

Sixth Form @ Westminster Academy

PROSPECTUS 2015-2016



'Education is Success'



Welcome to Westminster Academy

Welcome to the Sixth Form @ Westminster Academy prospectus. We hope you will enjoy finding out more about our Post 16 options.

Westminster Academy provides students with a world class education to prepare them to be internationally competitive. We specialise in International Business and Enterprise in an award-winning, state-of-the-art building. In 2013 we were declared outstanding by Ofsted and became the recipient of three national awards: Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg presented the Academy with the National Pupil Premium Award, Lord Adonis awarded the Academy the IAA's title of most transformed Academy in the UK and the Academy was selected as Secondary School of the Year by the TES. We were also the only Westminster secondary school to receive the Mayor of London's Gold Club Award.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on Wednesday 26th November 2014, from 5-7pm. We look forward to welcoming you to the Academy.

Smita Bora (Ms), Principal

BSc (Hons), PGCE, MBA, FRSA, NPQH

I am honoured to welcome you to Westminster Academy as the Chair of Governors.

In 2014 the Academy celebrated its GCSE results with continued strength in core subjects, resulting in 70% achieving 5 A-Cs including English and Maths. Our IB Diploma gained worldwide recognition in 2014 with our top student achieving the equivalent of 4 A*s (39 Points). This put him in the top 7% of IBDP graduates internationally.*

The Sponsors, Board of Governors and I are amazed at the endless energy of our Academic team, lead by the Principal Ms Smita Bora. Their effort, diligence and passion is unrivalled and they will always put your child first.

Shabir Randeree CBE

Chair of Governors, Westminster Academy

We are proud to be associated with Westminster Academy, which continues to make significant progress in providing inspiration and innovative education to young people in the local community coming from so many fascinating and diverse backgrounds.

As sponsors we are committed to supporting the Chair of Governors, Principal and staff in delivering engagement and excellence to give every student the best possible foundation for their future.

David Dangoor

The Exilarch's Foundation



The Sixth Form @ Westminster Academy

Westminster Academy has an oversubscribed, mixed Sixth Form of around 200 students. We pride ourselves on offering personalised courses for each learner, a wide range of opportunities, and our high expectations of all students.

As one of only a few non-fee paying schools in UK to be accredited as an International Baccalaureate World School, we offer three distinctive pathways:

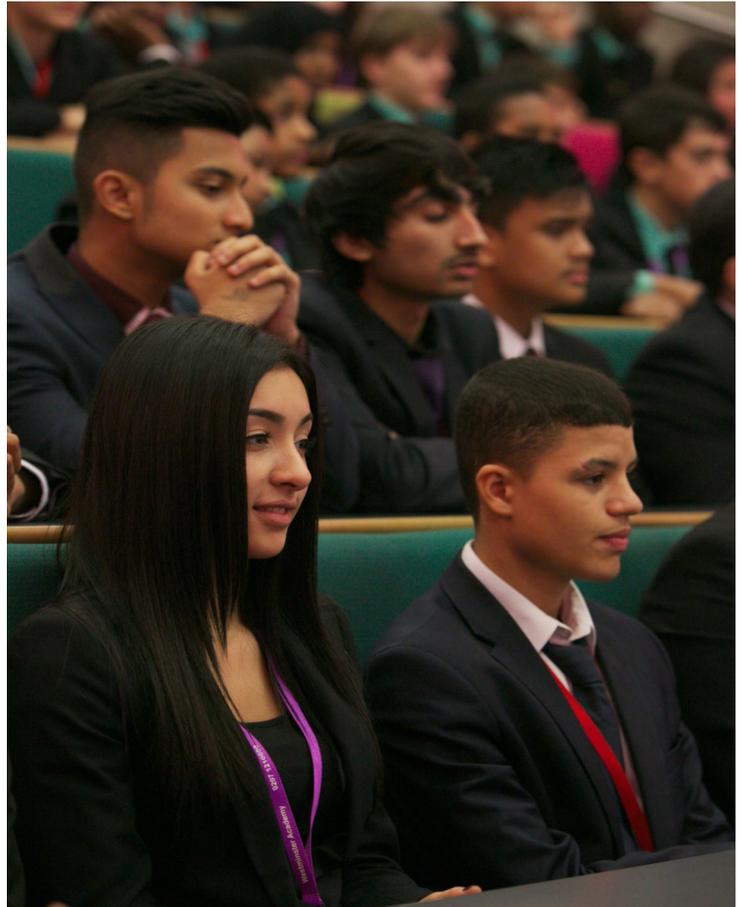
The IB Diploma: We have been offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) since 2008, and admit around 30 students to study it each year. Recognised around the world as one of the best educational programmes in existence, the IB Diploma offers a broader curriculum than A Levels, and places a premium on independent learning, critical thinking and academic excellence.

