

Prospectus

2025-2026





Welcome from the Chief Executive



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

Orchard Mead Academy is part of The Mead Educational Trust (TMET), a growing family of eight primary, six secondary schools and one special school in 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 children and young people 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 students, 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 students and we use them as the basis of how we work together and treat each other. All the staff at Orchard 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 Executive Principal

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Orchard Mead Academy - a vibrant, inclusive and ambitious school at the heart of our community.

At Orchard Mead, we believe every young person has extraordinary potential. Our mission is simple: to unlock that potential through high expectations, strong relationships and a relentless focus on learning. We are proud of our diverse and dynamic school community, where students are encouraged to be curious, courageous and kind.

This year, we celebrated our strongest ever set of GCSE results, reflecting the hard work, resilience and ambition of our students, and the unwavering dedication of our staff. These achievements show what's possible when we work together to raise aspirations and remove barriers.

Whether your child is just beginning their journey with us or is preparing for their next steps, Orchard Mead is a place where they will be nurtured, inspired and empowered to thrive - academically, socially and personally.

Thank you for considering Orchard Mead Academy. We look forward to welcoming you and your family into our school community.

Tom Hague
Executive Principal

Welcome from the Principal

At Orchard Mead Academy, our mission is to inspire every student to grow, succeed and flourish.

Our Orchard Oath – *Work Hard, Be Kind, Be Responsible* – is at the heart of all we do. It guides our students to show resilience and determination, treat others with kindness and respect, and take responsibility for making a positive difference.

We are proud of our school community and work tirelessly to provide opportunities for our students to thrive. We want to forge meaningful partnerships with our families and take our place as a vital part of our students' futures.

We are also proud to offer a broad and ambitious curriculum, combining academic excellence with sport, music and the arts. This ensures our students leave us as confident, well-rounded young people, ready for whatever the future holds.

We can't wait to meet you all and look forward to working together to make a positive difference.

Subrina Johal
Principal

Vision and Values at Orchard Mead Academy

At Orchard Mead Academy all students, staff and parents share a common vision to
- ***Make a Positive Difference.***

This underpins everything we do and will help us to achieve the best outcomes for all students.

To Ourselves

We support students in striving for excellence not only in lessons and exams but also in extracurricular activities. We help them reflect on their behaviour and understand how it positively shapes their future. Every individual matters, and we're committed to helping each student reach their full potential.

To Others

At Orchard Mead Academy, students are encouraged to understand their role in society and what it means to be a responsible citizen. They take part in charitable initiatives, fundraising, and helping others. Developing student leadership is a growing priority through our dedicated leadership programme.

To Our World

We promote respect for the environment and encourage sustainable choices across our community. Together, we take responsibility for making Orchard Mead Academy, Leicester, and the wider world a better place.

Our daily values support Orchard Mead Academy to be a welcoming, safe place.

Through our vision and values we are working together to:

- Inspire a love of learning
- Achieve excellent outcomes for students
- Ensure the well-being of students
- Instil a strong moral and ethical code
- Develop outstanding educational professionals

Our values are expressed to students using the following language:

- We value always doing the 'right thing' and taking responsibility for our own behaviour
- We value always showing respect and helping others
- We value always being fair and being honest
- We value always trying our best and working hard
- We value always being tolerant of other people's beliefs

Work hard



Be Kind



Be Responsible



The Curriculum at Orchard Mead Academy

At Orchard Mead Academy, our curriculum is carefully designed to inspire ambition, support every student, stretch every learner, and instil a love of knowledge. Built on academic rigour, it reflects our belief that *“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” (Nelson Mandela)*. Guided by our oath to work hard, be kind and be responsible, we aim to equip students with the intellectual foundations, personal values and resilience they need to flourish in life and contribute positively to society.

Students follow a broad and balanced programme of study, with particular emphasis on the EBacc subjects. From the start of Year 7, all students study English language and literature, mathematics, science, humanities, a modern foreign language and growth curriculum. These subjects remain central through to GCSE. Alongside this academic core, students enjoy a rich variety of creative and practical disciplines including art, computer science, design and technology, drama, music and physical education.

Our curriculum is strengthened by a well-planned package of additional support. This includes proven strategies to promote literacy and reading, a comprehensive programme of personal, social and health education, and regular opportunities for discussion and debate through our tutor system. Homework plays an important role in consolidating understanding, with a strong emphasis on retrieval practice and long-term knowledge retention.

