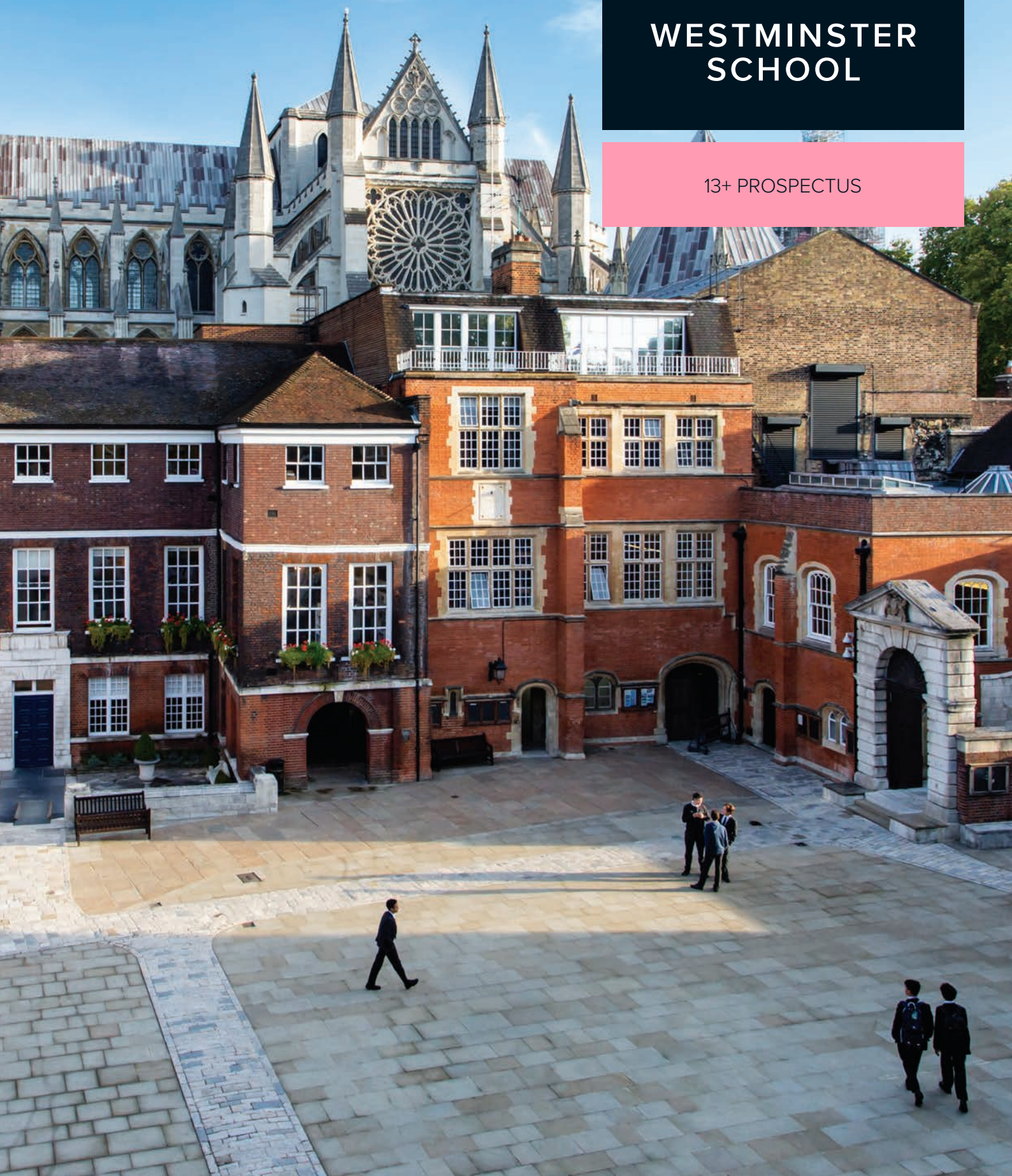




WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

13+ PROSPECTUS





A BRIEF HISTORY

Westminster is a long-established school on an ancient site. Its origins can be traced back to 1179, when the Benedictine monks of Westminster Abbey were asked by Pope Alexander III to provide a small charity school. The School's continuous existence is certain from the early 14th century. Following the dissolution of the monasteries in 1540, Henry VIII personally ensured the School's survival by statute and Elizabeth I confirmed royal patronage in 1560.

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Westminster is an exceptional school

Our very location, between the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, which we use as the School's chapel, is dramatic and inspirational.

Westminster pupils genuinely love their academic subjects and are taught by teachers who inspire them. They perform superbly in examinations and enjoy further success at leading universities, both in this country and in America. It is, however, their whole-hearted commitment to learning for its own sake, well beyond any examination syllabus, their enjoyment, talent and confidence in Music, Sport, Drama, Debating, which delight me the most and which make Westminster such a happy, rewarding place to be at school.

Our flexible system of boarding and day, unique in London, suits the changing needs of pupils and their families. It means that Westminster life continues into the evening, long after other schools close their doors. We value cultural understanding and exploration, and make the utmost use of the galleries, theatres and concert halls on our doorstep. Our thriving co-educational Sixth Form and modern international outlook give further variety and dynamism to the Westminster way of life.

Please do come and visit us to experience it for yourself.

Patrick Derham
Head Master

“The Head Master clearly cares for us. And he’s like lightning – often on his bike, chasing the next play, match or recital!”



A Westminster Education

Central to Westminster's ethos is the rapport between teachers and their pupils.

"Pupils express delight in how the School has encouraged them to explore beyond the boundaries of what they might have thought they could do."

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This inspires passion for the subject, encourages confidence in learning, conveys knowledge and develops skills of rational, independent thought. Our pupils' academic success comes from their enjoyment of intellectual enquiry, debate and search for explanation, reaching well beyond published syllabuses. They delight in a huge range of opportunities to develop initiatives and to discuss their ideas. We are a happy, busy and purposeful community.

The broader ethos of the School resides in the enduring values reflected in the 1560 Charter of Westminster's

Elizabethan foundation, where it is stated that: *'the youth which is growing to manhood, as tender shoots in the wood of our state, shall be liberally instructed in good books to the greater honour of the state.'*

While academic and cultural attainments are highly prized, the School is fully committed to nurture each pupil's spiritual, moral, emotional and physical wellbeing. We seek to develop individual talent wherever it lies – and to prepare young people for fulfilled private and public lives.



“Walking out of the school gates and seeing the Abbey and the Houses of Parliament right there... It inspires the atmosphere and the approach to learning.”



Our unique location

When other schools moved to the suburbs in the late 19th century, Westminster School remained on its original site at the very heart of London.

