

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 has been praised by The Secretary of State for Education.** In 2012 WA hosted the Education Secretary, Michael Gove, who described the school as *‘fantastic’*.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Westminster Academy has international business partners.** WA works with many business partners including VISA Europe, Barclays, Crossrail and British Land, whose workshops with students provide valuable career-related education. *“I thoroughly enjoyed the day and found it one of the best team building experiences at British Land”* (British Land Volunteer who participated in an Enterprise workshop at WA, 2012).
- 6. 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).
- 7. Westminster Academy is a pioneer for financial literacy.** WA was selected as the 2012 launch venue for Barclays’ financial skills initiative for academies and free schools. WA students benefit from money skills workshops and internships from Barclays.
- 8. Westminster Academy students support and celebrate the International Business and Enterprise specialism.** Westminster Academy is the lead school in Westminster in relation to this specialism. All WA students undertake an internship in prestigious and exciting firms such as the Serpentine Gallery, the Gate Theatre and Rhinegold Publishing to encourage high aspirations for all.
- 9. 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).

- 10. Westminster Academy delivers an innovative curriculum.** In Year 7 and Year 8, Specialism lessons allow students to learn about International Business and Enterprise based on the RSA 21st Century Competences and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Learner Profile.
- 11. 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

- 12. In 2012 Westminster Academy achieved their best ever GCSE results.** 74% of students achieved 5 A*-C including English and Maths. *"It was a pleasure being able to visit Westminster Academy, to celebrate your great success; and meet some of your students, colleagues and your sponsors. Well done to all at Westminster Academy!"* (Andrew Christie, Tri-borough Executive Director of Children's Services, 2012)
- 13. 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.
- 14. Westminster Academy students achieve top international grades.** WA International Baccalaureate Diploma students achieved a 100% pass rate in 2012, outstripping the world average pass mark, with all students achieving the equivalent of A* or A.
- 15. 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.
- 16. Westminster Academy students make significant academic progress.** All WA students progress onto further education, higher education or employment. City of Westminster College guarantees a post-16 place for ALL WA students. 100% of our sixth form graduates gained university places or a place on an internship programme.
- 17. Westminster Academy has experienced, skillful and dedicated staff.** WA staff work hard to ensure every student achieves their potential and enjoys learning. *"I am grateful for how much effort my teachers put in to get me here"* (Birwa Shiwani, who achieved 6A* and 3As at GCSE in 2012).

WESTMINSTER ACADEMY LOOKS AFTER STUDENTS WELL

- 18. 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).
- 19. 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).

- 20. 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. WA's SIMS Learning Gateway 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.
- 21. Westminster Academy students value their community.** *"Westminster Academy students are pleasant and respectful and they are welcoming to visitors"* (Ofsted 2010).
- 22. 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.
- 23. Westminster Academy retains strong links with ex-students.** WA has given ex-Sixth Form students job opportunities, providing valuable experience for future careers, and all leavers are invited to take advantage of the WA Alumni.
- 24. Westminster Academy has award-winning staff including numerous Oxbridge graduates.** Ms Pond, Careers Coordinator and Teacher of PE was named Teacher of the Year by School Sport Magazine in the autumn term 2011. Judges were impressed with her dedication to students and ability to combine handball and professional football with teaching. *"We'd like to see John Terry or Wayne Rooney trying to do the same thing"* (Judge, School Sport Magazine, 2011).

WESTMINSTER ACADEMY HAS ONE OF THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMMES IN WESTMINSTER

- 25. Westminster Academy values enrichment.** WA students can participate in exciting, challenging and stimulating activities such as, Art, Music, Drama, Dance, Debating, Languages, trips, university visits and a wide variety of sports including, rowing, cheerleading, parkour and beach volleyball. *"There is an amazing array of opportunities at Westminster Academy leading to confident, articulate students – well done."* (Liz Sidwell, Schools Commissioner, 2012)
- 26. Westminster Academy has an award-winning building and world class sports facilities.** Our learning environment provides aspirational learning spaces for all our students both in and out of lessons. *"It is a truly inspiring building which oozes respect for its users."* (British Council for School Environments). WA is also home to the world's largest Parkour venue, which opened in January 2012 and professional, international-standard grade pitches and courts which are used by Queens Park Rangers and Arsenal Youth Teams and by WA students throughout the school day.
- 27. 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.
- 28. 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). **297** educational visits occurred last academic year (2011-2012) to encourage the principle that learning is for life, not just for school.

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 are a part of the sporting and cultural legacy of the London 2012 Olympic Games. WA students participate in the Get Set programme of London 2012. One of their initiatives, Active Passports, has led to a 47% increase in the physical activities of students.