We offer superb facilities set on 23 spacious hectares, more than 40 subject choices in Year 12, around 200 sporting teams, activity clubs and ensembles, outstanding wellbeing programs and teachers who are leaders in their field. Westminster provides the best resources for an exceptional all-round education, giving boys and girls from Early Learning to Year 12 every opportunity to achieve all-round excellence.

Established in 1961, Westminster School is a leading coeducational independent day and Boarding School in Marion, a south-west suburb of Adelaide, South Australia, close to beaches and the city. We are affiliated with the Uniting Church, active members of Round Square and the World Leading Schools Association, both international networks of innovative schools. Westminster has around 1200 students from Early Learning to Year 12 who are given every opportunity to be their best every day.
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At Westminster, we stand for excellence in everything we do. Since our doors opened in 1961, we have built a proud tradition of academic, sporting, artistic and creative achievement supported by a strong and globally active School community. Being a leading coeducational school, we take great pride in offering a warm, nurturing and natural environment to provide our students with an exceptional all-round education and a lifelong love of learning. Every opportunity is available for girls and boys, allowing them to discover the pathways that best meet their interests.

We believe that the wellbeing of our students complements their academic success. Our focus is on developing the individual skills and attributes of our students, to help them thrive in an increasingly complex world. Westminster offers a diverse academic curriculum across a full range of subjects, leading to over 40 subject choices in Year 12. Our impressive academic curriculum, extensive pastoral and co-curricular programs, including our new Sport Development and High Performance program, all work hand in hand to give our students every opportunity to be exceptional.

Westminster is blessed with wide open spaces, beautiful grounds and superb playing fields, state-of-the-art infrastructure and modern facilities. We continually work to enhance our learning environment and technology to meet the ever-changing needs of education.

Our teachers are highly qualified and well-respected members of the community, encouraged to undertake professional learning and stay at the forefront of their profession. Many have contributed significantly to the national development of their respective curriculums, including those who have authored internationally published text books and references. Our teaching staff work with dedication and a true commitment to the growth of each and every student.

We incorporate the values and philosophies of the Uniting Church and Round Square, including democracy, environment, leadership, adventure, service and an international focus, into everyday school life. We are very proud of our School and the excellence we expect and achieve, without compromising the friendly and inclusive environment we have created.

Please accept my invitation to join me, our Enrolments Manager and Heads of Schools on one of our personal campus tours, enabling you to experience the warmth and vibrancy of our School.

I look forward to welcoming you and your family to Westminster School.

Steve Bousfield
Principal
Our new, purpose-built Early Learning Centre (ELC) accepts children from three years of age and offers a stimulating and fun environment that develops social, emotional, physical, spiritual and cognitive potential. We respect that children develop differently and encourage each student’s willingness to try new things that lead to new discoveries and connections. As ELC staff have access to the School’s extensive resources, technologies, grounds and facilities, our ELC students develop lively and enquiring minds in a happy, stimulating, caring and secure environment.

The Westminster ELC is accredited as an approved child care provider which allows eligible families to access the Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR). This means that our ELC offers its own early morning and late afternoon care either side of the structured Early Learning program, as well as vacation care. In line with the School’s excellent staff/student ratio and appreciating individual progress, the program also caters for grouping students who share a similar level of maturity and readiness for a particular task, each with their own qualified teacher and support staff. The new ELC design features a beautifully bright and spacious interior that flows into the natural play and adventure area outside.

Specialist staff take our youngest students in key learning areas such as physical education, music and library to provide a brilliant start to their education. Our comprehensive Orientation process ensures a smooth transition between Early Learning and Preparatory School in either our mid-year intake into the Transition class or start of year intake into Reception. Orientation allows students to meet with Junior Primary teachers to become familiar with both the classroom environment and the many staff members who will be expertly guiding them through the next stage of their education.

Even our youngest students at the beginning of their wonderful learning journey are given every opportunity to discover the benefits of a Westminster education.
Westminster’s Preparatory School students learn teamwork, social awareness and respect for others. They develop an understanding of appropriate behaviour, good manners and self-discipline from a good balance of male and female teachers throughout our Preparatory School. A dynamic House system and the Student Representative Council (SRC) promote positive relationships across all primary years, while building student appreciation of the value of service and rights of others. The Preparatory School has its own learning and sporting facilities to complement the outstanding facilities available to the whole School. Being active is a key feature of the Preparatory School years to promote wellbeing and strengthen concentration to maximise learning outcomes. In addition to set class time for Physical Education (PE) and a comprehensive co-curricular program, daily fitness and exercise is incorporated across all years. The Sport Development and High Performance program begins in the Preparatory School with the best coaching and training resources to ensure students are encouraged to participate at the highest level to complement their ability. Our program is designed to identify student potential, leading to the opportunity for additional expert support through personalised training plans.

