Prospectus

2022-2023

BROOK MEAD
ACADEMY

PYREX

Welcome from the Chief Executive Officer

The Mead Educational Trust (TMET) is a family of 13 schools from the primary and secondary phase all based in Leicester or Leicestershire. Together, we seek to **Make A Positive Difference** to the lives of the children attending our schools.

Brook Mead Academy is the newest school in TMET, following on from the successful opening of Castle Mead Academy in September 2019.

Brook Mead will build on the outstanding provision enjoyed at our flagship secondary academy, **Rushey Mead Academy**. Rushey Mead Academy routinely far exceeds national averages for the progress and attainment of its students, placing it year after year in the top 5% of schools nationally. We wish to extend this strong offer to other families in the city. We do this by drawing on first class leadership and outstanding teaching and learning practices to support each learner, making sure that they have every opportunity to achieve.

Carolyn Robson CBE
Chief Executive Officer, The Mead Educational Trust

Principal's Welcome

At Brook Mead, we are ***Building Better Futures Together!*** Staff and scholars are united in a mission to excel and secure the best possible future for each pupil by laying the foundations for high academic achievement and all-round personal development. We have seized this opportunity to ***'Build'***, not just the physical building of our new school, but to build relationships with local families to help regenerate the area and create outstanding opportunities for local children.

Therefore, we are:

- **Building our school;**
- **Building links with local families;**
- **Building futures for our scholars;**
- **Building our scholars' personal development and character;**
- **Building links with local industries and employers for the benefit of our scholars.**

At Brook Mead Academy, we are determined that children from this part of the city benefit from the **Mead approach to education** with an emphasis on high academic achievement, enrichment and personal development. The school celebrates all the rich facets of a modern British identity in a vibrant, urban and diverse city, reaching out to, reflecting and embracing all. This diversity is seen in the pupil body, staff team, the curriculum, extra-curricular activities and the daily life of the school.

Our scholars pledge to **Work Hard, Be Kind and help to Build A Better Future for all!** We are unashamedly ambitious for each and every child, determined to:

- help our scholars to excel,
- unearth and nurture talent and
- develop active citizens with a strong sense of social responsibility.

Having been Principal at Rushey Mead Academy and Executive Principal at Castle Mead Academy, I am able to draw on a wealth of experience to ensure the best possible provision for children at Brook Mead Academy. As we have started afresh in a brand-new school, everything is designed to be the best it can be, rather than making compromises and adapting what already exists. This "new school bonus" has presented a unique opportunity to examine every facet of school life. Therefore, we have used research and learned lessons from the best schools in the country and internationally and these ideas have helped us to design the best in terms of curriculum, methods of teaching and learning and promoting the all-round welfare and development of children. Our scholars are challenged and cherished to be their best selves.

We know that education has the power to transform lives. Given an opportunity to start a new school, it is our duty to ensure we design and deliver the best provision so children in our vibrant city can stand alongside any others, no matter how privileged, knowing they have had an education of substance and enduring power.

Rita Hindocha MBE
Principal, Brook Mead Academy

TMET Vision and Values

> At The Mead Education Trust, we believe that together we can make a positive difference. The TMET vision is to enable our scholars to become knowledgeable, conscious, compassionate and happy people who will make a positive difference wherever life takes them.

We have developed a set of guiding principles (the 7Cs) that define who we are and help to guide us in all that we do. These are:

Challenge:
Providing an excellent education by having high aspirations for all. Providing a platform for scholars to challenge themselves and others, so they can become the best they can be and contribute actively to society.

Creativity:

Providing pioneering, vibrant and transformative learning experiences that are open to all. Offering a well-researched and evaluated curriculum, which acts as the catalyst for personal growth.

Culture:
Respecting and celebrating diversity, enriching the lives of our scholars. Providing inspiration to participate in, and respond to, artistic and cultural experiences.

Collaboration:
Working effectively and harmoniously together across phases, knowing our strengths will influence every step of our development, and celebrating our successes.

Community:
Building a sense of belonging in a reflective and stimulating environment. Celebrating care, kindness and difference, allowing positive relationships to flourish and ensuring communication is excellent. Character: Nurturing and developing personal attributes such as perseverance, resilience, confidence, optimism, tolerance, respect, community spirit, honesty, integrity and dignity.

Character:
Nurturing and developing personal attributes such as perseverance, resilience, confidence, optimism, tolerance, respect, community spirit, honesty, integrity and dignity.

