

# 40 Reasons to choose Westminster Academy...

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## WESTMINSTER ACADEMY IS AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE ACADEMY

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- 1. Westminster Academy is Outstanding.** After an inspection in March 2013, Ofsted awarded the Academy with a judgment of 'Outstanding'.
- 2. Westminster Academy students are world citizens.** In 2012 Westminster Academy gained International School status from the British Council. *"The school's fantastic international work is not only giving the young people a better understanding of the world around them, but it's also really making a difference to their future prospects too."* (John Rolfe, British Council, November 2012)
- 3. Westminster Academy was named Secondary School of the Year by TES.** *"Westminster Academy has smashed national average scores, registering spectacular improvement."* (TES School Awards Judges, 2013)
- 4. Westminster Academy was praised by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg as the winner of his Pupil Premium Award.** *"The judges were greatly impressed by the performance of the extremely diverse range of pupils at your school, supported by a pervasive ethos of high expectations, progress and support."* (Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, 2013)
- 5. Westminster Academy has been awarded for transformational improvement.** In 2013 Westminster Academy received the IAA Honorary President's Award for Academy Transformation across factors including engagement, progress, attainment, closing the gap and increased access to Higher Education.
- 6. Westminster Academy students are leaders.** There are many opportunities for student leadership and taking on extra responsibility at Westminster Academy, such as through peer mentoring, the Student Council, behaviour monitoring, Duke of Edinburgh and becoming a Student Ambassador. Student leadership is overseen by Westminster Academy Sixth Formers.
- 7. Westminster Academy students have bright futures.** *"Older students speak positively about visits to universities including Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial College which have encouraged them to believe that they can aspire to higher education."* (Ofsted, 2013)
- 8. Westminster Academy offers greater choices of languages, ICT and business classes than most Westminster schools.** Chinese, Economics, Engineering, Work Related Learning and Enterprise are just some of the choices Westminster Academy students are offered.
- 9. Westminster Academy has international business partners.** Westminster Academy works with an array of business partners including VISA Europe, Barclays, Bain, Wates and British Land, whose workshops and mentoring with students provide valuable career-related education. *"Targeted mentoring schemes with international businesses have widened students' horizons"*. (Ofsted, 2013)
- 10. Westminster Academy students care about the community.** WA students are involved in internships, the Westbourne Forum, Rotary Interact Club and many other voluntary activities as well as regularly fundraising for local, national and international charities.

- 11. 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 Westminster Academy students undertake an internship once a week in prestigious firms such as the Serpentine Gallery, Barclays and AHMM Architects to encourage high aspirations and development of professional skills.
- 12. Westminster Academy students value diversity.** *“Students are proud of the diverse range of faiths and cultures represented in the Academy.”* (Ofsted, 2013)
- 13. 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competences and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Learner Profile.
- 14. Westminster Academy provides personalised services to support students.** Specialist teachers and adults offer bespoke higher educational and work-related advice and guidance throughout our students’ time at the academy.
- 15. Westminster Academy is recognised by the Mayor of London as ‘an exceptional school’ and a leader in challenging low aspiration and under-achievement.** In 2013 The Academy was invited to become a London Schools Gold Club member to share its good practice with other schools.
- 16. Westminster Academy is an active part of the community.** Free English classes, IT classes, food and cooking events are just some of the opportunities available to parents and the community.

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## WESTMINSTER ACADEMY VALUES ACADEMIC SUCCESS

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- 17. Westminster Academy students believe that Education is Success.** In 2013 students voted to update the Academy’s mission to ‘Education is Success’. *“The Principal’s determination that every student fulfils their potential is well communicated... Students now share her belief that they can succeed.”* (Ofsted, 2013)
- 18. Westminster Academy students make outstanding progress.** In 2013 almost 70% of students achieved five A\*-C grades including English and maths.
- 19. Westminster Academy is one of the most improved schools in the country.** In 2013 Westminster Academy was in the top 20% of schools nationally for ‘outstanding continuous improvement’ and ‘outstanding student progress’. *“Westminster Academy has proved itself to be one of the best schools in the country at improving GCSE outcomes for their students. There is plenty that other schools could learn from Westminster Academy’s success.”* (Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT, 2013)
- 20. Westminster Academy offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme.** Westminster Academy is one of few non-fee paying schools in Central London to offer this prestigious diploma, which is widely recognized as the most rigorous Sixth Form course available in the UK, equivalent to taking 5.5 A Levels.
- 21. Westminster Academy students are stretched academically to maximize their potential.**