From Reception, we focus on literacy and numeracy at every level every day and balance core subjects and skill development in reading, comprehension, spelling, writing, information technology, science and mathematics with specialist classes in music, PE, art, religion and values education (RAVE), and Japanese. We are taking a stepped approach to the student-to-teacher ratio in Reception by having an additional class to give our youngest students the best possible foundation year before moving through to the Preparatory School’s three class structure as from Year 1.

We are one of only a handful of South Australian Schools that remains committed to offering mid-year Reception intake to suit all birth dates. At Westminster we believe in working with our families to provide students with a smooth transition into school when they are ready to do so.

Westminster develops confidence and self-esteem in each student and a desire for academic and personal achievement as well as encouraging values of pride, commitment, leadership, independence, resilience, and appreciation for others.
Middle Primary classes at Westminster School are from Years 3 to 5 and continue to build on the foundations of learning, providing a balance between core and specialist subjects. Class teachers work closely with specialist teachers who take specific subject lessons, including music, art, PE, Japanese, religious and values education (RAVE) while others provide support and extended learning for individual students, particularly in mathematics and English. Information technology underpins learning in all years. Classes move to other key learning areas, such as the Haslam Library, Michael Murray Centre for Performing Arts, Sports and Swimming Centre, Forder Centre and IT rooms, to suit the curriculum.

Years 6 and 7 from Upper Primary and continue a program of core and specialist subjects. Upper Primary students also provide support to our younger students through our House system and buddy programs. As Upper Primary and Year 8 effectively create the bridge between our Preparatory and Senior Schools, we recognise the importance of Years 6 and 7 to encourage leadership, community, independence and taking responsible risks in learning while still within the nurturing environment of our Preparatory School. Students continue to have ready access to the staff and facilities that contribute to our wide curriculum, structured to provide a diverse learning experience. To meet the technological requirements of a constantly evolving curriculum, our laptop program is being expanded to allow Year 6 access to class-based laptops while Year 7 joins the School’s personal laptop program. Sport and other co-curricular activities, such as service and performing arts, provide a wide range of opportunities that play a vital role in each student’s experience. The Upper Primary years focus on building self-confidence, resilience and developing character to prepare our Upper Primary students and their families for the important transition to secondary schooling.

Our aim is that all students know their own worth, are happy, well adjusted, resilient and always willing to learn.

Our high quality Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) program is run before and after school each school day by our own qualified and experienced staff in a dedicated OSHC centre for our Preparatory School families. Our popular and creative Vacation Care program is designed to emphasise holiday fun both at the School and on excursions.

Like our Early Learning Centre, our OSHC program is an accredited childcare provider so eligible families may have access to the Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate.
Our Middle Years of Learning program covers students in Years 6 to 8 as they make their pivotal transition from primary to secondary school. Both our Preparatory School and Senior School are located on one spacious campus, allowing students to share Westminster’s outstanding teaching resources, performance venues and sporting facilities. We want each student’s education to flow smoothly across these years in a school they know without the compromises and challenges that can come with a separate campus.

The importance of the Middle Years of Learning is backed by our continuing investment in state-of-the-art learning and technological resources to prepare students for their senior education: Year 6 students are now included in the laptop program; Year 7 students have their new Leadership Centre, which features large and airy, flexible classroom areas with breakout spaces; the Year 8 home base classroom wing has recently been transformed to create innovative hi-tech rooms and spaces to meet the ever changing needs and expectations of the learning environment through to Year 12.

It is during the Middle Years that students are introduced to the impressive range of academic subjects on offer while still enjoying the extensive range of sport, clubs and activities offered in our exceptional all-round education.
Westminster’s Senior School offers a comprehensive academic curriculum, covering all major subject lines. There is a diverse range of co-curricular activities that includes many different sports, Performing Arts (music, drama, dance), philosophical interests such as discussion and debating, as well as a highly valued community service activities. Information technology underpins all learning at Westminster with each student being responsible for a laptop/tablet or other personal learning device.

The wellbeing of our students is paramount as we prepare them for life beyond school. Senior School staff, including Heads of House and Class Tutors, and our career counselling service and centre are all able to provide guidance with individual learning pathway choices. Students are encouraged to develop the all-round skills needed to make their own decisions, set their own goals and lead responsible by example. Our approach is to nurture positive self-esteem, confidence, leadership skills, integrity, character and resilience in our Senior School students, allowing them to feel safe and valued when undertaking risks and challenges in their learning environment. Individually or collectively, the student voice is respected and encouraged through School Leaders, the Student Representative Council (SRC) and peer support network.

