



WESTMINSTER
CITY SCHOOL



Year 7 entry



Our 2020-21 academic year

Here at Westminster City School, we've been busy since printing our Year 7 entry prospectus. This is an update on our latest news, to read alongside your copy of our School prospectus.

Academic excellence

GCSE Results Day 2021 saw Westminster City School's GCSE pass rate rise to 85% across all qualifications, following a challenging period for our young people with the pandemic disrupting learning. In addition, 35% of all our School's GCSEs were graded 9 to 7 (or BTEC equivalent) which corresponds to the old-style top grades of A* and A.

A Level Results Day 2021 included a string of excellent grades for all our sixth formers, with over 90% starting university in autumn 2021 and almost 40% of the cohort joining top Russell Group institutions like UCL, King's College London and Durham.

Michaelmas term 2020

Our 2020-21 academic year began like no other, with year group 'bubbles', hand sanitisation stations and one-way systems.

For our new Year 7, Michaelmas term began with a thorough induction that enabled them to get to know their teachers and make friends. Our youngest pupils settled into their new secondary school with gusto, enthusiastically taking part in both Odd Sock Day in November (part of national Anti-Bullying Week) and Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children in December. They also helped bring seasonal joy to care homes, writing letters to care home residents and staff with stories, drawings and jokes about the festive season.

Lent term 2021

The start of 2021 saw the government close schools once more, meaning most of our young people and staff worked from home until March 2021, helping keep ourselves and others safe.

During this period, we offered high-quality remote learning which was much praised by parents/carers, with comments like: "All teachers have adapted well to online teaching and made their best efforts to keep students engaged". Many of our extra-curricular activities moved online including individual instrument lessons, Coding Club, Latin Club and more.

In addition we launched our Westminster City School Wellbeing Challenge. This involved different daily challenges that encouraged outdoor activity and creativity. Tasks ranged from following a work out by our PE Department to writing a poem and from taking a photo outside to creating a dish from another country. As one parent/carer said: "We really appreciate teachers doing the most they can during this time to motivate children, helping them and their mental health."

We were fortunate to receive generous funding that supported online learning, meaning all our young people received a laptop and internet access. This was made possible by a number of donors including Polar Capital, an investment company based just a few doors from our School, who donated £70,000. One parent/carer said: "Every one of my children now has their own computer, thanks to our School."

In September 2021, Polar Capital will launch the first year of their fantastic new suite of support for our sixth formers. All who join our Year 12 will be gifted a new laptop and a further one to two students will be awarded a Polar Capital Aspire Scheme (PCAS) bursary, worth over £20,000 per year, for each year of their future university study in the UK.

Trinity term 2021

Our Trinity term saw the start of our Westminster City School Tutor Reading Programme. Reading has always been a key part of life at our School, with class time regularly given to our youngest pupils for reading and over 200 books checked out from our library each week. This new initiative sees form tutors read aloud to their forms, picking an age-appropriate book from our chosen list. Our young people have their own copy to follow along. Our Westminster City School Tutor Reading Programme is set to expand a love of literature, as well as increase the vocabulary and comprehension of our young people.

Making music

Music remains at the heart of our School, with large numbers of our young people learning musical instruments, performing in our orchestra and musical ensembles, and joining our School Choir.

With many of our usual performance opportunities curtailed, due to pandemic restrictions, we filmed our Christmas carol service at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, so all in our community (who normally attend in person) could enjoy it from their home.

In the 2021-22 academic year, we look forward to a return to our regular concerts, to which all parents/carers are invited.

Sporting success

Sport is a key part of life at Westminster City School, with our young people using nearby Green Park, as well as our Sports Hall and other on-site facilities.

The UEFA Euro 2020, in summer 2021, provided an opportunity to reflect on many of our own football stars who are signed with top London clubs like West Ham, Fulham and Crystal Palace.

Highlights from the last year include a Year 9 gymnast ranked sixth in the UK, a Year 10 cricketer whose team competed at The Kia Oval, and a Year 10 rugby player signed with Harlequins. Our Trinity term ended with our sports day at Battersea Park.

In the 2021-22 academic year, we look forward to a return to our regular sporting fixtures, with our teams competing against others, helping our young people maintain a healthy lifestyle.



Amazing alumni

Our alumni continue to make a difference across the globe. John Boyega starred in *Red, White and Blue*, part of Steve McQueen's *Small Axe* series, winning a Golden Globe and a Critics Choice Award for his portrayal of police reformer, Leeroy Logan. Yet he was not our only connection to McQueen's powerful work! One of our current pupils, Roshawn in Year 10, appeared in the final episode, *Education*.

Another notable alumnus, Wes Streeting, Labour MP for Ilford North, also had a busy year. In October 2020, as Shadow Exchequer Secretary

to the Treasury, he took part in our School's online career series and talked to current pupils about working in Parliament. Later that month, he was made the UK's Shadow Minister for Schools. Wes conducted his first interview about this, with *The Guardian*, at a familiar place - Westminster City School! In May 2021, he was made Shadow Secretary of State for Child Poverty.

Wes is not our only alumnus in politics as Angelo Weekes, who attended our School from 1999 to 2004, was elected Labour councillor for Milldmay ward, Islington, in May. He said: "Westminster City School is always close to my heart. I have much to thank it for."

In our 2021-22 academic year, we look forward to inviting more our alumni back to Palace Street to offer careers talks, mentoring and work experience.

Inspiring excellence in the heart of London

Keep up-to-date with our latest news by visiting our website or following our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.



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