



Westminster Academy  
The Naim Dangoor Centre  
255 Harrow Road  
London  
W2 5EZ  
020 7121 0600  
[www.westminsteracademy.net](http://www.westminsteracademy.net)

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## Westminster Academy wins Mayor of London's elite Gold Club Award

Westminster Academy is proud to announce that it has again won a Mayor of London's Gold Club Award, making the Academy the only secondary school in Westminster to be part of the London Schools Gold Club for 2015-2016.

At the Gold Club Awards and launch of the 2015-2016 programme at City Hall last Friday, Westminster Academy was among only 7% of primary and secondary schools in London eligible to become Gold Club members. The annual scheme identifies and celebrates exceptional schools in London who are succeeding with their pupils, in particular schools who are 'bucking the trend'.

With a growing culture of success at Westminster Academy, students and staff alike place high value on the improvements and achievements made in recent years, with over 70% of all students consistently achieving A\*-C in core subjects and the school consistently being in the top 1% nationally in terms of progress measures for its 'Best 8 Score' including English and maths. The Sixth Form at Westminster Academy has also made rapid improvements, with 80% A\*-A grades this year. The Academy attributes its achievements to its highly personalised approach and its focus on developing the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, intellectual and physical potential of students through a rich extra-curricular programme, International Business and Enterprise specialism and its partnership with the Royal Society of Medicine.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson commented, *'Congratulations to Westminster Academy for its outstanding achievements and for the hard work of its pupils and teaching staff. London schools are going from strength to strength and our Gold Club members are testament to the fact all schools can aspire to attain excellence for all their pupils, whatever their circumstances. The Gold Club is a great platform for schools to share their bright ideas and approaches to enable every one of their pupils to achieve terrific results.'*

This award comes as Westminster Academy's long serving Principal, Ms Smita Bora, has been offered the opportunity to work with the Academy's sponsors to further their educational strategy. To ensure a smooth transition and sustainability of the Academy's unique vision and ethos, Dr

Saima Rana will be appointed as Acting Principal from 01 October 2015. Ms Smita Bora will remain part of the Westminster Academy fraternity, continuing her invaluable work with the Academy's educational, community and business partners in her new role but she is delighted to be handing over the Principalship to Dr Rana. *"I am proud to have served Westminster Academy for the last ten years and I am thrilled that Dr Rana will be continuing the outstanding achievements we have led together over the last four years"*.

New Academy Principal, Dr Saima Rana, said, *"This is a great Academy; I am deeply honoured to be the Principal at this time of transition. I am completely dedicated to maintaining the highest standards which have made Westminster Academy an outstanding academy in all respects.*

*The Academy is all about fulfilling the highest aspirations of every child and I will lead this academy with the values of fairness, integrity and honesty. Because every child matters to me, I will ensure that every child is safe, successful and reaches the very limits of their ability so that when they leave they are powerful citizens of the future; this is what the Academy was under Ms Bora and will continue to be under my leadership."*

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For further information about Westminster Academy or photographs, please contact:

Sally Pitt

Westminster Academy

255 Harrow Road

London W2 5EZ

020 7121 0600

[SPitt@westminsteracademy.biz](mailto:SPitt@westminsteracademy.biz)

## **About Westminster Academy**

Sponsored by the Dangoor family, Westminster Academy is an Outstanding International Business and Enterprise Academy serving a multi-ethnic community in a state of the art building in West London. Since opening, the number of students achieving 5 A\*-C including English and maths has more than tripled, whilst our Sixth Form topped last year's Westminster performance tables and IB students smashed the world average. The Academy is ranked in the top 1% nationally in terms of progress measures for English, and its Best 8 score including English and maths.

Through its community and business links, enabling personalisation of a creative and innovative curriculum based on the RSA 21st Century Competences, the Academy is committed to providing each student with the very best learning opportunities to cultivate talents and maximise potential.

In 2013 the Academy was the recipient of three prestigious awards recognising achievements in engagement, attainment and access to Higher Education: the IAA (Independent Academies Association) Honorary President's Award for Academy Transformation presented by Lord Adonis, TES Secondary School of the Year and the Deputy Prime Minister's Pupil Premium Award for innovative use of Pupil Premium. In 2014 Westminster Academy won a grant from the Department for Education to develop and share its innovative assessment methods. In 2015 a member of the school's support staff was recognised in the Queen's Honours, with Effat Rahimi-Kaloujeh, SIMS Operational Manager, being awarded a BEM for services to education. In September 2015 WA became the only secondary school in Westminster to yet again win a London Schools Gold Club Award.