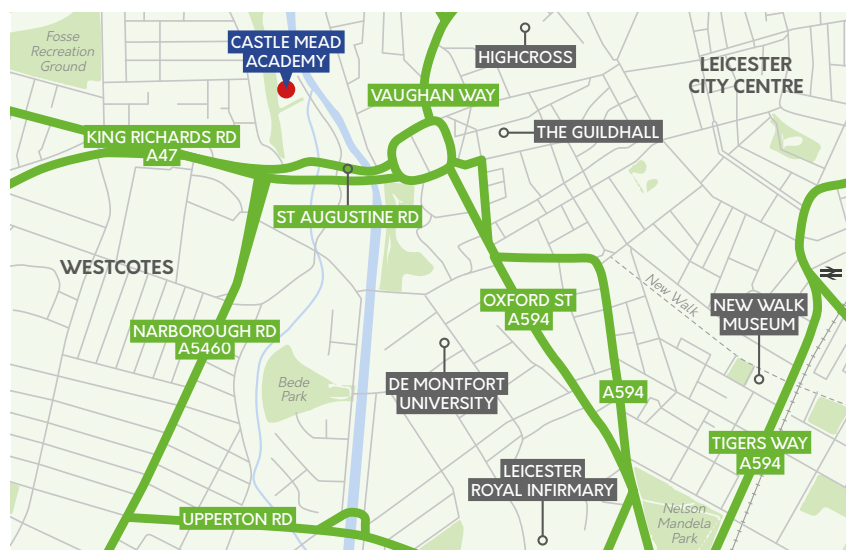
Telephone: (0116) 454 1009

Email: admissions.online@leicester.gov.uk

Site

Castle Mead Academy is situated in a central site by the riverside in the heart of historic Leicester, close to the Friars Mill regeneration area and the Highcross Shopping Centre, with excellent transport links. Our state-of-the-art building opened in August 2021. Our scholars, parents and staff are impressed by the facilities and opportunities available.

It is a privilege for our scholars to learn in such an innovative, professional and pristine environment. It is nothing less than they deserve, and we are fortunate to be the envy of many.



Our school building

We are very proud of our school building, which we moved into August 2021. We were fortunate to be able to design the buildings and site alongside our architects, seeing it grow from drawings to the impressive building, which can now be seen standing on the river front. Set over three floors, our facilities include state-of-the-art specialist classrooms, a 300 capacity theatre, and sports facilities including a sports hall, dance studio, and multi-use games area. We talk to our scholars about the privilege of being educated in this building, and the importance of respecting our environment so that it remains just as special for generations of Castle Mead scholars to come.







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