The Sport Development and High Performance program continues across a broad range of sports, encouraging students to participate to the best of their ability. Our experienced coaching staff work with sporting professionals and consultants to develop specialised training programs for squads and teams, while personalised plans are created for students who actively demonstrate a capacity for high or potentially elite performance.

Students study core and elective subjects and have a wide range of co-curricular interests from which to choose to enhance learning and development. They soon discover their strengths and personal areas of interest and how these will influence their subject and activity preferences in preparation for their final stages of schooling.

In Years 11 and 12 we support and guide our students as they finalise their subject selection to complete Stages 1 and 2 of the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). We offer over 40 subjects in an extensive and flexible range to suit all students: the academically focused, those who are future entrepreneurs and business leaders, those who wish to follow a vocational path, students who excel in sport and outdoor pursuits, and those with a passion for the arts.

As our senior leadership cohort, Year 12 students have their own senior common room facility from where they move to specialised subject classes as per their individually tailored timetables. Under the specialised supervision of our Head of Senior Students and Heads of House, Year 12 students are always encouraged to maintain a balanced approach to life through their final school year.
Westminster’s links to nationally accredited Vocational and Educational Training (VET) programs and providers are an effective and practical way for students to gain a head start in their chosen career.

Our curriculum offers a range of VET pathways to employment or further study, including outdoor education, business administration, retail, food, hospitality and tourism, agriculture, electrical, electronics and fitness. Completed courses and modules are recognised by industry and contribute towards the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). Students also have the opportunity to gain dual SACE and TAFE qualifications to better prepare themselves for future choices in a range of vocations.

Our students have a record of academic excellence achieving Year 12 results that are significantly and consistently above the State average. Our top student results are always amongst the very best in the nation and, based on historic results, we anticipate that each year around a third of our students will achieve an ATAR of 90 or above.

The majority of our graduating students apply for tertiary education and are offered placements consistent with their choices at institutions in South Australia, interstate and overseas. A wide range of tertiary courses in the areas of health, mathematical and social sciences, law, accounting and business disciplines, as well as education, music, design and many other academic pursuits, reflect the diversity of interests our students develop at Westminster.

Westminster students find success and personal worth in and beyond the classroom. Our specialist subjects and co-curricular activities work together to give all of our students the opportunity to shine.
Westminster began as a Boarding School and Boarders continue to be an essential part of our student body.

Boys’ Boarding

The Boys’ Boarding House offers contemporary accommodation where senior boys have their own room and younger boys share two to a room. An ensuite sits between two single or double rooms. In the care of experienced staff, the boys have access to ample break-out lounges and study spaces, allowing each of them to find the space that best meets their learning and social needs.

Girls’ Boarding

Girls board in supervised self-contained cottage-style units set in beautiful gardens. Each unit has three bedrooms and houses up to four boarders, allowing senior girls to have their own room while two junior girls share a room. There is a shared bathroom, kitchen, laundry and lounge in each unit. The Girls’ Boarding House also has a common room and outdoor areas, ideal for socialising with friends.

Welcome to the Boarding Precinct

Westminster is one of South Australia’s largest boarding schools. We welcome Boarding students from Years 7 to 12 from a diverse range of backgrounds, country areas and regions of Australia and overseas.

Our Boarding students reside in the Boarding Precinct in the leafy southern end of the School. The Precinct is bordered by the Sturt Grove Farm, the Sturt Linear Park, and our expansive playing fields, while the Sports and Swimming Centre, with its supervised fitness centre, is close by. In the privacy of their precinct, Boarding students enjoy modern, air-conditioned facilities, complete wi-fi access and a safe and secure family environment. Our Head of Boys’ Boarding and Head of Girls’ Boarding work with our Assistant Heads of Boarding, House Mothers and Residential Assistants, to ensure all Boarding students have the highest level of pastoral care and support in their home away from home.

Additional academic support is available in the evening during set study times for both junior and senior students. All Boarding students have access to our outstanding co-curricular programs, activities and facilities, and are encouraged to make the most of every opportunity available to every Westminster student.