Some of our buildings date back to the 11th century and, while the community comprises pupils and teachers of many different faiths, we retain close links with Westminster Abbey: the Dean of Westminster is the Chairman of the Governing Body and the Abbey is the School's chapel.

Westminster School now extends beyond Dean's Yard and into the surrounding quiet streets, having, in recent years, expanded to include:

- the Weston Building for the Humanities;
- state-of-the-art laboratories and an observatory in the newly refurbished Robert Hooke Science Centre;
- the Sports Centre near Vincent Square;
- the Manoukian Music Centre;
- an inspiring new location for Purcell's boarding House
- the Millicent Fawcett Hall Theatre;
- and finally, the recently opened Sir Adrian Boult Building, a new events space.





Boarding and Day

Boarding has been central to life at Westminster since the School was founded.

“I love the sense of having an extended family, with whom you share a huge number of experiences.”

Nowadays between a quarter and a third of pupils choose to board and many members of staff live within the precincts to enable a flourishing boarding life. This means that activities continue into the evening, with a full programme of society meetings, lectures, school plays and concerts, and cultural trips to London events.

Day pupils are encouraged to participate in the opportunities provided by the boarding life of the School. They can join boarders for breakfast, supper, and many choose to remain at School in the evenings too, to rehearse or to attend the evening programme of

activities. The Library remains open until 9.00pm.

Lessons continue on Saturday mornings and on Saturday afternoons, pupils can enjoy a full range of sporting fixtures. There are often musical and theatrical rehearsals at weekends, as the dates of concerts and plays approach. Pupils who are not involved in these activities go home at 1.00pm on Saturdays.

There are approximately 760 pupils at Westminster School – 120 are admitted each year at 13+ (Year 9) and 75 at 16+ (Year 12).



"It's got a really good community feel to it, rather than just a school."



Boys and Girls

Girls are an integral part of the intellectual and cultural vitality that creates such a stimulating Sixth Form experience at Westminster.

They have been part of the Westminster School community for over 40 years. Approximately 70 girls join the Sixth Form each year, about a third living in as boarders.

All pupils, boys and girls, belong to a House. This provides them with a supportive and stable community for the duration of their time at Westminster and allows them to get to know pupils of different ages, genders and backgrounds.



"I feel like girls have a strong voice at Westminster; the School is a very inclusive and welcoming environment. And I think the boys really like having girls around, especially the younger ones – it's like having a whole lot of big sisters!"

A Day at Westminster

The Westminster Day offers so much more than lessons from 9 to 5. The following timetable outlines the range of activities a pupil could enjoy on an average day.

*“I never stop...
I just love everything!”*

Morning



7.50am

Breakfast is served in the medieval College Hall. Day boys and girls start to arrive from all over London.

8.40am

All pupils register in Houses.



9.00am

On Mondays and Fridays there is a short service in Westminster Abbey, the address often given by an eminent visiting speaker. On Wednesdays, there is a short assembly called 'Latin Prayers'. Lessons begin at 9.25am.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, lessons begin at 9.00am.

Lunchtime



12.40pm

Lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

From 1.10pm, pupils can enjoy a wide range of talks from pupil-led societies. Societies include the African Caribbean, English, Environmental, Feminist, History, Huxley, Model United Nations, Politics and many more. Pupils can also take part in other co-curricular activities such as drama and music rehearsals, art club or learning an additional language.

On Mondays, all pupils meet with their tutors at 1.50pm until 2.10pm.

1.00pm

Lunch on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Lunch is followed by afternoon sports (Station).

On Saturdays, pupils who are not involved in sports fixtures or weekend rehearsals go home after morning lessons.

Afternoon



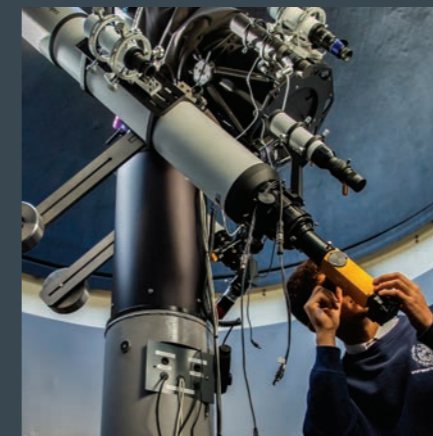
1.30pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays, pupils enjoy an extensive range of sports in the afternoon, including: football, cricket, rowing (Water), netball, hockey, tennis, climbing, judo, DanceFit, Gym Fitness, cycling, basketball, yoga, athletics and hula-hooping.

We play matches against a full range of other schools on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons.

2.00pm

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (2.10pm on Mondays): lessons begin, ending at 4.10pm (4.25pm on Mondays).



4.00pm

Tea on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

4.10pm

Tea on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

4.30pm

Every Fifth Form (Year 9) and Lower Shell (Year 10) pupil participates in at least two Lower School Activities each week. Options include: Animation, Astronomy, Bookbinding, Carpentry, Debating, Drama, Duke of Edinburgh, Fencing, Fives, Football Training, Model Building and Robotics.

Evening



5.45pm

Lower School Supper.

6.00pm

Upper School Supper.

6.30pm

Supervised trips to London events begin.

7.15pm

Boarders do their prep (homework) in their studies or in the Library. Day pupils are also welcome to study in the Library.

9.00pm

Prep time ends. Pupils use the next hour to socialise, to play pool, chess or table tennis in their Houses, or to play football in Yard. Some enjoy the programme of activities available in the Sports Centre, some prefer to continue studying.

10.00pm

Bed times vary according to Year groups.

A place of wellbeing

We are fully committed to the happiness, welfare and wellbeing of our pupils.



We want our pupils to flourish, to develop resilience, confidence in themselves, and sensitivity to others. We aim to do all we can to set them up for meaningful, happy and satisfying lives, at School and beyond.

The well-established community of Houses enables a strong, well-integrated system of pastoral care, which ensures that the needs of each individual pupil are addressed, and that all pupils – whatever their age, background or gender – enjoy their time at School. When issues occur, they are communicated swiftly to the Housemaster, who talks with the pupil's parents, teachers and Personal Tutor to devise the best way forward.

Boarding houses have a dedicated Matron and all pupils have access to our state-of-the-art Health Centre, run by an experienced Nursing Sister and visited regularly by the School GP. We have the full-time support of a School Counsellor and pupils can also talk through particular problems with experienced Independent Listeners. The Chaplain also plays an important role in ensuring the welfare of the community. Senior pupils from each House are trained as Peer Supporters to provide additional support and advice.

The Head of Wellbeing and his team deliver a relevant and engaging programme within the curriculum, addressing the experiences and challenges of teenage life. We promote discussion, learning and reflection, to guide pupils and to help them make constructive choices in their lives.

