

30 Reasons to choose Westminster Academy...

Westminster Academy is an International Business and Enterprise Academy:

- 1. Westminster Academy students are world citizens.** *“They [students] show a good level of willingness to engage with new experiences and develop their cultural understanding, and many take advantage of the academy’s existing links with schools in several other countries as part of the International School Award developments and the international aspects of the academy’s specialism” (Ofsted 2010).*
- 2. Westminster Academy was praised by Ofsted for preparing our students for the future.** They said, *“...the ways in which the academy prepares students for the future are very impressive. The International Business and Enterprise Specialism is used to influence the curriculum provision strongly and this, together with the internship programme in Year 10, plays a very strong role in developing a range of important enterprise skills in students” (Ofsted 2010).*
- 3. Westminster Academy offers greater choices of languages, ICT and business classes than most Westminster schools.** Chinese, Economics, Work Related Learning and Enterprise are just some of the choices WA students are offered.
- 4. Westminster Academy has international business partners.** WA works with many business partners including; VISA Europe, DLA Piper and Deloitte and this ensures our students are Global Citizens.
- 5. Westminster Academy students take seriously their role in the community.** WA students are regularly involved in Internships, Westbourne Forum, WA Interact Club and many other voluntary activities. *“There are a number of ways in which students can contribute to their academy and to the local community, and many students willingly do so” (Ofsted 2010).*
- 6. Westminster Academy has International Business and Enterprise specialist status.** WA is the lead school in Westminster in relation to this specialism.
- 7. Westminster Academy students support and celebrate the International Business and Enterprise specialism.** All WA students undertake an internship in Year 10. Placements take place in prestigious and exciting firms such as the Serpentine Gallery, the Gate Theatre and Rhinegold Publishing to encourage high aspirations for all.
- 8. Westminster Academy students value diversity.** *“Students place great value on the diversity in the academy and its contribution to their development. One spoke of the importance of this in making them modern Londoners” (Ofsted 2010).*

9. Westminster Academy delivers an innovative curriculum. In Year 7, Opening Minds lessons allow for a smoother transition from Year 6 to Year 7. These also provide students with a space to learn how to learn.

10. Westminster Academy provides personalised services to support students. Specialist teachers and adults offer bespoke higher educational and work-related advice and guidance throughout students' time at the academy.

Westminster Academy values academic success...

11. Westminster Academy is one of the most improved schools in the country. The Department of Education lists WA as 33rd on their list of 'The 100 Most Improved Schools 2011'.

12. Westminster Academy sixth form graduates progress to top universities. WA students have been accepted into Russell Group Universities, including the London School of Economics, Durham University, Queen Mary University and London Kings College.

13. Westminster Academy students make significant academic progress. All WA students progress onto further education, higher education or employment. City of Westminster Colleges guarantees a post-16 place for ALL WA students.

14. Westminster Academy offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme. WA is one of the only non-fee paying schools in Central London to offer this prestigious diploma, which is equivalent to taking 5.5 A Levels. Results were above world average in 2011.

15. Westminster Academy students go onto higher education. In the last two years, almost 100% of our sixth form graduates gained university places.

16. Westminster Academy has experienced, skillful and dedicated staff. WA staff work hard to ensure every student achieves their potential and enjoys learning.

Westminster Academy looks after students well:

17. Students receive care and support from staff at Westminster Academy. *"Students spoke warmly about the good quality of support and care they received from staff"* (Ofsted 2010).

18. Westminster Academy students have personal tutors, who they meet each week to have a 1:1 tutorial to review their progress. *"There is an outstandingly effective and well-resourced tutorial provision which has positive impact on individuals and groups"* (Ofsted 2010).

19. Westminster Academy keeps parents informed of their child's progress. There are regular coffee mornings where parents can meet the Principal. WA also holds regular Progress Review Days and Parents' Evenings.

20. Westminster Academy students value their community. *"Westminster Academy students are pleasant and respectful and they are welcoming to visitors"* (Ofsted 2010).

21. Westminster Academy students belong to vertical tutor groups within a House System. WA students and their families remain in the same tutor group and House throughout their time at the Academy. This enables friendships to stretch across year groups.

22. Westminster Academy works closely with parents/carers. WA's Connetix online system enables parents to monitor their child's progress anywhere, anytime. The Academy recognises that the partnership between itself and the parents/carers of its students is a key factor in ensuring success.

Westminster Academy has one of the most comprehensive extra-curricular programmes in Westminster:

23. Westminster Academy values enrichment. WA students can participate in exciting, challenging and stimulating activities such as Sports, Art, Music, Drama, Dance, Debating, Languages, trips and other university visits.

24. Westminster Academy has professional sports facilities. WA has professional, international-standard grade pitches and courts; these are used by Queens Park Rangers and Arsenal Youth Teams. These facilities are used by WA students throughout the school day.

25. Westminster Academy has an award-winning building. Our learning environment provides aspirational learning spaces for all our students both in and out of lessons.

26. Westminster Academy students use the latest Information Communication Technologies. Our building is wireless, and we recognise that modern technology is an intrinsic part of modern-day life. WA students use ICT extensively both in and out of the Academy, ensuring all students are inducted into the twenty-first century Global Knowledge Economy and Information Age.

27. Westminster Academy provides opportunities for students to work collaboratively and independently during and after lesson. *"Westminster Academy's communal spaces and classrooms provide a very pleasant working environment and students show respect for it"* (Ofsted 2010).

28. Westminster Academy students have a wide variety of sporting opportunities. WA provides indoor and outdoor activities, such as dance, rowing, golf, archery, cheerleading, parkour and beach volleyball.

29. Westminster Academy students choose healthy eating. *"Many students choose healthy options in the dining area and in their packed lunches"* (Ofsted 2010).

30. Westminster Academy students experience learning in and out of the academy. 164 educational visits occurred last academic year (2010-2011) to encourage the principle that learning is for life, not just for school.