Every subject is thoughtfully sequenced so that learning builds step by step, with opportunities to revisit key concepts to secure mastery. This approach allows students to see how their studies interconnect and to appreciate the bigger picture of their educational journey. Teachers reinforce this through the use of carefully framed 'big questions' at the beginning of lessons, encouraging students to make meaningful links between past, present and future learning.

Teaching across the academy is shaped by our Principles of Instruction framework – six evidence-informed principles that reflect the science of how students learn best. These principles guide teachers to plan with precision and to deliver lessons that are engaging, challenging and effective for all learners.

Our curriculum is not only about success in the classroom but also about preparation for the future. Students are offered purposeful opportunities to develop skills in creativity, research, problem-solving and enterprise, with strong links to the world of work and further study. Through partnerships with employers, universities and community organisations, we raise aspirations and ensure our students leave Orchard Mead with the knowledge, confidence and character to thrive in the next stage of their education and beyond.

Reading at Orchard Mead Academy

We want all children to become highly skilled readers, working at or above the National Standard, who develop a life-long love of reading during their time with us. Reading widens a student's world, allowing them to imagine and experience the lives, settings and opinions of others which they may not otherwise be exposed to.

To be a successful reader, children must have automaticity with word recognition and read with fluency, as well as employ strategies that enable language comprehension.

At Orchard Mead Academy, we prioritise reading in every classroom. Our specially designed reading curriculum uses high quality texts to drive the development of students' knowledge around a range of themes and concepts. The curriculum is designed so that students have exposure to a variety of genres and authors over the year. At its heart, the programme is equitable for all as we believe that every student has the right to access and participate in reading high-quality texts

By promoting reading across the school and teaching reading lessons explicitly, we equip students to read fluently and comprehend texts in every subject discipline. It is crucial that we nurture fluent readers who can independently comprehend a wide range of texts for students to appreciate the central role of reading as the key to acquiring knowledge and setting them up for success in future learning.

The skills involved in reading, comprehending and interpreting a text in the classroom – which involves self-reflection, discussion and navigating a divergence of opinions and interpretations – will also develop students' empathy, tolerance and self-awareness.



Reading at Orchard Mead Academy

Our reading strategy is founded upon the following six principles:

1. Reading is the pathway to learning

Reading is the key to unlocking the curriculum for students. Students need to be trained to read as a historian, as a scientist, a geographer, a mathematician, so that they can build the stamina for reading challenging, academic texts in the future.

2. Vocabulary Instruction

Effective vocabulary teaching underpins the development of reading skills, as a rich and well-structured vocabulary enables learners to decode meaning, comprehend texts at greater depth, and make connections between words, ideas, and contexts.



We also have a fantastic, well-stocked library with an up-to-date range of books, including fiction, information books, graphic novels, manga and magazines, to encourage students to foster a love of reading for pleasure.

We run competitions throughout the year and the highlight of our year is World Book Day in which we, as a school make sure we mark the day with a range of literacy activities, including teachers dressing up as favourite literary characters, world book day quizzes, book giveaways and much more.

3. Background knowledge matters

The reading students undertake in school typically requires substantial background knowledge. Through pre-reading tasks, teachers equip students with the background knowledge to aid their reading and comprehension.

4. Fluency aids comprehension

Reading with expression and accuracy contributes towards reading comprehension. Providing students with opportunities to read aloud in the classroom allows teachers to support students with developing fluency.

5. Accountable Independent Reading is a tool for life.

Teachers support students with effectively reading a text for meaning by providing students with questions/tasks that support students' comprehension of a text, encourage more 'active' reading habits and equip students to tackle texts with independence later in life.

6. We want all students to foster the habit of reading independently

Every teacher at Orchard Mead Academy is a teacher of literacy and our reading lessons provide an opportunity for your child to have a shared experience of reading both, fiction and non-fiction texts to help broaden their passion, knowledge and motivation and become a lifelong reader in a way that supports their learning of the curriculum too.

Vocational

We are delighted to be able to offer Level 1 and 2 BTECs in both construction and hair and beauty. Working in small, focused groups, students are able to engage with projects based on real life work experiences. The courses are led by subject expert instructors from Enstruct.



Our Level 1 / 2 Business and Technology Education Council Construction courses allow young people to gain experience within the following areas.

- Brick laying
- Plastering
- Floor and wall tiling
- Carpentry and joinery work
- Painting and decorating
- Plumbing
- Roofing
- Hard-landscaping



Introduction to the Hair and Beauty Sector Level 1 – Award, Certificate and Diploma.