“It’s not about having someone to look after you; it’s about having people to look out for you, and there’s a world of difference.”

Academic life

Westminster provides an exceptionally strong and highly successful academic environment, which enables pupils to fulfil their intellectual ambitions and to develop life-long skills of sophisticated, independent thought.

Westminster pupils are encouraged to love academic life, to think for themselves, to question and to argue things out. Subject syllabuses are seen as a starting point for deeper, more exciting and wide-ranging enquiry.

Teachers at Westminster are inspiring. They demonstrate outstanding individual scholarship and a contagious enthusiasm for their subject. We are at the forefront of developments in teaching and learning, and, as a leading academic institution, we participate

regularly in important educational research studies. Westminster teachers are best qualified, therefore, to guide and support pupils with a variety of learning styles and needs.

The love of learning and confidence to develop independent thought flourishes in pupil-led societies and initiatives. Every week, pupils give talks, which are well-attended by their peers, on a wealth of subjects, and they group together to succeed in an impressive range of national and international competitions.

As such, the community provides an exceptional learning environment, both within the classroom and without, so that Westminster pupils emerge well-informed, articulate and confident to meet the challenges ahead of them.

After Westminster, nearly all pupils are successful in obtaining places at leading universities: at Oxford, Cambridge, Ivy League Universities in America, or on the best courses at Russell Group universities.



“At Westminster we’re actively encouraged to go beyond the syllabus: to do our own research, to ask questions, to read around the subject. It helps us to achieve high grades, but the real result is that I feel empowered.”





*“The teachers here
are always trying to
work out how to bring
out the best in you.”*



"Pupils engage in robust, informed debate from the start of their time at the School, both with their fellow pupils and with adults."

ISI Report November 2016

The Lower School

Lessons are practical and discursive.



Small classes, comprising boys with a range of strengths, abilities and backgrounds, allow for a full range of experiences and opinions to enhance discussion. Meanwhile, pupils are set in Mathematics, French and Classics, to ensure they make the best progress, and a full programme of co-curricular activities provides opportunities to learn additional subjects and skills.

All boys enjoy a broad curriculum in the Fifth Form, so they can gain essential skills across a full range of disciplines and develop a good understanding of which subjects they will enjoy most at GCSE.

In the Lower and Upper Shell (Years 10 and 11) boys usually choose ten or 11 GCSE subjects, which must include: English Language, English Literature, French, Mathematics and at least two Sciences. They can also choose from: a second Modern Language, Geography, Greek, History, Latin and Philosophy and Theology. In addition, they are encouraged to take a practical subject: Art, Computer Science, Design Technology, Drama, Electronics or Music.

Westminster prides itself on a system of choice. Every effort is made to allow boys to select their own preferred combination of subjects.



The Upper School

Westminster's Sixth Form is exceptional in the way it prepares pupils for university life.

Academic study is rigorous, exciting and designed as a foundation for top undergraduate courses. Emphasis is given to teaching skills of independent learning through integrated research projects and group presentations. There are plenty of opportunities to develop personal learning initiatives, with the full support of teaching staff, for example: essay competitions; lunchtime research projects; pupil discussion and study groups; political debates; pupil publications; and creative work.

Each pupil is encouraged to choose subjects that play to his or her strengths and interests, with an eye on the best combination for prospective university courses. All pupils take four subjects at A Level or Pre-U. Classes typically comprise about 12 pupils – large enough for dynamic interaction and a variety of viewpoints; small enough to allow for more attention to the needs and interests of each individual.



“The ability to process information quickly, to analyse situations and develop their own solutions to problems is a strong characteristic of pupils’ learning.”

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The Broader Curriculum

In addition to their timetabled subjects, there are many opportunities for pupils of all years to extend and enrich their academic life.

Further languages can be studied outside the timetable. Boys in the Fifth Form and Lower Shell can take introductory courses in new subjects, for example: Psychology, Art History or Film Making, as one of their Lower School Activities. In the Upper School, all pupils enjoy a varied, year-long programme of lessons designed to explore different cultural perspectives. In addition, they can take a range of short courses, ranging from Computer Coding to Journalism and Design.

Pupils from all years enjoy the thriving programme of events and talks planned

by pupil-led societies. Departments also have their own programmes of workshops and visiting speakers, and all Sixth Form (Year 12) pupils attend the John Locke Society lectures, which are held regularly, mainly throughout the Play and Lent Terms (winter and spring), where they can learn from individuals at the top of their field. These lectures are also open to Remove (Year 13) pupils. Recent guests have included Damian Barr, Nick Bullock, Sir Nick Clegg, Reverend Richard Coles, Lucy D'Orsi, Fox and Owl, Professor Anthony Grayling CBE, Dominic Grieve QC, Jan Rostowski, Sir Simon Schama CBE and Terry Waite CBE.

Queen's Scholarships

Pupils who gain our academic scholarships are known as the Queen's Scholars.

The Scholarships were originally established by Henry VIII and were more formally affirmed by Elizabeth I in 1560 – the historic link with the Royal Family continues today. Our Queen's Scholars are privileged to be able to attend a variety of special services in Westminster Abbey, as invited by the Dean. Such events have included the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the visit of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, the Nelson Mandela Memorial Service and the 60th anniversary of the Coronation at which the Queen's Scholars sang the 'Vivats'.

There are a total of 48 Queen's Scholars, with 12 chosen every year: eight boys at age 13 and four girls at age 16. The Scholars are chosen based on their performance in the entrance exams and interviews and the scholarship lasts for the duration of their time at the School. The fee for a Queen's Scholar is set at 20% less than the boarding fee. If required, an additional bursary will be awarded on a means-tested basis. Queen's Scholars are required to board at the School and all belong to College.

For more information on the admissions process and fees, please see *Entry to Westminster* on page 43.

"As a Scholar, you study like everyone else but you get access to some amazing experiences. I still can't quite believe that I got to meet the Dalai Lama."



Adventures and Expeditions

Westminster life may be based in London, but it also extends further afield.

Our pupils are international in their outlook and make the most of opportunities to experience different cultures and ways of life. Linguists enjoy a thriving exchange programme with schools in Paris, Berlin and Munich, and those learning Russian spend time with families in Moscow. In 2017 Westminster hosted a Science conference with the Meiwa School in Japan.

Further highlights of our annual programme of expeditions include: the Fifth Form tour of classical sites in Greece, a tour of US campuses for prospective American university pupils and ski trips to Les Menuires, Jasper and Vermont. There are also regular sporting and musical tours, most recently to Berlin, Monaco, Barbados, Tenerife and Slovenia.