The IB Career-related Certificate: We are among the first schools in the UK to offer the new International Baccalaureate Career-related Certificate (IBCC). The IBCC was designed to respond to the challenge of preparing students for further study and work in the 21st century. It combines two IB Certificates with a BTEC Extended Diploma and a core of personal development. In just two years, it has become our most popular course, and is perfectly suited for students considering studying and working in Business, Media and ICT.

Vocational Courses: Through our unique partnership with City of Westminster College, London's top vocational FE college, we are also able to offer a broad selection of vocational and entry-level qualifications. Students have access to state-of-the-art facilities at the college, while still receiving the personal support which comes from being a member of a small Sixth Form.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Team. We look forward to hearing from you!

Patrick Farmbrough
Senior Leader – Sixth Form



"I never thought I'd be able to do well at Sixth Form - I was at another school before and dropped out. But WA believed in me, never gave up on me, and now I can't wait to be the first person in my family to go to university next year. The school has become like my second family!"

Andrea Santi
Year 13 Student



International Baccalaureate

"Keeping a broad focus was just one of my main incentives for doing the IB - I couldn't imagine limiting myself to only 3 or 4 subjects at A Level and drastically narrowing my horizons. This way, I'm specialising in sciences such as biology and chemistry, but keeping up other equally enjoyable subjects like Literature and History."

Sarah Al-Saad
Year 13 IBDP student



"The IB is well known to us for its excellent preparations. Success in an IB program correlates well with success at Harvard. We are always pleased to see the credentials of the IB Diploma Programme on the transcript."

Marilyn McGrath Lewis
Director of Admission, Harvard University

Westminster Academy is proud to offer the internationally acclaimed IB Diploma. Studied in almost 3000 schools and 146 countries and recognised by universities across the world, the Diploma is widely seen as a symbol of academic integrity and intellectual rigour.

The appeal of the IB Diploma is based on the philosophy of the programme; foreign languages, international-mindedness and service learning are combined with a sustained focus on thinking skills, academic writing and subject specific rigour. It is a challenging programme, but each year we see our IB Diploma graduates leave WA as mature, resilient, knowledgeable, principled and capable individuals, well prepared for the challenges of studying at university.

Students study six subjects (one from each of the disciplines below) to achieve a well-balanced curriculum. Three subjects are taken at higher level (HL) and the other three at standard level (SL). Higher Level subjects include a wider range of modules to allow students to study the course in more detail and develop more specialised knowledge.

Available Subjects

Group	Available Subjects
1 - Studies in Language and Literature	English Literature, English Language and Literature
2 – Language Acquisition	Arabic, French, German, Spanish – available at advanced and ab initio (beginner) levels
3 – Individuals and Societies	Business and Management, Geography, Economics, History, Information Technology in a Global Society
4 – Science	Biology, Physics, Environmental Systems and Societies (for Chemistry, see group 6)
5 - Maths	Maths, Maths Studies
6 – The Arts and Electives	Film, Music, Visual Arts, Chemistry, Information Technology in a Global Society, Business and Management

For a full list of courses / conditions, see our [application form](#).



Diploma Programme

The IB Core

In addition, all students study the IB Core, consisting of the following components:

Element	Information
Creativity, Action and Service (CAS)	In line with our commitment to developing global citizens, students are expected to learn new skills, live healthy lifestyles and contribute to the local community.
Theory of Knowledge (TOK)	This course encourages students to reflect critically on different ways of knowing and areas of knowledge, to draw links between subjects and to be more aware of their own role as thinkers and learners.
Extended Essay	All students are expected to complete an extended piece of research-based writing, which requires them to develop their academic writing skills.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning in the IB Diploma typically takes place in very small classes of articulate and motivated students, taught by the most experienced teachers in the school. As such, our teachers build strong relationships with their students and are able to effectively challenge and motivate them to achieve their full potential in all aspects of the Diploma.

As a result, IB students are held in very high regard by universities; independent research has shown IB students achieving more firsts and being less likely to drop out than their A level counterparts¹, while two thirds of UK admissions tutors agree that the IB is better preparation for a degree².

Entry Requirements

Applicants will need at least 6 GCSEs at B and above, including English Language and Maths. Many subjects require an A for study at Higher Level; see [our website](#) for full details.