The Units that we deliver are:

- Plaiting and Twisting
- Basic Make-up
- Styling Women's Hair
- Shampoo and Condition
- Nail Art
- Photographic Make-up
- The Art of Dressing Hair
- Hand Care
- Skin Care
- Creating an image using Colour
- Introduction to the Sector
- Creating a Professional Image

Both courses work closely with local businesses to ensure that students understand the expectations of the work-place, gaining them valuable skills and connects for their careers after school.

Students are assessed on their work during instruction and also their manner with customers.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Our SEND department supports students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to help them succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. We believe every student has the potential to achieve their goals, and we provide the right support to make this possible.

We have a skilled team of teachers, teaching assistants, Our Higher-Level Teaching Assistant's, and behaviour mentors who support students with a wide range of needs. Higher level teaching assistants specialise in areas such as Autism, literacy, and Emotional Literacy Support (ELSA). Careful transition work with primary schools ensures students joining Year 7 receive support from day one.

Support includes in-class assistance, tailored interventions for literacy, numeracy, communication, and social skills, as well as exam concessions at Key Stage 4. Some students will have Pupil Passports outlining their needs and strategies to support them.

We also offer activities such as Zones of Regulation, Lego Therapy, Social Communication support, SEND lunch club, and homework support.

Some students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) may access our Communication and Interaction DSP, studying core subjects in a specialist base while gradually joining mainstream lessons.

The SEND team works closely with parents and external agencies to ensure each student thrives. At our school, every student is valued, supported, and encouraged to reach their full potential.



Support for Students

Our support for students begins well before they officially join Orchard Mead Academy, through a carefully planned transition programme. By working closely with the primary schools, we gather valuable information about each child's strengths, needs and character. This ensures that when students arrive, they are known to us and can settle quickly and confidently into our academy community.

We want every student to feel safe, happy and a true sense of belonging from their very first day. During induction, we make sure our expectations are clear and consistent, helping students to establish positive routines and develop pride in being part of Orchard Mead.

Each year group is led by a dedicated Head of Year, who works in close partnership with students and their families. We provide expert guidance, offer support when challenges arise, and act swiftly to put in place the right help so that every student can flourish

We believe that success is strongest when the academy and families work together. Families play a vital role in helping their child achieve by ensuring they:

- Attend school every day
- Arrive on time, in the correct uniform, and fully equipped
- Complete homework to a high standard
- Get sufficient rest to support learning
- Read at home each day
- Use technology and digital platforms responsibly and under supervision.

We also recognise that families rightly hold high expectations of the academy. At Orchard Mead, we value your feedback and aim to build a culture of continuous improvement. To support this, we host regular parent Forums, providing parents and carers with the opportunity to contribute ideas and work alongside us in shaping the best possible education for our students.

At Orchard Mead Academy, the wellbeing and mental health of our students are central to our mission. They are not simply priorities but an integral part of our culture and ethos, influencing every aspect of school life. We believe that students learn best when they feel safe, supported and understood, and we are dedicated to creating an environment where this is always the case.

We are committed to offering the very highest standard of care, recognising each student as a unique individual. To achieve this, we provide a strong network of support, anchored by our Pastoral Support Team. This includes access to an in-house school counsellor, a sports intervention coach, and a range of pastoral specialists who work closely with students and their families. Their role is not only to respond to challenges as they arise but also to equip students with the tools and strategies, they need to manage their physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing.

Pastoral Support plays a vital role in shaping the lives of our young people. By addressing barriers to learning and supporting personal development, it helps ensure that students are able to thrive both academically and socially. This work reflects our academy oath to work hard, be kind and be responsible, encouraging every student to develop resilience, kindness and a strong sense of responsibility for themselves and others.

Through this holistic approach, Orchard Mead Academy provides more than just an excellent education — we create a community where every student feels valued, cared for and ready to succeed in the wider world.

Extra Curricular

At Orchard Mead Academy we are committed to ensuring that every child thrives academically while also benefiting from a broad range of enriching opportunities within our wider curriculum. Our extra-curricular programme is diverse and engaging, with clubs that range from Lego to sewing, offering something for everyone.

Each year our performing arts department stages a spectacular production of a popular musical. In the previous year, students delighted audiences with Mary Poppins, and last year we are excited to bring Matilda to the stage at the end of the academic year.

Students looking for a calm space during the school day are welcome at our daily library reading club, while those arriving early can enjoy our free daily breakfast club with friends. We also run several academic opportunities such as our Classics Club, alongside one-to-one instrumental tuition and music-based clubs like choir, where students can nurture their creative talents.