Twice each year, all Lower School boys enjoy a programme of subsidised expeditions, where enthusiastic teachers take groups of ten to 20 pupils on adventures in the UK and Europe – for example, to, Almuñécar, Cornwall, Rome and Sicily; groups cycle from London to Paris, boys go horse riding in the Brecon Beacons and go climbing in Catalunya.

All new Fifth Formers spend a few days at our Westminster house in Nenthead, Cumbria, with their Housemaster and / or House Tutor(s), during their first two terms at the School – a trip designed to foster new friendships. Nenthead also provides a perfect location for reading weeks and outward-bound activities.



“The trips I’ve been on have taught me so many new things and have actually changed the way I think when I’m back in the classroom.”





Music

Music is central to the cultural life of Westminster School.

Well over half of pupils play a wide variety of musical instruments, and the School provides a great number of musical opportunities for everyone, from beginners to those of Diploma standard alike.

Almost every week, there is at least one concert and often several, featuring the musicianship of soloists, vocalists, chamber groups and duos, wind, brass and big bands, House groups and school orchestras; playing music of all genres, from Baroque to Jazz and Pop. There are also frequent lunchtime recitals for all year groups to attend.

We have an exceptional number of pupils playing in the National Youth Orchestra, as many as eight at any one time, the most of any non-specialist music school. We were also the 2017 winners of the Pro Corda Chamber Music Competition. In 2018, the Choir of Westminster School recorded their debut album 'Now may we singen', on the Signum Classics label, which went on full release in December 2019 and recently featured on Classic FM. Accomplished musicians have opportunities to conduct orchestras and to play concerti; while those developing their technique benefit from masterclasses with leading professional

musicians and voice coaches. A special feature of Music at Westminster is the tradition of teaching composition; works composed by pupils are regularly featured in concerts and recitals.

The Choral Society, including pupils and parents, performs major works, such as the Verdi Requiem, every year; and, every two years, Westminster produces a full-scale musical, a highlight for pupils of all ages. Meantime, our own Abbey Choir leads our twice-weekly services in Westminster Abbey, and this is also where we hold our candle-lit Christmas Carol Service – a very special occasion for the whole school community.



“It’s incredible to play alongside so many others who love music like I do.”





The Art School

In the Art Department the emphasis is on drawing and painting, including life drawing.

Westminster's Art School is situated on Great College Street, behind Dean's Yard. It contains large, well-lit studios, specialist equipment, including two printmaking rooms with Albion presses, and an etching studio – spaces where ambition can be limitless.

A dedicated IT suite, film-making facilities and a well-stocked library are set alongside many additional, architecturally interesting work areas that enhance creativity. In addition to digital photography facilities, there is a large darkroom with equipment for

black-and-white processing and printing. We also make full use of the world-class galleries in central London, for study and inspiration.

The Art School is available to all pupils and often remains open late into the evening to support extended work. Pupils' artwork is widely shown in the public areas of the School, and exhibitions are frequently held in the Carleton Gallery. Each year a major Summer Show is hosted to celebrate the achievements of pupils.



"I thrive because there are no creative boundaries. The School actively encourages artistic innovation."



Drama

Drama flourishes at Westminster.

Most pupils will take part in shows during their time at the School – on stage, backstage or perhaps both – and some go on to pursue successful careers in the performing arts, making a name for themselves in television, theatre and film.

Regular productions of musicals and large-scale classical plays involve pupils from the whole school community. Other highlights of the theatrical calendar include a festival produced and performed by Sixth Form pupils, this year showcasing scenes from iconic movies, and the Elizabethan Festival for all Fifth Form pupils, who work with visiting theatre directors on scenes from Shakespeare and his contemporaries. In addition, we produce original translations, plays

in foreign languages and a lively programme of House Drama. Pupils are encouraged to write, direct and design their own productions.

The School's drama facilities are superb: state-of-the-art theatre and studio spaces at the purpose-built Millicent Fawcett Hall; the School Hall, a traditional proscenium arch with fly tower; and Ashburnham Garden, where often we put on summer productions against the unique backdrop of the ancient Abbey Walls. Visiting companies regularly come to Westminster to perform and give workshops.

Our theatrical alumni include Helena Bonham Carter, Imogen Stubbs, Peter Brook, Peter Ustinov and John Gielgud.

“Standing backstage and hearing everyone come in, waiting for us to begin, is one of the most brilliant experiences of my life.”





“We push each other to be the best we can be, not just because the team wants to win, but because we want everyone to enjoy and get the most out of what we’re doing together.”



Sport for life — and to win

All pupils at Westminster participate in a wide variety of sporting activities (known as Station) on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

In the Fifth Form, there are 11 sports for boys to choose from:

- Athletics and cross country, cricket, Fencing, Fives, football, hockey, judo, squash, swimming, tennis and Water.

As pupils progress up the School, over 25 choices become available, including:

- badminton, basketball, cycling, DanceFit, golf, Gym Fitness, hula-hooping, lawn bowls, netball, Real Tennis, rock climbing, rounders, shooting, table tennis, Winter Tennis and yoga.

Historically, the principal sports at Westminster are cricket, football and Water. All three have a long tradition at Westminster and we can rightfully claim a place in their annals. The first known Cricket match between public schools was Westminster v. Harrow in 1796; the Westminster colours were chosen supposedly after rowing against Eton in 1837, and we competed against Charterhouse in the first ever inter-school football matches in 1863.

The competitive Stations – such as cricket, cross country, Fencing, Fives, football, squash, tennis and Water – have full fixture lists of matches and competitions against other schools. Westminster pupils participate in these sports at local, regional and national levels. They benefit from

the tuition of professional coaches, several of whom have represented their countries internationally, including at the Olympic Games.

The Station programme gives pupils the opportunity to learn important life skills – by working both independently and as part of a team, through participation and competition. Our aim is that Station should be one of the most enjoyable and rewarding areas of each pupil’s school life. It is the exceptional variety of sporting activities on offer that ensures this is the case.

If pupils are involved in a competitive Station, they will have fixtures on Saturday afternoons, too.