Courage:
Committing to challenge racial and social injustice and to promote personal and societal change. Making decisions based on clear high moral values and delivered with compassion and integrity.

School Vision and Values

Clear values for a school are essential and should be lived and breathed daily by staff and taught explicitly to pupils. As adults, we need to be clear what sort of values we want to instil in our young people with home and school working together to guide children. This is particularly important as we aim to support our scholars to be resilient and adaptable in a complex and ever-changing world.

At Brook Mead, we have created a strong community with clear values. There is an emphasis on cultivating a positive sense of self and working with resilience and dedication. We draw from cultures and ideas from across the globe and in the local community to teach these values.

1. Individual effort to achieve collective goals

At Brook Mead, we are **Building Better Futures Together.** This means that we are striving to excel for the greater good, laying strong foundations in order to build a better community. We do this **together** because we are always stronger together and can go further together. This belief in **individual effort** to achieve **collective goals** is one which scholars are taught explicitly so that pupils are always aware of the impact of their actions on others. The notion of **service to others** is found in all cultures and communities. It is instilled in our pupils and exemplified so that they can live these values daily in small acts throughout the day and larger ones benefiting our local community and city.

2. Showing respect for ourselves and others

Happy schools are built upon respect for all. Through our emphasis on **being kind,** all members of the school community will show respect in words, deeds and actions to each other. This is actively taught to scholars and modelled by staff. As adults we use our experience, knowledge and wisdom to guide pupils in our care to respectful conduct and virtuous habits which will stand them in good stead in later life, building the foundations for future success. Academic qualifications need to be matched by good manners, compassion and empathy for others in order to make for well-rounded individuals.

3. Gratitude and humility

Small acts of kindness and service to others are the hallmarks of happy and successful communities. We actively teach our pupils to be kind and value acts of kindness at home, in school, in the wider community and cultivate an **attitude of gratitude.** This attitude has a multiplier effect within the school community, making kindness and empathy the norm.

4. Personal responsibility

Although there are always factors which present challenges, it is valuable to cultivate a sense of personal responsibility so that we make choices and take decisions being aware of their impact on ourselves and others. We support scholars to take responsibility, realise the impact of actions, drawing from stories and examples from across all communities.

We ensure our values are a lived reality through:

1. Explaining the purpose behind each rule and routine;
2. Using a common language so we have a shared understanding of our values;
3. Detailing the small behaviours we need to see from each other to enact our values;
4. Narrating, highlighting and praising conduct which illustrates our values;
5. Hearing stories and examples from across the ages and all communities to show how others have enacted these values so we can learn from them.

The above have been distilled into our Brook Best Pledge:

Be Kind

Work hard

Build a better future for everyone!

The Curriculum at Brook Mead Academy

> Every little child that is born into the world … is one of the heirs of all the ages that have gone before.
>
> **Robert Tressell, The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropists (1914)**

At Brook Mead, we believe that knowledge is power and access to powerful knowledge is the right of every child. Our scholars enjoy the riches of an ambitious curriculum, inheriting all the rich knowledge from the past to better shape the future.

We aim to give 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."** *(TMET curriculum statement)*. It is our firm belief that education should be about broadening horizons, enriching minds, passing on and creating new knowledge. Scholars are taken on an exciting journey through each National Curriculum subject, leaving with a treasure chest of knowledge and skills which is theirs forever to use for the betterment of themselves and the world.

We **keep the curriculum broad for all scholars,** enabling them to study the English Baccalaureate subjects of English, maths, science, history, geography and a modern foreign language to GCSE level. Religious Education will also be studied to GCSE, befitting citizens in our diverse city. This is **augmented by enriching provision** in the arts, computing, design and music. Sport and physical education also features to unearth talent and set scholars up for healthy lives. Where scholars have additional needs, the curriculum is **adapted to enable all** to meet the same high expectations and have access to a rich and broad curriculum.

English I Mathematics I Science I Modern Foreign Languages I Music I Drama I Dance I Design Technology I Art I Religious Education I Citizenship & PHSE Education I Health and Social Care I Computing and Business I Physical Education I Geography I History I Religious Education.

The primacy of knowledge and critical thinking is emphasised throughout. Reasoning skills, deduction, inference and critical thinking about received wisdom or content on websites and social media are key skills for 21st century learners as they, more than any other generation in history, have access to huge amounts of unmediated information. However, they need to be prepared to be evaluative, critical and open minded, qualities which Brook Mead Academy nurtures and encourages. Opportunities are also created for the practical application of knowledge.

