



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

17 DEAN'S YARD
LONDON SW1P 3PB
+44 (0)20 7963 1028

6 December 2017

I am delighted to let you know some exciting news which marks an historic moment for Westminster School and a significant step forward in the development of our Bursary Fund.

On Thursday 7 December the Governors will sign an agreement with the Hong Kong educational company HKMETG to open six bilingual schools in China by 2028, the first opening in Chengdu in 2020. This follows three years of careful consideration and negotiation. The signing takes place within the fifth People to People Dialogue between Britain and China themed 'The Spirit of Youth', an event which aims to inspire the next generation of leaders in both countries and to promote deeper collaboration and exchange.

Each school will have three divisions; a Kindergarten (3-5); a Primary and Junior High (6-15) which will deliver the compulsory Chinese National Curriculum along with some aspects of a Westminster curriculum; and a Senior High (16-18) offering IGCSEs and A levels and a much broader overall curriculum as preparation for applications to overseas universities. A full range of extra-curricular opportunities will be available as well as the provision of pastoral support, and boarding from 12-18. The aim is for these schools to reflect elements of the Westminster ethos of teaching and learning. HKMETG will offer 10% of places in each Chinese school free to less affluent families; the income we make from consultancy fees will contribute directly to our own Bursary fund.

Please be reassured that the project will in no way detract from the education your children are enjoying at Westminster. The Governors have set up a company with separate staff to support and advise HKMETG in setting up and operating the new schools, and the project is funded wholly by HKMETG. We hope that this venture will also provide exciting opportunities for cultural exchange which we believe will be of great benefit to the School and its pupils, but any visits will take place in the school holidays. The staff at Westminster School will continue to focus solely on the academic welfare and pastoral wellbeing of Westminster pupils.

The agreement comes at an important point in the exciting development of our Academic Enrichment and Widening Access programme. In September 2016, we set up a highly successful initiative in collaboration with some thirty primary schools, predominantly in South London, to inspire and support their most academically able Year 5 pupils. The pupils attend Saturday morning classes at Westminster Under School, where they develop a love of learning and prepare for the next stage of their education. Now in its second year, the programme, rebranded 'Platform' (westminsterplatform.org.uk), is expanding to include a greater number of primary schools and we are working with other prep schools to extend the initiative throughout London. We hope that the boys with potential to benefit from a Westminster education will go on to win a place for entry into Year 7.

We are delighted by the opportunities our new collaboration with HKMETG provides in assisting our drive to widen access to a Westminster education still further. The relationship will make an important contribution to our Bursary fund and coincides with a major relaunch of our Bursary campaign in the Spring. It builds alongside Westminster's work in support of the Harris Westminster Sixth Form which is already proving so successful. This is all in the spirit of the 1560 Charter of Westminster School, that a Westminster Education is the means through which we can best nurture the next generation, for the good of our state.

Please direct any questions to the Head Master's office at headmaster@westminster.org.uk.

Yours sincerely
John Hall

The Very Reverend Dr John Hall
Chairman of the Governing Body