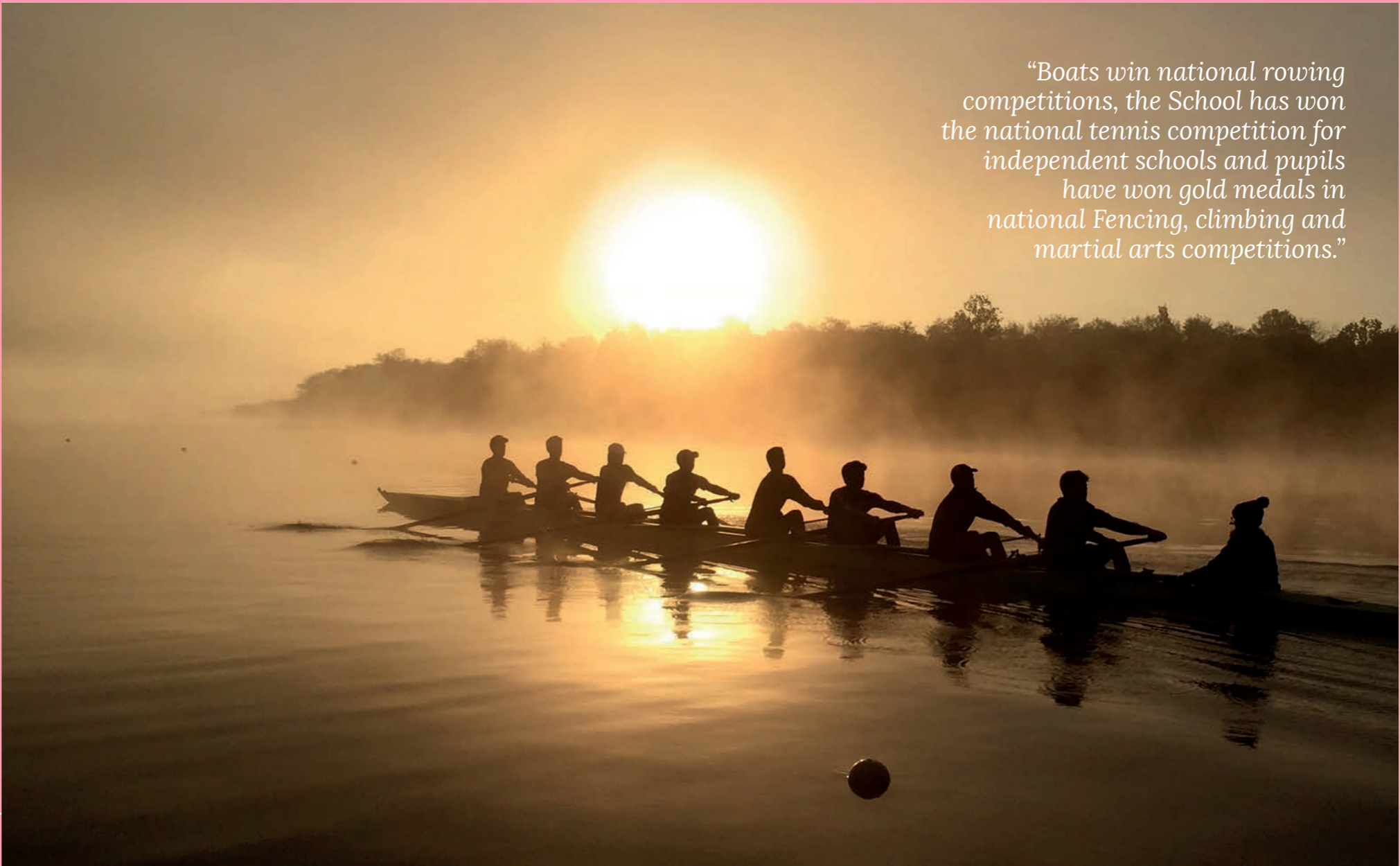
Our Facilities

Westminster's Pavilion, playing fields and Sports Centre are at Vincent Square, a ten-minute walk from Dean's Yard. Football, netball, cricket, tennis, basketball, hula-hooping and rounders are played on Vincent Square. Officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1914, the Sports Centre offers over 6,000m² of space for a broad range of athletic pursuits and includes changing facilities and a cafeteria. It houses a state-of-the-art Fitness Suite, a multi-use Movement Studio, a Rowing Training Suite, fencing pistes, six cricket nets, two climbing walls, four table tennis tables, five badminton courts, a weight room, a dojo, and courts for basketball, netball, indoor football, hockey, handball and volleyball.

On the main school site there are facilities for Fives and shooting, whilst the School's Boathouse, which was completely rebuilt in 1996, is situated on the Tideway at Putney.



“Boats win national rowing competitions, the School has won the national tennis competition for independent schools and pupils have won gold medals in national Fencing, climbing and martial arts competitions.”



“Pupils engage in service outside the School with great enthusiasm and great integrity.”

ISI Report November 2016



Westminster and the community

Westminster School is outward-looking.

Our pupils heed the call to be politically, socially and ethically engaged. We enjoy a unique educational partnership with the Harris Westminster Sixth Form. In addition, Sixth Form pupils enjoy mentoring at the Westminster Summer School – a week of activities for pupils in the maintained sector with high academic potential, in collaboration with Imperial College, King's College London and McKinsey and Company. We also host the Linacre Summer School.

Many pupils work with local primary school children: mentoring, reading one-to-one, teaching English as an additional language, at breakfast or after school clubs, and coordinating their own Science, Music and Sports clubs at local schools. All Upper Shell boys work together after their GCSEs to host a day of workshops – from dissection to dance – for primary school children.

Sixth Formers enjoy further volunteering opportunities: working at local hospitals, academic mentoring, visiting older people and supporting the homeless. The annual Westminster Phab is a popular and, for some, a life-changing experience, where 30 Sixth Form pupils become the sole carers of people with physical and mental disabilities for a week of the summer holiday.

Our Outreach programme allows Westminster pupils see beyond the immediate priorities of their academic, co-curricular and social lives. It encourages them to acknowledge their position in a wider society and to take responsibility for others. For many, it is the start of life-long civic engagement.



After Westminster

Pupils continue their studies at leading universities after Westminster – more than half at Oxford, Cambridge and Ivy League universities; almost all on top courses.

“It’s a great environment to be in; the School encourages all sorts of broadening of intellectual and social horizons – but also they don’t mind if you just want to have a bit of fun.”

Our experienced team of Higher Education advisers guides and supports Sixth Formers through the exciting process of making decisions about the future and completing applications. University preparation classes are held at lunchtime and after School to help pupils develop skills for assessment tests and interviews. Each pupil also benefits from tutorials with a personal subject mentor specialising in the subject for which he or she wishes to apply.

Popular careers panel events are held throughout the year, at which experts from different fields – Medicine, Law, Journalism, Engineering, Investment, Digital Media and Marketing – share their

experiences and give advice. This is in addition to the superb programme of visiting speakers each week. Boys in the Upper Shell also enjoy a Futures Day where they are given practical advice, in workshops that introduce them to the world of employment and encourage them to think purposefully about the choices ahead. All pupils are encouraged to take appropriate work experience, and assistance is provided where possible.

Our aim is that Westminster pupils should continue to live highly successful and fulfilling lives, in a full range of professional, creative, political and entrepreneurial fields.



How to Apply for 13+ Entry

At 13+ entry every year Westminster has an intake of about 120 boys who enter Year 9. About 45% come from Westminster Under School and the remainder comes from a wide range of schools. At 13+ pupils may apply for boarding or day places.