¹ <http://www.ibo.org/ibaem/recognition/>

² http://www.acs-schools.com/media/247550/acs_infographic-d8.pdf

“They know about education; not just three subjects. They can think across boundaries; not along straight lines. University is the natural extension of IB and together they provide the essential lateral and creative thinking that employers look for.”

Dr Mike Dobson
Director of Flexible Combined Honours Course, University of Exeter



“Studying six subjects is definitely a challenge, but learning about so many different topics I am passionate about is incredibly rewarding and enjoyable.”

Nora Jamal Wadi
Year 12 IBDP student



“The IB is highly regarded by Admissions Tutors at Cambridge for entry to all subjects.”

University of Cambridge



The IB Career-related Certificate

The International Baccalaureate Career-related Certificate (IBCC) was developed to provide a balanced course which provides students with both an academic and vocational foundation to support their further studies and ensure they are well-prepared to meet the challenges of working in the 21st Century.

Students study two IB Certificates (roughly equivalent to A Levels), which they combine with a Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma and the IBCC core. The result is a student who is fully ready to succeed at university (their qualifications add up to the equivalent of 5 A Levels), but with the flexibility and enterprise skills to ensure they are successful in their careers well beyond university.

In line with our specialism of International Business and Enterprise, the IBCC focuses on developing students for further education and employment in some of the UK's most rapidly expanding subjects and industries; Business, Media and ICT. As the majority of students' work is assessed through coursework, the IBCC is best-suited to hard-working and creative students with an interest in these fields.

Course	Subject Choices
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma	Business, Media, ICT
IB Diploma Subject 1	Business and Management, Information Technology in a Global Society
IB Diploma Subject 2	Film, Visual Arts, Business and Management, Information Technology in a Global Society

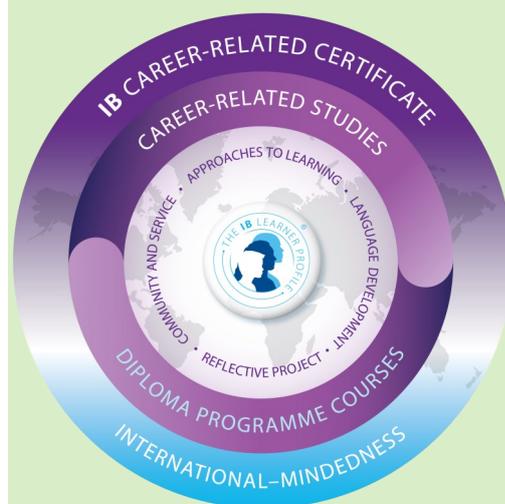
In addition, a core programme of study ensures students develop holistically as well-rounded individuals. Students must spend time each week developing a foreign language, participate in volunteering, complete an extended research project, and study a critical thinking course.

Entry Requirements

Applicants should have predicted grades of at least 6 GCSEs at C or above, including English Language and Mathematics.

"I love the variety of the IBCC as it lets me develop both academic and practical skills. I feel like I'm equally prepared to go to university or to start my own business!"

Labinot Krasniqi
Year 13 IBCC Student



"I really enjoyed studying the IBCC; university now seems so much easier in comparison!"

Dounia Rashid
IBCC Graduate 2014



Vocational Courses



“I found studying the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Applied Science a real challenge, but thanks to the support I received from WA, I was able to achieve top grades and gain a place to study biomedicine at Birkbeck University.”

**Hanan Noor
Extended Diploma
Graduate 2014**

Through our partnership with City of Westminster College, we are able to offer a wide range of vocational courses. Our partnership means that Westminster Academy students are supported and advised throughout their courses by the Sixth Form Team, while being taught at CWC.

Students therefore receive additional transitional and pastoral support to help them settle in to a more independent environment. Students’ progress is monitored regularly, and we provide extra support as well as revision sessions for students who are struggling to achieve top grades. Our team provides additional guidance to help students progress to their choice of university, an apprenticeship, or employment; last year, every student studying a Level 3 BTEC who wanted to go to university did so, with the rest going into employment and apprenticeships.

Students also benefit from CWC’s state of the art facilities. The Paddington Green Campus cost £102 million to build, and includes a fully equipped theatre, practical laboratories, and even its own garage!

Popular courses include:

- ◆ Business
- ◆ Media
- ◆ ICT
- ◆ Motor Vehicle Maintenance
- ◆ Health and Social Care
- ◆ Travel and Tourism
- ◆ Applied Science
- ◆ Engineering

All students also complete core studies in English and Maths. For a full list of courses, please visit the [CWC website](#).

