

# A forty fact tour around Westminster Academy

## International perspective, national achievements, community spirit



1. **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)
2. **Westminster Academy is a national leader in teaching and learning.** In 2014 the Academy was one of only nine schools in the country awarded a grant by the Department for Education to develop and share innovative new assessment methods.
3. **Westminster Academy was praised by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg as the national 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)
4. **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)
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. This was presented by Lord Adonis.
6. **Westminster Academy are specialists at developing international students who are new to the country or in transition.** *“The teachers here are really good. I only came a year ago and I still got good grades.”* Yutao Kuang, who transferred from China in October 2013, GCSE results August 2014: 3 A\*s, 2 As, 3 Cs.
7. **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. The Academy has had two national winners of the Diana Award and, in 2014, two WA Sixth Formers were awarded Highly Commended in the Westminster Community Awards.
8. **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 the only Westminster Secondary School to be given a Gold Club Award by the Mayor of London.
9. **Westminster Academy students value diversity.** As an IB World School, Westminster Academy attracts students from all over the world. *“Students are proud of the diverse range of faiths and cultures represented in the Academy.”* (Ofsted, 2013)
10. **Westminster Academy provides free opportunities for parents and the community.** Free English classes, IT classes, art and food events are just some of the opportunities available to parents and the community.

## High achieving

- Westminster Academy students achieve top international grades.** In 2014 IB student, Kevin De Wit, scored a total of 39 points (equivalent to more than 4 A\*s), putting him among the top 7% of IBDP graduates in the world.
- Westminster Academy students make outstanding progress.** In 2014 70% of students achieved five A\*-C grades including English and maths. *"The achievement of pupils is outstanding"* and *"significantly above average"* (Ofsted, 2013)
- Westminster Academy is the partner school of the Royal Society of Medicine.** Thanks to our sponsors, the Dangoor family, all science students will now benefit invaluablely from opportunities with the RSM.
- Westminster Academy students are academically stretched to maximize their potential.** In 2014, 18 Year 10 students gained A\* and A grades in their GCSE Core and Additional science exams a year early. *"In all lessons the level of challenge is high."* (Ofsted, 2013)
- Westminster Academy students receive world-class science opportunities.** WA sponsors have provided students with the chance to work at Imperial College's Reach Out Lab and attend lectures by some of the most distinguished figures in science.
- Westminster Academy has numerous links with top universities.** *"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)
- Westminster Academy offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme.** Westminster Academy is the only non-fee paying school in the Tri-borough 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.
- Westminster Academy students experience high quality teaching and engaging lessons.** *"Teachers have outstanding subject knowledge and plan interesting activities which motivate students."* (Ofsted, 2013)
- Westminster Academy students have bright futures.** 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.
- 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.
- 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)

## 22. Westminster Academy delivers a demanding, innovative curriculum.

### English

WA English offers an exciting programme of study focused on learning how to read and write a wide range of both literary and non-fiction texts with teachers who challenge students to achieve their very best.

### Maths

WA mathematics department uses forensic data tracking to personalise learning for all students. After-school enrichment and holiday interventions ensure all students can reach their potential.

### Languages

WA MFL department offers a huge variety of languages, including Chinese and Bengali and students are given additional opportunities to sit exams in their mother tongue.

### Science

WA science department runs one of the most unique extra-curricular science programmes in London, including clubs in Medicine, Philosophy of Science, Creative Science, Food Science, Ecology and STEM, making science accessible and exciting for every type of learner.

### Humanities

Humanities at WA has consistently performed well above national average for a number of subjects, with particular success in history and geography over the past couple of years.

### PE

WA PE offers one of the most comprehensive and diverse sporting programmes in London, with available activities ranging from the traditional (Football, Basketball and Netball) to the more unconventional (Parkour, Indoor Rowing and European Handball).

### Expressive Arts

WA Expressive Arts department aims to develop aesthetic sensitivity and creative ability in all pupils providing relevant and impactful opportunities that encourages students to develop their Grit, Determination and Curiosity as lifelong learners.

### Business and Enterprise

The Business and Enterprise department prepares students for the real world through opportunities which extend beyond the classroom: *all systems go!*



## Student-centred



23. **Westminster Academy has smaller class sizes.** Our class sizes enable maximum support and personalised learning for students at all levels.
24. **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)
25. **Westminster Academy listens to the views of students and parents.** The Parent Committee provides parent to parent support and an accessible way for families to communicate with the Academy *“The Student Council is well-respected by students and effective in making sure that senior leaders take account of students’ views.”* (Ofsted, 2013)
26. **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.
27. **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.
28. **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)
29. **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.
30. **Westminster Academy retains strong links and offers opportunities to ex-students.** WA has a growing alumni network with Future First and has given former students job opportunities and internships, providing former students with valuable experience and providing younger students with successful role models.
31. **Westminster Academy provides personalised services to support students in planning their futures.** Specialist teachers and adults offer bespoke higher educational and work-related advice and guidance throughout our students’ time at the Academy.

## Opportunity



32. **Westminster Academy provides world-class opportunities for students to network with leaders in their fields.** 2013-2014 opportunities ranged from engineering with McLaren and biology with Professor Robert Winston, to music with Nicola Benedetti and media with Sir Ben Kingsley and Harrison Ford. *“I was impressed with the kids; I was impressed with their focus and their understanding and the wisdom of the questions that they were asking.”* (Harrison Ford, 2013)
33. **Westminster Academy has international business partners.** Westminster Academy works with an array of business partners including M&S, Barclays, Bain, Wates and British Land, whose workshops and one to one mentoring programmes with students provide valuable career-related education. *“Targeted mentoring schemes with international businesses have widened students’ horizons”.* (Ofsted, 2013)
34. **Westminster Academy has a unique advanced internship programme.** As part of the business and enterprise specialism, all Westminster Academy students undertake an internship once a week during Year 10 in prestigious firms such as the Serpentine Gallery, HSBC and AHMM Architects to encourage high aspirations and development of professional skills.
35. **Westminster Academy values enrichment.** Westminster Academy students can participate in challenging and stimulating activities every day such as art, medicine, drama, glee, debating, Chinese, Noether club, trips, university visits and a wide variety of sports including rowing, martial arts 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)
36. **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. Westminster Academy is home to the world’s largest managed parkour venue, a beach volleyball court and professional, international-standard grade pitches and courts.
37. **Westminster Academy provides opportunities for students to work collaboratively and independently during and after lessons and experience learning outside of the classroom.** Over 450 events and educational trips took place last academic year to encourage the principle that learning is for life, not just for school.
38. **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.
39. **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.
40. **Westminster Academy students benefit through residential trips.** The Year 7 residential is an opportunity for the new cohort to develop friendships and work collaboratively on skills as part of the WA Baccalaureate. Further residential trips in recent years have included a Year 9 Youth Leadership Summit and Year 10 Model United Nations Conference in the Netherlands.