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Boys’ Boarding

Girls’ Boarding

COEDUCATIONAL RECREATION CENTRE

The Luke Boylan Centre is our spacious coeducational recreation facility, allowing brothers and sisters and friends to relax, watch movies and play games in a social setting. Weekend casual meals are enjoyed here, including those cooked on the barbecue under the pergola, while the School Dining Hall continues to be home for all main Boarding meals.
The Westminster Difference

Visual Arts
- Art and design in purpose-built studios
- Media studies, graphic design, product and environmental design
- Print making, ceramics, sculpture, painting, drawing
- Photography, fashion
- Specialist teachers who are practising artists
- Renowned visiting artist program
- Regional, national, international art tours

Performing Arts
- Only at Westminster can students experience the unique combination of so many exceptional all-round opportunities.
TECHNOLOGY

» Integrated into all subjects and everyday school life
» Personal device (laptop, tablet) program Years 7 to 12
» Individual class-based laptops introduced in Year 6
» Computer Aided Design (CAD) engineering suite
» Parent portal access into online class or House sites
» Live markbooks for family insight into student progress
» Robust Wi-fi network access across campus
» Supervised access to email and internet at school
» Remote network access
» Predominantly a laptop/tablet Windows school while ELC and Junior Primary use iPads
» Dedicated IT help desk to support students and families, covering a wide range of devices

LEARNING SUPPORT AND EXTENSION

» Inclusion and Enrichment program across all years
» Accelerated learning for gifted students
» Specialist staff for students with identified learning difficulties
» Individualised learning plans
» Positive, inclusive culture for all students
» One-on-one, structured small group, class-based
» Affirming transition from primary to secondary school

INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

» Member of Round Square and World Leading Schools Association
» Reciprocal arrangements with other internationally-focused schools, particularly in China, Japan and those in the global Round Square network
» Dynamic international exchange, cultural and service programs and tours
» Highest school participation in SA in a Language other than English (LOTE) program
» WESTBridge ELICOS at Westminster is an independent language school for newly arrived students
» We welcome high calibre international students from around the world

OUR COMMUNITY

» Welcoming, inclusive, down-to-earth culture
» Many associations and clubs for Old Scholars, staff, parents, friends
» School Foundation to support School projects
» Active and supportive alumni association (WOSA) with affiliated sporting clubs
» Old Scholar network offers great knowledge and experience to share with students
» Biggest annual school fair in SA
» Famous seasonal Christmas Lights display
STUDENT WELLBEING AND SERVICE

» Strong House system creates respectful relationships between staff and students
» Preparatory School Deputies provide additional family support
» Year 8 wellbeing program to develop student independence
» Head of Senior Students provides additional support for Years 11 and 12 students
» School Counsellor, Senior School and Preparatory School Chaplains
» Voluntary program participation to help us discover potential and develop through the Chapel and Round Square
» Builds resilience, confidence, appreciation of teamwork and global outlook

OUTSTANDING FACILITIES

» Beautiful leafy, green 23 hectare campus
» 1000-seat performing arts theatre
» Extensive playing fields, outdoor courts, sporting facilities both outside and inside
» Preparatory School, including ELC, OSHC
» Senior School, including The Cloisters
» Sturt Grove School Farm
» Secluded Boarding Precinct with own recreation centre
» Westventure Point Sturt campsite
» Glenroy, 63 acre farm with Murray riverfront access
» Iconic Jeffries Chapel for whole community use
» WestSwim, an accredited swim school for all ages

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

» All camps from Year 3 have an Outdoor Education focus (becomes an academic subject from Year 10)
» Trips, expeditions into regional and international natural environments
» Sailing, kayaking, rock climbing, bushwalking, mountain biking, orienteering, camping, cross-country skiing
» National leader in Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award (Gold, Silver, Bronze)
» Student cohorts consistently attain highest number of SACE Outdoor Education Merits
» Westventure – flagship Year 10 self-development camp at Point Sturt

THE WESTMINSTER DIFFERENCE

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Sport Development and High Performance program led by former Thunderbirds elite coach Jane Woodlands-Thompson

Sports program with specialised and experienced coaches to develop students and teams of all abilities

Around 140 sporting teams across 25 sports offered

Elite performance coaching and personalised program development for students in high performance and state level teams

Three football ovals, four soccer pitches, two softball diamonds, 10 tennis courts, three basketball courts, 12 netball courts, four turf cricket pitches and 11 practice nets (six turf and five hard wicket)

Double basketball/netball courts with large viewing grandstand

Rock climbing wall, state-of-the-art equipped gymnasium, spin room

A 25-metre, 10-lane heated indoor swimming pool and separate learners’ pool

4.5 hectare (11 acre) on-site farm

Interactive experience from Early Learning upwards

Base for Agricultural Science (Years 9 to 12) with many industry links

Sheep, goats, pigs, steers, dairy, poultry

Cattle shed, shearing and work sheds, free range runs and paddocks, orchard

Horticulture, agriculture, viticulture, viniculture

Highly awarded Royal Adelaide Show Team co-curricular activity is popular with all Senior School students

VET learning pathways

Complements Glenroy, School’s large riverfront farming property at Point Sturt

THE WESTMINSTER DIFFERENCE

CO-CURRICULAR SPORT

STURT GROVE FARM