13+ Registration

The first step in the 13+ entry process is to register your son when he is in Year 5 (the academic year of his tenth birthday) online, www.westminster.org.uk/admissions.

Visiting the School

Parents should bring their son to visit the School when he is in Year 5. To arrange a 13+ visit please enquire online: www.westminster.org.uk/admissions/open-days/. Every year there are three 13+ Open Afternoons and there are also regular tours of the School each term in groups of no more than five families.

Meeting and assessing the candidate

While a candidate is in Year 6 we decide whether to offer him a place. We do this by gathering information from various sources:

Pre-interview Tests

The first stage is for the candidate to take some tests in Mathematics, English and Reasoning. Westminster School uses the Independent Schools Examinations Board (ISEB) Common Pre-Tests.

For more information about these tests please refer to the ISEB website: <https://www.iseb.co.uk/Parents/What-are-the-Common-Pre-Tests>. Boys take the tests at their prep schools during October or November. These tests are online and no special preparation is necessary. Raw scores are adjusted to take account of a boy's date of birth so that younger candidates are not disadvantaged. Boys who attend primary schools should be registered for 11+ entry to Westminster Under School (<https://www.westminsterunder.org.uk/admissions/entry-points/>). The system described above is for boys who can remain at their prep schools until they are 13.

Interview

Candidates who have performed strongly in the ISEB Common Pre-Tests are invited to Westminster School for an interview. Parents are informed mid-December. The interview stage comprises further tests in Mathematics and English (40 minutes each) in early January, followed by a separate interview scheduled in January / February.

School Report

We attach great importance to the report we receive from a candidate's present school. Apart from information about the boy's character, interests and potential, we also ask for information that will help us, where appropriate, to compare him with other candidates from that school.

Reaching a decision

We look carefully at all the information we have assembled before deciding whether to offer an unconditional place. The decision to offer a boy an unconditional place means that we believe he will be able comfortably to achieve the standard we require for entry to the School when he is 13, while also enjoying a broad and varied education.

An unconditional offer is made on the expectation of continued good conduct and academic progress at his existing prep school, including an unreserved reference of support from his school in Year 8. It is not our intention that boys should be put under unnecessary pressure – we want them to enjoy Sport, Music, Drama and all the other activities that make school life richer and more enjoyable.

The Waiting List

If we do not feel that it would be appropriate to offer a boy an immediate unconditional place, we may put his name on the Waiting List. From time to time we will ask head teachers to update us on the progress of boys on the Waiting List and, in this way, boys who did not do themselves justice in the tests are given further opportunities to show us what they are capable of. A boy who is on the Waiting List may be promoted to an unconditional place at any time up to the end of March in Year 8.

13+ Entry Timeline

Year 5 – September of Year 6
Open Days / Tours / Registration

End of September Year 6
Registration closes

End of October – November Year 6
ISEB Common Pre-Tests

Early January Year 6
Further Testing in English and Mathematics

January – February Year 6
Interview

End of February Year 6
Offer

April Year 6
Acceptance deadline

September Year 8
Acceptance Deposit due



The Challenge
The Challenge is the traditional name for Westminster’s 13+ scholarship examinations. It is the means by which Queen’s Scholars, Honorary Scholars and Exhibitioners are chosen. For information about this, please read the section of this booklet entitled ‘Scholarships and Bursaries’.

The decision about whether to enter a boy for The Challenge is usually made by his prep school. If you would like your son to sit The Challenge, it is, therefore, essential to discuss the matter with his present Head teacher, who will be required to counter-sign the Challenge application form by February in Year 8.

The Challenge examinations take place in April or May. All Challenge candidates sit papers in the following subjects: Mathematics, English, Science, French, Geography, History and Latin. Greek is optional. (If a boy attends a school where Latin is not taught, please email the Registrar for advice.)

Past Challenge papers can be downloaded from our website: www.westminster.org.uk/admissions/scholarships/the-challenge/.

Applying for a boarding place

13+ Entry
The decision about whether to apply for a boarding or day place does not have to be made at the time of 13+ registration. In fact, it is not unusual for the final decision to be delayed until a boy is in his final year at prep school. Provided that a place is available, it is also possible for a boy to switch to boarding having started at Westminster as a day boy and vice versa.

To arrange a visit to a Boarding House, please email registrar@westminster.org.uk. Every June we have a Boarder Taster Evening for boys in Year 7 who hold offers of places.

The Boarding Houses
Rigaud’s is a boys-only boarding House and Purcell’s is girls-only; College, Grant’s, Busby’s and Liddell’s have both boy and girl boarders. Apart from College, our Scholars’ House, all Houses have day pupils too – boys and girls. All year groups are represented in each House.

For more information on boarding in College, please look at the section entitled ‘Scholarships and Bursaries’.

Housemasters	
Busby’s	Mr Matthew Bradshaw
College	Mr Gareth Mann
Grant’s	Mr Nick Fair
Liddell’s	Dr Ransford Agyare-Kwabi
Rigaud’s	Dr Richard Kowenicki

Boarders from overseas
For boys under the age of 16 Westminster is a weekly boarding school and parents must live close enough to the School that boys can return home at weekends or when they are unwell. Boys under 16, therefore, cannot board if their parents live overseas.

Applying for a day place

It is not customary for the parents of candidates who are applying for day places to meet Housemasters during the application process. We also prefer parents not to express a preference for a particular day house unless there is a strong family connection. Our aim is, of course, to ensure that all Houses have equally high standards of pastoral care and in allocating day boys and girls to houses we try to ensure that each house has among its members a similar cross-section of talents and backgrounds.

Scholarships and Bursaries

What is the difference between a scholarship and a bursary?

Academic and music scholarships are awarded on a strictly competitive basis and parental income is not taken into account. The system of bursaries enables Westminster School to offer free places or places at reduced fees to boys and girls who do well in our entrance examinations but whose parents cannot afford the full fees.

Queen’s Scholarships
The Queen’s Scholars are part of Queen Elizabeth I’s Royal Foundation of the College of St Peter, which encompasses both Westminster School and Westminster Abbey. They are required by the statutes to attend certain Abbey services, and have other ceremonial duties to perform in connection with the Abbey and the Crown. There are 48 Queen’s Scholars and it is usual for eight Scholars to be elected every year for Year 9 entry. Four Queen’s Scholarships are awarded every year to girls entering the School in the Sixth Form. Since Elizabethan times the Queen’s Scholars have resided in a boarding house known as College – the present building dates back to the early 18th century. It is a condition of a Queen’s Scholarship that the candidate should be willing to be a boarder in College. For election to a Queen’s Scholarship a candidate for 13+ entry must be under 14 years of age on 1 September of the year of entry and for 16+ entry must be under 17 years of age on the same date.