We take a **research-based approach** to the planning of our curriculum, using findings from cognitive science to inform our thinking, sequencing and shaping of lessons. Topics are thoughtfully sequenced to foster connections to be made within each subject and across subjects. This way, new learning connects to previous learning and foreshadows learning to come. Topics are revisited to prevent forgetting so our scholars are mastering content as we go along. They are able to **recall and apply knowledge** and skills with growing ease. Parents and carers are able to support this approach at home with our clear tasks set for recall and consolidation of what is learnt during the school day.

At Brook Mead Academy, we want scholars to have a strong understanding of chronology and developments in each subject and how different periods, historical and literary figures, scientific and mathematical concepts and musical traditions have evolved over time. Teachers interweave topics so that references and connections are made between different periods, subjects and figures, **weaving compelling and memorable narratives** for our scholars.

To ensure scholars are well set up for life in modern Britain, there is well thought through provision for **personal and social education.** A well-planned programme of **careers education** is undertaken from Year 7- 11 with students guided to further and higher education and high-quality apprenticeships. **Links with industry and local businesses** will be developed to ensure our scholars are aware of opportunities and industries locally as well as nationally and internationally. **The curriculum enables scholars to have a strong foundation upon which to build bright futures, enabling scholars to be innovative, creative, have good social skills and therefore be attractive to future employers.**

In Year 9, scholars are able to opt for subjects which support their future aspirations. Most will be encouraged to select GCSE subjects which lead them to achieve the English Baccalaureate, a set of qualifications comprising English, maths, science, a language and history or geography. This will be complemented by subjects such as art, drama, PE, music, RE and design. We will also offer high quality vocational qualification, leading to a wide range of post 16 choices.

Reading is central to our curriculum

We see reading as a critical skill for life. The ability to read to a sophisticated and fluent level can be **transformative and liberating,** ensuring scholars are able to fully participate as active citizens in their city and in modern Britain. There is **time for scholars to read each day** and in every subject. We aim to foster a love of reading with our vibrant and welcoming library, our **Reading for Pleasure** lessons and staff enthusiastically sharing and recommending books.

Overall, scholars are prepared well for their next destination of further and higher study be it at sixth form colleges or apprenticeships and vocational routes. They will also be well prepared with the right values and skills to exercise judgement and discernment, able to navigate the complexities of the world around them.

The School Day

School starts with a line up at 8.25am and ends at 3.40pm Monday to Thursday. There are six lessons a day Monday to Thursday and five on a Friday with an early finish at 2.10pm. Lessons are fifty minutes long and with efficient routines, learning time is maximised.

Monday - Thursday	
8.25am	Line up
8.30am	Registration / Assembly / Tutor time
8.50am	Lesson 1
9.40am	Lesson 2
10.30am	Break
10.50am	Lesson 3
11.40am	Lesson 4
12.30pm	Lunch
1.20pm	Lesson 5
2.10pm	Lesson 6
3.00pm	Bonus Time: Extra Curricular activities
3.40pm	End of day

Friday	
8.25am	Line up
8.30am	Registration / Tutor time
8.50am	Lesson 1
9.40am	Lesson 2
10.30am	Break
10.50am	Lesson 3
11.40am	Lesson 4
12.30pm	Lunch
1.20pm	Lesson 5
2.10pm	End of day

If scholars are given a detention during the day these take place from 3.40pm to 4.10pm.

The Extended Day and Enrichment: Brook Mead Bonus Time

Extracurricular activities offer the chance to try something new, discover a talent or passion and develop lifelong interests and skills. We believe that enriching experiences and afterschool clubs should be used by ALL scholars, rather than the few who choose to take part. It is the right of every child and young person to benefit from a breadth of enriching experiences. Therefore, our school day is slightly longer Monday to Thursday and end at 3.40pm. This enables all scholars to take part in fulfilling wider opportunities to **build better futures!**

Typically, there will be sports clubs (such as football, basketball, netball, badminton), drama / speaking/ debating clubs, computing clubs, reading and poetry sessions, foreign language clubs, outdoor activities, Young Enterprise, UK Maths Challenge, art and photography and music clubs. Activities are encountered on a rotation with scholars benefitting from a range every year. We hope to have a Brook Mead Brass Band, orchestra and choir as there is a strong emphasis on music and performance.