Entry Requirements:

Course	Entry Requirements
BTEC Level 3	5A*-C including English or Maths
BTEC Level 2	5A*- E including English and Maths
BTEC Level 1	5A*- G including English and Maths
ESOL or Entry Level Qualifications	All qualifications will be considered



Personalised Learning

We place great value on developing students as individuals, and our tutors are at the heart of this. On arriving at the Academy, each student is assigned a personal tutor, who is responsible for monitoring their progress throughout the Academy. As a small Sixth Form, we know all students by name and can ensure each student receives the support they need to succeed.

Students meet in their tutor groups at the start of each school day for twenty minutes, where they receive a daily presentation specifically prepared for their year group; topics address a wide range of subjects, from developing personal skills to local community and current affairs. In addition, each student regularly meets their personal tutor on a 1:1 basis to reflect on their progress, identify any problems they are having, and set targets to ensure they make the most of their education.

"The support I have received from the Academy has been outstanding. From small, trivial matters to spending hours helping me draft my Personal Statement and organising Mock Interviews it is clear how much the school cares about every single student."

Kevin De Wit
IBDP Graduate 2014



Careers and University



*An Affiliate of
Career Academies
UK*

Westminster Academy is an accredited Business and Enterprise Career Academy. This partnership with Career Academies UK gives our students access to an exciting programme of aspirational master classes delivered by some of the biggest employers in the UK, mentoring, chances to complete mock interviews, and the chance to complete a six week paid internship over the summer holiday. We regularly welcome in inspirational speakers from a wide range of backgrounds.

Through our tutors, we offer comprehensive guidance on university choices; we fully support students with Personal Statement workshops, visits from admissions tutors, and the expectation that all students' applications are reviewed by several members of staff. Extra classes and workshops are provided for Oxbridge and/or Medicine applicants, while weekly bulletins publicise a wide range of university visits, employment fairs, and access schemes.

"We were extremely impressed by the quality of all the candidates, each of whom had a distinctive and interesting set of stories regarding their interest in participating in the Career Academies programme. They were a credit to Westminster Academy and to the Sixth Form."

David Walker
Chair of Westminster Academy's Career Academy Local Advisory Board
UK Head of Corporate Banking, Citibank



Opportunities



“Every student is expected to discover themselves through volunteering; I've found this the most rewarding part of my course and even received a national award!”

Matinur Rahman
Year 13 IBCC student

Westminster Academy is known for the dazzling array of opportunities we provide to students, especially in the Sixth Form. Year 12 starts with a residential weekend. This is a chance for students to get to know each other and their tutor in a relaxed setting, while working together to overcome a series of team challenges.

Clubs and Facilities

A range of after school clubs are available: The Academy has 5 astro turf pitches, as well as a fully equipped sports hall / basketball court, a beach volleyball court and Europe's first dedicated Parkour park! Our popular Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award offers students the chance to push themselves to their limits, while those who prefer to stay indoors can get involved with music groups, film clubs, drama societies and lots of other activities. And if we don't have a club, we're always keen to help students start their own!



Student leadership is at the core of our Sixth Form. Each tutor group has representatives on the Student Council, which feeds back comments and suggestions to the Principal, and we have an active Sixth Form Prefect system. It is an expectation that all students are involved in volunteering, whether within school or in the local community; for example, last year, Sixth Formers mentored younger students, taught IT skills to local elderly people, and helped organise the Westbourne Festival, which attracted over one thousand residents.

“The opportunities are endless; the school expects everyone to participate in loads of extra-curricular activities, whether it's volunteering, sport, drama, music, or anything else. You don't have to worry about having too much free time!”

Mohammed Abdul Jalil
Year 13 IBCC student



Our HERO Values



"All the teachers are brilliant; they always go out of their way to help you. They want everyone to succeed."

Ashleigh Williams
Year 12 IBCC student

Our values are Honesty, Enterprise, Responsibility and Opportunity. We expect all students to abide by these values, and we maintain a purposeful, academic and business-like environment. All new Sixth Formers sign a contract at the start of their studies, agreeing to:

- ◆ Take responsibility for their own learning, by committing fully to their course and meeting all deadlines
- ◆ Respect the facilities, and make good use of the Sixth Form Centre during study periods
- ◆ Arrive punctually for Tutor Touch Base each morning, and to maintain an attendance of over 97%
- ◆ Ensure that all assignments submitted are entirely their own work
- ◆ Respect the Sixth Form dress code by wearing smart business dress
- ◆ Be a role model for younger students, by maintaining exemplary standards of behaviour
- ◆ Engage fully in the school community, through volunteering and extra-curricular activities

Parental Contact

Students are most likely to succeed when parents and carers work closely with the school. Parents can access students' grades, attendance and behaviour record through our web portal. Three Progress Review Days each year ensure that all parents have regular conversations with their child's tutor to review the student's progress, while annual Parents' Evenings allow parents to meet with all their child's teachers.