The fee for a Queen’s Scholar is set at 20% less than the boarding fee.

The 13+ Scholarship Examination
Since at least the 17th century the Westminster Scholarship Examination has been known as The Challenge. For centuries it was an oral grammatical contest, but written papers were introduced in 1855. (For further information please refer to the section entitled ‘The Challenge’.) The examinations take place at Westminster School in late April or early May.

13+ Candidates who are not registered
Candidates for The Challenge need not have registered for the School, nor hold a place, but in such cases a regular place will not be offered if a Queen’s Scholarship is not awarded. To obtain an application form, please contact the 13+ Admissions Administrator by the end of January Year 8 at registrar@westminster.org.uk.

What is College like?
College is a relaxed and friendly boarding house and the Queen’s Scholars mix with other pupils, boarding or day, girl or boy, just like everyone else. The Housemaster is Mr Gareth Mann, who also has the title of Master of the Queen’s Scholars. We know that some boys are nervous at the prospect of boarding, even though they would go home at weekends. The benefits of boarding are, of course, the forging of deep, life-long friendships and a unique sense of belonging in a community of learning. We would urge them not to dismiss the exciting opportunity of becoming a Queen’s Scholar.

13+ Honorary Scholarships
Challenge candidates who do not wish to be elected to a resident Queen's Scholarship may be awarded the title of Honorary Scholar if their performance in the examination is indisputably of the calibre of a Queen's Scholar.

13+ Exhibitions
Up to seven Exhibitions (minor scholarships) may be awarded each year to those Challenge candidates, who narrowly miss being awarded a scholarship.

Music Awards
For 13+ entry, up to eight music scholarships worth 10% of the day fee, irrespective of day or boarding status, and three music exhibitions may be awarded annually. Both of these awards include free tuition on up to two instruments. Auditions are held in late January or early February. Candidates who are not already registered must be under 14 years of age on 1 September of the proposed year of entry and must subsequently qualify for a place by sitting The Challenge or Common Entrance. For further information, please email the Music Department via **music.office@westminster.org.uk**. A good ABRSM Grade 7 standard on the candidate's first instrument is usually expected and it is recommended that a candidate should have an informal audition with the Director of Music in the preceding autumn before the formal auditions take place.

Bursaries
Means-tested day bursaries of up to 100% of day fees are available at 11+, 13+ and 16+ entry. We aim to act as sensitively as possible; very few members of staff and none of the other pupils will be aware that a boy or girl is receiving financial assistance. When a full bursary is awarded, it will cover the cost of uniform, equipment and compulsory school expeditions. To be eligible for a bursary, a child's parent(s) must be a British citizen, or citizens of the EEA or Switzerland or have permanent leave to remain AND must also live in London. Boarding bursaries are not awarded.

13+ Bursaries
At this stage bursaries are normally awarded only to candidates who already hold bursaries at their prep schools. If you would like to apply for a bursary please email the Bursar's office **bursar@westminster.org.uk** to request an initial financial assessment form. Once you have submitted the form you will be contacted by the Bursar.

If a boy, who has been awarded a bursary, subsequently wins a scholarship, the monetary value of the scholarship will be absorbed within the bursary.

Special Educational Needs
Westminster School has a well-established tradition of identifying and nurturing academic potential in pupils with special educational needs, including dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADD and ASD. If your son or daughter has been identified as having a specific learning difficulty, please contact our Study Skills Coordinator **Kathryn.Ireland@westminster.org.uk**.

Extra time and / or use of a word processor in our entrance examinations at 13+ and 16+ will only be granted if the criteria used for public examinations are met. Our Study Skills Department will require:

- An up-to-date report from an educational psychologist, or other relevant medical specialist.
- A letter from the candidate's current school confirming their normal way of working.

The Governing Body of Westminster School recognises its responsibility under the Disability Discrimination Act (1995), which prevents discrimination against disabled people in their access to education. Westminster School's Policy on Admissions is available in full on our website: **www.westminster.org.uk**.

Fees

Registration fee
A non-returnable fee of £200 is payable for registration. This fee is waived for the sons of Old Westminsters.

Entrance fee
An entrance fee of £1,500 is payable on acceptance of an unconditional place.

This fee is refundable if the prep school considers the 13+ candidate to have failed to demonstrate the expected continued good conduct and academic progress and is consequently not admitted to the School.

The entrance fee is not off-set against the final term's fees. Parents of boys who enter Westminster Under School at the 11+ stage do not have to pay the Entrance Fee. Candidates who apply for and are awarded a bursary of 100% do not have to pay the entrance fee.

Acceptance Deposit
An acceptance deposit of £3,500 is also required to confirm the place, payable by 1 September when your son is in Year 8. This deposit will be be returned to parents at the start of the term after the pupil has left the School. The deposit will only be refunded if the school fees account has been fully settled.

Termly Fees
Fees are subject to annual review by the Governing Body. To view fees for the current academic year, please visit **www.westminster.org.uk**.