In addition, we provide a wide selection of revision clubs throughout the week, giving students the chance to complete homework or consolidate learning in a supportive environment with staff available to guide and encourage them.

At Orchard Mead Academy, we believe that sport plays a vital role in developing character, confidence, and community among our students.

Our extensive extracurricular programme offers a wide variety of sporting opportunities designed to engage students of all abilities and interests. Before and after school, students can participate in a diverse range of clubs including badminton, table tennis, fitness, football, netball, and basketball; providing both recreational enjoyment and pathways to competitive sport.

We are proud to offer a thriving competitive sports calendar, with approximately 110 fixtures taking place across the academic year - averaging three fixtures per week. Students have the chance to represent the Academy in inter-school matches, TMET Trust competitions, and national tournaments across multiple disciplines. These experiences not only foster teamwork and resilience but also allow students to showcase their talents on wider platforms.

To celebrate and honour the dedication and achievements of our young athletes, we host an annual Sports Rewards Presentation. This special event brings together the school community to recognise individual and team successes, highlight standout performances, and inspire future participation. At Orchard Mead, sport is more than just physical activity - it's a celebration of effort, ambition, and personal growth.



Testimonial

Hi, my name is Vrut Bharat, and I am a former student of Orchard Mead Academy.

When I started at OMA, I was nervous about starting school in a completely new environment. However, the teachers and staff are extremely kind and helpful which made it really easy for me to settle into the school. Even, during lockdown, the staff were ever so helpful; always updating us on what we needed to do in a difficult time like that. And when the school finally opened, they tried even harder to make sure everyone could settle back in easily, while following the government guidelines.

During my time at OMA, I have seen it go through various changes for example its name change. I have seen OMA help everyone to improve every day and it keeps on improving to make sure that students get the best teaching, have the best time and experience of their life.

The staff at OMA are always there if you ever need any help whether it be at school or even once you leave. The staff at OMA are one of the most supportive and inspiring people there are; they are always trying to help you go above and beyond your limits.

At OMA you will find that, students are given so many opportunities to improve themselves whether it be through various afterschool clubs or the Student Council. At OMA, everyone strives to make everyone feel welcomed and a part of the community.

The orchard oath: work hard, be kind and be responsible provides students with a path they can follow to make sure that they can make the most of their time at OMA and take the full advantage of the marvellous facilities present.

We are very happy that you are considering joining the OMA community and hope that you enjoy your time at OMA and make the most of it.

Vrut Bharat

- Arrived in the UK 2018
- GCSE results – 3 x 9s, 4 x 8s, 1 x 7 and 2 x 6s
- OMA supported Vrut in obtaining a **scholarship at Uppingham School**
- A Level results – 3 As Maths, Physics and Chemistry
- Now at **Edinburgh University** to study Astrophysics



Uniform

Our students take pride in their appearance and in their academy. Students are required to observe our uniform code. Parents and families are expected to support students to help them look smart.

The main items are available to purchase from a specified supplier.

Our uniform comprises of:

- Orchard Mead Blazer with school logo or grey sweater.
- Plain white collared shirt
- Orchard Mead Academy skirt / black or grey trousers
- Orchard Mead tie
- Plain black shoes/trainers

Admissions

Orchard Mead Academy admits **210 students into Year 7 each year** as we grow towards our full capacity of **1,050 students**. We work closely with families to ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary school, and our admissions process follows the Local Authority's coordinated scheme.

Full details, including how to apply, are available on our website and the Local Authority's website.

Website:

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

Telephone:

(0116) 4541009

Email:

admissions.online@leicester.gov.uk

Site

Orchard Mead Academy proudly serves a uniquely diverse community on the north-eastern outskirts of Leicester, in the heart of Hamilton. We are a larger-than-average 11–16 mixed comprehensive school, where young people from many backgrounds come together to learn, grow, and thrive.

Our modern, purpose-built academy benefited from a £19 million redevelopment through the Building Schools for the Future programme. This has provided us with excellent facilities, including specialist science laboratories, technology and ICT suites, creative arts spaces, a well-resourced library, and extensive sports facilities with playing fields and a sports hall.

Designed with students in mind, our campus is bright, safe, and welcoming, offering both inspiring classrooms and dedicated social areas. Orchard Mead is not just a school building but a hub of the community - an environment where ambition, opportunity, and belonging are at the heart of every child's journey.





ORCHARD MEAD ACADEMY

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