A Commitment to the Arts and Sports

Sport and the arts, in their widest sense, are central to the wider development of young people. Arts and sporting events are often the most **memorable events for scholars** of their school lives, helping to break down stereotypes and liberating students who may be constrained in other subjects or areas of their life.

Drama, dance, music and art help young people work through and **express powerful, sensitive, provocative ideas and emotions in a safe expressive place, challenged and supported by skilled staff.** Therefore, music education, school productions, art and design education will contribute to our broad and balanced curriculum. **Music scholarships** are made available to scholars, with the loan of an instrument, weekly peripatetic music lessons by professional teachers and weekly practice sessions as part of our orchestra or brass band.

For all afterschool programmes, accreditation may be pursued through:

- Graded music examinations
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- In house dance and drama awards
- Team trophies and progression to county and club representation.
- Sports Leader awards.
- Arts Award scheme.
- Enterprise awards.

Scholars are also able to develop as leaders within our school and city with a well thought through programme of leadership development opportunities. We want them to use their leadership skills, sporting talent, musical or dramatic ability, be involved in charities and challenge themselves on the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. All of these develop a whole range of skills, which will help scholars to prepare for fulfilling careers and to thrive more generally in later life.

Support for Scholars

At Brook Mead we are ready to serve all children from across the city no matter what their background, need or starting point. We pride ourselves on being inclusive and believing in the potential of every child to flourish and succeed, given the right opportunities. We retain our ambitious curriculum for each pupil but ensure that our teachers are trained to respond to additional needs and get the best out of our scholars. We champion all scholars, especially those with special needs or in the early stages of learning English.

Scholars are supported when they enter the school with a wide range of information gathering from schools at the Year 6-7 transition. This information is used to group scholars into tutor groups with a mix of prior attainment and other characteristics. Families are also be asked for information on their children. This is then be collated and shared with staff appropriately to inform curriculum, seating arrangements in lessons and responsive teaching.

Eventually, a strong and multi-disciplinary pastoral support team will oversee family liaison and pupil welfare. Currently, we have a very experienced and skilled lead for behaviour and safeguarding as well as (academic) mentors.

There are a variety of induction events for the upcoming Year 6 pupils to help engender a sense of belonging and the forming of early bonds. There is also the opportunity to state clearly the expectations for parents and children for Brook Mead Academy to ensure that all make a successful and informed transition to the school.

Our new building will be made available to the community and other supporting professionals (such as social workers and health professionals) to enable these productive partnerships for the all-round development of children in the area.

Children always thrive better when parents / carers and school work together. We are all united in wanting the best for our young people. We want them to learn and have good habits and good manners. Parents can assist by ensuring that their child:

- attends each day
- is fully equipped
- completes all homework
- has enough sleep and is well rested
- arrives in correct uniform
- has monitored access to technology and devices
- reads every day at home.

Uniform:

We believe that uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the positive ethos of our academy, setting an appropriate tone.

- It enables pupils to wear clothes appropriate for working in safe and aspiring environment.
- It clearly signals our high expectation of pupils and our strong work ethic, instilling pride in the school.
- It protects pupils from social pressures to dress in a particular way, nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations between different groups of pupils.
- It helps pupils to prepare for their futures in the world of work, where dress codes are usually expected.
- Our uniform is used to identify us in the local community and the pupils wearing it, reflect the academy motto of **Making a Positive Difference.**

We want our scholars to look smart and show a sense of pride by wearing a formal uniform. Our uniform comprises:

- Brook Mead Academy blazer with academy badge.
- Plain white collared shirt/blouse.
- Brook Mead Academy grey suit trousers or kilt skirt
- Brook Mead Academy tie
- Plain black shoes.

Location and Admissions

Brook Mead Academy has a citywide catchment so all families within the city are able to apply for a place. Applications from county addresses can also be made. The school will grow organically each year to a full capacity of 1200. The school will be situated in the west of the city, having secured a large site on the **corner of Fosse Road North and Groby Road.** This means the school will benefit from excellent transport links across the city and county. While the permanent school is built, Brook Mead is operating in high quality temporary accommodation on St Augustine Road in the heart of the city near the Highcross shopping complex.

If you would like to know more about working at or sending your child to Brook Mead Academy, please visit our website www.brook-tmet.uk. We are more than happy to accommodate visits.

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