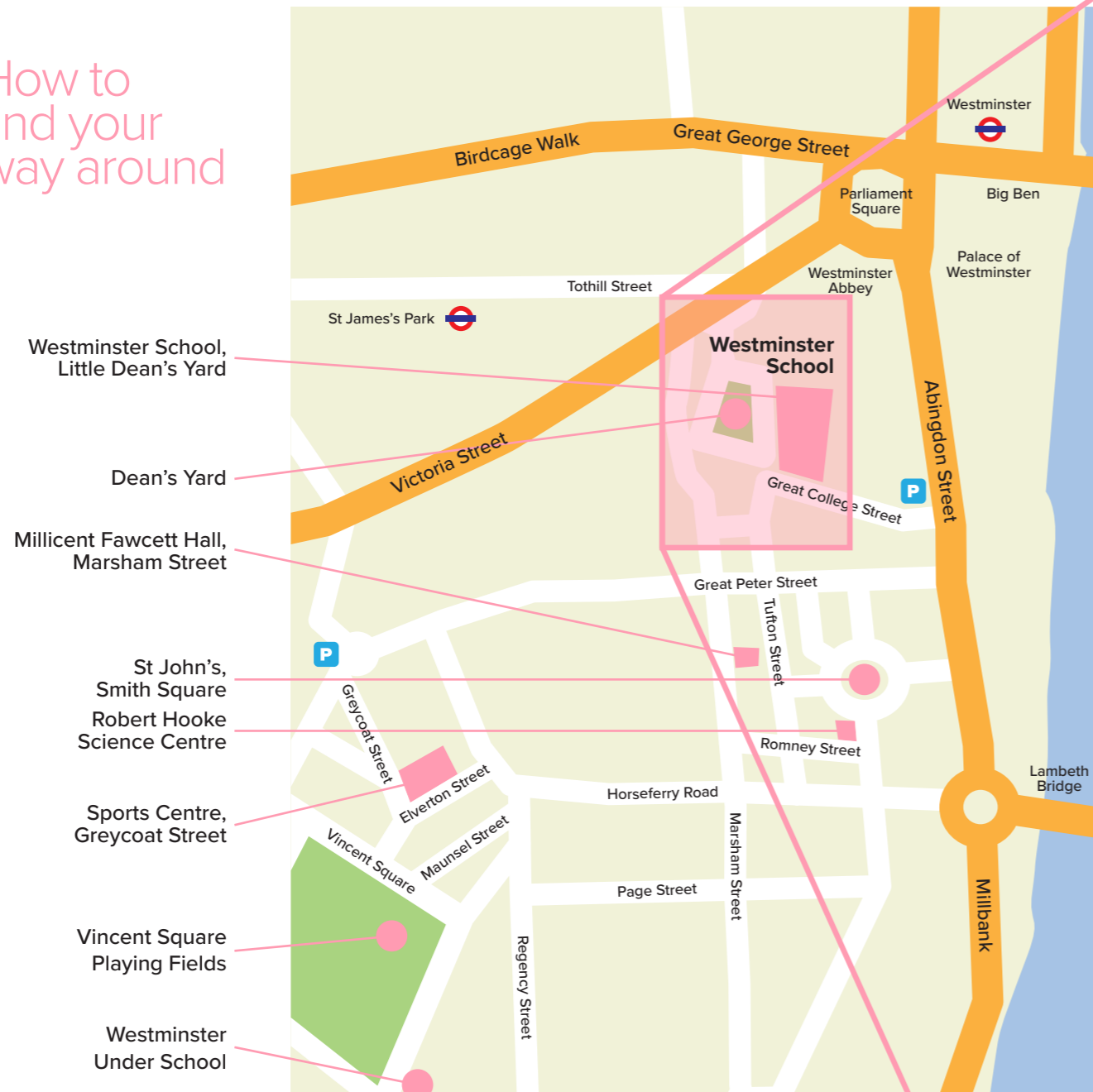
The fees are inclusive and payable in advance. Expenses payable retrospectively include book bills, exam fees and any advances charged such as those for private tuition, music lessons, etc., which are incurred by parental choice.

Accounts are rendered at the end of each term and must be paid for on or before the first day of the following term in the manner specified on the accounts form.

The Governing Body cannot undertake to remit any fees of pupils who are absent on account of illness, or for any other reason, and they draw the attention of parents to the fact that insurance facilities for covering the risk are available.

Advance Fees Scheme: a scheme exists to enable parents, grandparents and guardians to provide for future school fees by way of a composite cash payment. There are considerable tax advantages to the scheme, details of which may be obtained from the Finance Bursar, Mrs Heather Burgess: **heather.burgess@westminster.org.uk**; tel 020 7963 1030.

How to find your way around



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Liddell's House | 9 Common Room and Head Master's Study |
| 2 The Sir Adrian Boulton Building | 10 Hakluyt's House |
| 3 Ashburnham House Library and Lecture Room | 11 College Hall (medieval dining room) |
| 4 School (the School Hall) | 12 The Weston Building |
| 5 Dryden's and Wren's House, College | 13 Milne's House |
| 6 Grant's House | 14 Ashburnham House |
| 7 Rigaud's House | 15 Purcell's House |
| 8 Busby's House | 16 Sutcliff's (the Art School) |
| 9 Common Room and Head Master's Study | 17 Manoukian Music Centre |



1300s

1370 First references to the School in Westminster Abbey's records

1400s

1461 The School moves from the Monastic Almonry to Dean's Yard

1500s

1540 Dissolution of the Benedictine Monastery, Henry VIII ensures the School's survival by statute

1560 New charter for the 'College of St Peter' from Elizabeth I with provision for 40 scholars

1561 Links established with Christ Church, Oxford, and Trinity College, Cambridge

1562 First Election Dinner

1564 Elizabeth I attends the Latin Play, performed in College Hall

1599 Former Monks' Dormitory first used as the schoolroom

1600s

1638 Dr Richard Busby becomes Head Master, serving until his death in 1695

1649 Busby leads the School in prayers for Charles I on the day of his execution

1659 Busby Library built

1666 The Great Fire of London, Dean Dolben and Scholars save St Dunstan's in the East

1679 The King's Scholars receive the Royal Pardon for their murder of a bailiff

1685 Westminster pupils' first formal attendance at the coronation

1700s

1733 The New Scholars' Dormitory, designed by Lord Burlington, is completed

1746 First recorded cricket match – Old Westminsters v. Old Etonians

1750 The Grant family begins to manage a boarding house in Little Dean's Yard

1753 First recorded 'pancake grease'

1786 Rebellion in the School – Francis Burdett felled by Head Master's cudgel

1800s

1810 Vincent Square secured as the School's playing field

1813 The School's Rowing Ledger begins

1837 Westminster's victory over Eton at rowing hastens death of William IV

1855 Last wholly oral 'Challenge' scholarship examination

1858 Prince Albert and the Prince of Wales attend the Latin Play

1868 Public Schools Act gives Westminster independence from the Abbey

1877 First House for day boys 'Homeboarders' House' is established

1900s

1906 Science laboratories built in Great College Street

1939 Outbreak of the Second World War, School evacuated from London

1940 The Blitz: Busby Library destroyed

1941 School and College destroyed in an air raid

1943 Under School opened in Little Dean's Yard

1950 George VI reopens College

1960 HM Queen Elizabeth II reopens School, marking Westminster's Quatercentenary

1967 First female pupil joins the School

1973 Girls first become full members of the School

1988 Robert Hooke Science Centre opened by The Queen

2000s

2001 Opening of Millicent Fawcett Hall (the School's theatre)

2005 Opening of the Manoukian Music Centre and Weston Building

2010 450th anniversary of the Elizabethan foundation: HM Queen Elizabeth II visits the School and unveils a statue of Queen Elizabeth I, by sculptor Matthew Spender

2013 New Sports Centre at the Royal Horticultural Hall opened by The Queen

2017 First female Queen's Scholars join College

2018 Launch of The Westminster School Campaign – the School's major Bursary campaign

2019 Opening of the renewed Sir Adrian Boult Building

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

The Abbey is a breathtaking space and it's a huge privilege to have it as the School's chapel. All pupils attend services twice a week and the School holds concerts and special services in the Abbey throughout the year, giving everyone a chance to speak and perform in this beautiful and historic building.





WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

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