



## WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

### 16+ SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GIRLS

Four girls are elected annually to Westminster School as Scholars at 16+. These girls are known as Queen's Scholars and have the post nominal QS.

#### ADMISSIONS

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. The scholarships were established by Henry VIII following his dissolution of the monastery at Westminster Abbey and reaffirmed by his daughter, Elizabeth I, in 1560.

Eight Scholars are elected every year at 13+. Since September 2017, an additional four Queen's Scholarships per year have been awarded to girls entering the Sixth Form at 16+, based on the overall performance in the subject papers, interviews and a Thinking Skills Assessment conducted during the Sixth Form entry process in the November prior to entry. The total number of Queen's Scholarships is forty-eight with all Scholars boarding in College.

The fee for a Queen's Scholar is set at half way between 50% of the boarding fee and the day fee. The Governing Body reviews school fees annually in June for publication by early July. All girls applying to join Westminster School for Sixth Form are eligible for a Queen's Scholarship. Top-up bursaries are available for those elected to a Queen's Scholarship at 16+. To be eligible for a bursary, a candidate's parents must be British citizens or citizens of the EEA or Switzerland who live in the UK.

#### GIRLS AT WESTMINSTER

Girls first started attending lessons informally in the late 1960s, often as their schools did not offer the science A-Levels they wished to take. In May 1971, the School's Governing Body allowed the Head Master to permit girls to attend lessons at the school and board if they wished. Girls became full members of the school in 1973 and now represent one third of the Sixth Form.

#### COLLEGIATE DUTIES

The Queen's Scholars' regular collegiate duties include attending one Sunday Eucharist service in Westminster Abbey each term, singing Compline in St Faith's Chapel each Monday and participating in the School's Commemoration of Benefactors services in the Play Term each year.

In addition to being invited to the Coronation, the Queen's Scholars are privileged to be able to attend a variety of special services in Westminster Abbey, as invited by the Dean of Westminster Abbey. Recent such events have included:

- 2010** The visit of Pope Benedict XVI.
- 2011** The wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.
- 2012** The visit of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.
- 2013** The 60th anniversary of the Coronation in the presence of Her Majesty, at which the Queen's Scholars sang the Vivats.

- 2014** The Nelson Mandela Memorial Service in the presence of Prince Harry, Prime Minister David Cameron, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and South Africa's deputy president.
- 2015** A service to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz.
- 2016** The Commonwealth Observance in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry.

## **LIFE IN COLLEGE**

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 and is at the very heart of the School, in an oasis of calm between Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. All Scholars, boys and girls, board in College, with the girls accommodated in their own newly renovated and specially designed separate area.

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 also has the title *Master of the Queen's Scholars*. There is an opportunity on the day of interviews for prospective parents and pupils to see the House and to meet the Housemaster.

Boarding in College offers all of the benefits of boarding at Westminster, including exceptional teaching, an unrivalled breadth of extra-curricular opportunities and a unique location at the very centre of life in London. In addition, the Queen's Scholars have the privilege of attending certain Abbey services and have a variety of ceremonial duties to perform in connection with the Abbey and the Crown.

## **HISTORY OF THE QUEEN'S SCHOLARS**

Since Elizabethan times, the Queen's Scholars have resided in a boarding house known as College. Following the dissolution of the monastery at Westminster Abbey in 1540 came the charter of Henry VIII, establishing his new foundation, and in the '*Booke of the ereccion of the King's newe Colledge*', the names of two masters and forty scholars to be taught grammar follow immediately after those of the Dean and Prebendaries. From 1543 onwards, admission to the King's Grammar School at Westminster was on the nomination of the Dean or one of the Prebendaries. There is still in existence a list of the Queens's Scholars in October 1553, as the former grammar children of monastic days, being now members of a royal foundation, came to be called. The scholars take their name from the reigning monarch – changing from King's Scholars to Queen's Scholars accordingly.

In Mary's reign, the monastery was restored, but it was again dissolved early in the reign of Elizabeth I, who became the School's Foundress in a very real sense. Within a few months of her accession, the charter setting up the new College of St. Peter's, Westminster, was sealed. The Dean and Prebendaries were to constitute what may be called the Governing Body of the re-founded School; provision was made for a Head Master, Under Master and forty scholars.

The School continued to have King's Scholars throughout the Commonwealth. Some notable scholars include John Locke, John Dryden, A.A. Milne and Andrew Lloyd-Webber.

## **Admissions Office**

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