*"In all lessons the level of challenge is high.. More able students in Year 11 are stretched by studying for AS Levels."* (Ofsted, 2013)

- 22. Westminster Academy students achieve top international grades.** Westminster Academy International Baccalaureate Diploma students achieved a 100% pass rate in 2013, outstripping the world average pass mark for the third year running, with all students achieving the equivalent of A\* or A.
- 23. Westminster Academy Sixth Form graduates progress to top universities.** Westminster Academy students have been accepted into Russell Group Universities, including the London School of Economics, Durham University, Queen Mary University, the University of Manchester and London Kings College.
- 24. Westminster Academy students make significant academic progress.** All Westminster Academy students progress onto further education, higher education or employment. Westminster Academy guarantees a post-16 place for all its students. 100% of our Sixth Form graduates gained university places or a place on an internship programme.
- 25. Westminster Academy students experience high quality teaching and engaging lessons.** *"Teachers have outstanding subject knowledge and plan interesting activities which motivate students."* (Ofsted, 2013)
- 26. Westminster Academy has experienced, skilful and dedicated staff.** Westminster Academy staff work hard to ensure every student achieves their potential. *"Students appreciate the extra support they receive from teachers to improve their grades outside normal school hours."* (Ofsted, 2013)

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## WESTMINSTER ACADEMY LOOKS AFTER STUDENTS WELL

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- 27. Westminster Academy students value one another.** *"Students from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures get on well with each other and staff."* (Ofsted, 2013)
- 28. Westminster Academy listens to the views of students.** "The Student Council is well-respected by students and effective in making sure that senior leaders take account of students' views." (Ofsted, 2013)
- 29. Westminster Academy students value Honesty, Enterprise, Responsibility and Opportunity.** Students recently voted to refresh the Academy's values to these HERO values.
- 30. Westminster Academy provides individual mentoring opportunities with highly successful business people.** One-to-one support has allowed students to access ideas and strategies from business professionals. In 2013 students presented to HRH The Prince of Wales through the MOSAIC partnership.
- 31. Westminster Academy students benefit from personal tutoring.** Westminster Academy students have a 1:1 tutorial with their personal tutor each week to review their progress.
- 32. Westminster Academy students belong to vertical tutor groups within a House System.** Westminster Academy 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.

Pastoral Support Workers for each year group provide further support.

- 33. Westminster Academy is inclusive.** The Academy was shortlisted for the IAA Inspired Approaches to Inclusion Award in 2013 as a result of the Academy's focus on personalising learning for every student. *"Disabled students and those who have special educational needs make outstanding progress."* (Ofsted, 2013)
- 34. Westminster Academy keeps parents informed of their child's progress.** Westminster Academy holds regular Progress Review Days and Parents' Evenings. The 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.
- 35. Westminster Academy retains strong links with ex-students.** WA has given ex-Sixth Form students job opportunities and internships, providing ex-sixth formers with valuable experience and providing younger students with successful role models.

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

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- 36. Westminster Academy values enrichment.** Westminster Academy 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, martial arts, parkour and beach volleyball. *"Students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is greatly enhanced by an outstanding range of extra-curricular activities. As a result, students have high aspirations for their futures."* (Ofsted, 2013)
- 37. 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). Westminster Academy is also home to the world's largest managed parkour venue and professional, international-standard grade pitches and courts which are used by Queens Park Rangers and Arsenal Youth Teams and by Westminster Academy students throughout the school day.
- 38. Westminster Academy students use the latest Information Communication Technologies.** Our building is wireless and equipped with state of the art technology. Westminster Academy students use ICT extensively both in and out of the Academy, ensuring all students develop the necessary skills for their future careers.
- 39. Westminster Academy provides opportunities for students to work collaboratively and independently during and after lessons and experience learning outside of the classroom.** 400 events and educational trips occurred last academic year to encourage the principle that learning is for life, not just for school.
- 40. Westminster Academy is serious about sport and healthy eating.** The outstanding range of sporting activities available to students at lunch times and after school ensures students have regular exercise and have increased girls' participation in sport. Healthy options are very popular in the dining area. Westminster Academy was highly commended in the TES Sports and Healthy Eating 2013 Awards.