Applying to Westminster Academy

If you're ready to apply to Westminster Academy, please download an application form from [our website](#).

Forms should be emailed to sixthformteam@westminsteracademy.biz or posted to:

The Sixth Form Team
The Naim Dangoor Centre, Westminster Academy
255 Harrow Road, London
W2 5EZ

Most applicants will then be invited to interview. Any subsequent offers made will be conditional, subject to you achieving the GCSE entry requirements for your course and providing a satisfactory reference.

Entry Requirements

Applicants must be aged 17 or under on 1st September 2015. The entry requirements for each course are:

Course	Entry Requirements
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme	6A*-B including English Language and Maths. Most subjects require an A/A* to be studied at Higher Level. See application form for details.
International Baccalaureate Career-related Certificate	6A*-C including English and Maths.
BTEC Level 3	5A*-C including English or Maths at C.
BTEC Level 2	5A* - E including English and Mathematics.
BTEC Level 1	5A* - G.
ESOL / Entry Level	All qualifications will be considered.

Applicants not taking GCSEs: You will be required to sit our entrance exams in English and Maths instead. Please contact us for more details.

International Applicants: As an IB World School, we welcome applicants from EU nationals, or children of EU nationals. Other applicants (e.g. children of diplomats) should enquire contact us, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.



"As an international student living in London, I've found WA to be a very welcoming community. I'm delighted I chose it!"

Zachary Magan
Year 13 IBDP student



"The kids were coming up with ideas in five minutes that took us months to think of - I was really impressed."

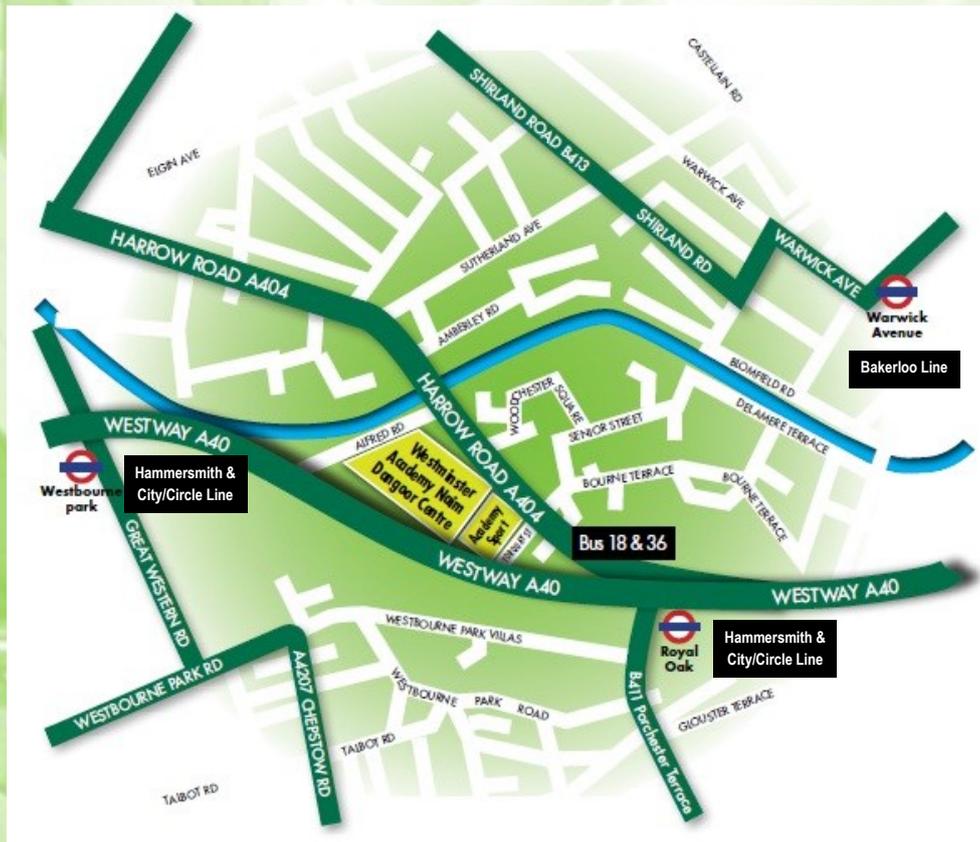
Rona Fairhead
Former CEO of the Financial Times

Contact us

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“The Sixth Form is outstanding.” (Ofsted, 2013)

