



Westminster Academy  
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## Westminster Academy's Effat Rahimi-Kaloujeh recognised in New Year Honours 2015

Westminster Academy is delighted to announce that our SIMS Operational Manager (Inclusion), Ms Effat Rahimi-Kaloujeh, has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to Education in the Queen's 2015 New Year Honours.

Effat has supported hundreds of children and their families in every possible way since Westminster Academy opened in 2006. Her exceptional commitment, knowledge, drive and efficiency has had a significant impact on the Academy's progression to becoming an Outstanding, high-achieving school as well as making Effat a popular individual for staff, students and students' families to turn to for support.

News of her achievement came as a great surprise to Effat. *"When I received the letter in November informing me of the nomination, I was completely shocked and I had to read it several times. I was unsure as to why I had been nominated for such a prestigious award. When the New Year's Honours List was published in December and I found out that I had been awarded the British Empire Medal, I was overwhelmed and extremely proud to receive this honour."* Education has meant a lot to Effat and her family and it had always been her ambition to work in the education sector. *"After completing a degree in computing in London, I started working at the City of Westminster Education Department. I then joined Westminster Academy when it first opened in 2006, and it has been my dream job. I am grateful to have been part of the Academy's journey to becoming one of the best schools in the country. I thoroughly enjoy working with the students, as it gives me great pleasure to watch them grow in confidence and achieve their full potential. I am excited to continue working here and I know that the students will continue to achieve great things in the coming years. Finally, I would like to thank my husband, Rasoul, and children, Sahand and Sina Jameie-Oskooei for their support."*

Westminster Academy has a student-centred ethos and its focus on academic excellence has been successful thanks to a talented and dynamic body of staff, diverse in their experience and expertise and dedicated to developing students not just academically, but also culturally, morally, spiritually and physically to best prepare them for the future. Principal, Ms Smita Bora said: *"The recognition given to Ms Rahimi in the New Year's Honours list demonstrates how valuable support staff are in looking after children and their families within a school setting. Some parents think I joke when I say that Ms Rahimi runs the school and not me! I hope that this recognition will lead to a greater understanding of how staff such as Ms Rahimi have gone beyond the call of duty to make Westminster Academy the school that it is today"*.

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For further information or photographs, please contact:

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### **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 new state of the art building in West London. Since opening, the Academy's GCSE examination results have improved from only 17% achieving five A\*-C grades including English and maths in 2007 to now 70% of students achieving these grades, whilst our IB students achieve among the best results in the world. The Academy is currently ranked in the top 1% nationally in terms of progress measures for English, Science 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's 21<sup>st</sup> 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. It was also the only secondary school in Westminster to be given a Gold Club award by the Mayor of London.