

City of Westminster College

(1955-1970)

The present College website is at <http://www.cwc.ac.uk/>

Brief history: City of Westminster College has its origins in an evening institute established in the First World War providing lip-reading classes for deafened servicemen in the vestry of St George's Church in Hanover Square, Westminster. The institute became known as the St George's Institute, and in 1919 Mr C V Calvert was appointed as head of its language department. In 1924 Mr W Sherwood was appointed to teach classes for five evenings a week to temporary civil servants. The institute continued to run evening only classes and moved to a number of different sites, successively St George's Row School, Ebury Bridge and Dean Farrar Street. A further move was made to the Burdett Cookery School, with some classes held in the Townsend Foundation School, Rochester Row. The institute grew rapidly during the 1930s, becoming one of the largest commercial institutes in London, with classrooms and chemistry laboratories in Westminster City College. In 1936 an arrangement with Westminster Training College was made enabling the institute to provide more student hours than any comparable institute in London and replacing the link with Westminster City College. The institute moved again to the Millbank School, Erasmus Street. In 1939 two social studies courses were introduced, whilst languages and commercial, administrative and social studies were all well established.

After the Second World War, the institute comprised one full time member of staff, the Principal and several part-time lecturers using six rooms. The Waterloo Road School site was taken over by the institute in 1951, shared with the Law Department of Kennington College. By 1959 there were 41 full-time staff, more part-time lecturers and over 30 rooms used. Full-time courses were offered in 1959 in the institute's three departments of Civil Service, Commerce and University Entrance, with part-time and evening work. **In 1954 the institute moved to Francis House**, renting space from the Army and Navy Stores. Further space was rented from them in 1955, enabling matriculation work to be transferred from Regent Street Polytechnic. New departments of Science, Social Studies and Day Release work were created. Awards and courses were rationalised following the 1959 McMeeking report 'Further Education in Commerce', with the introduction of national certificates in business studies, and establishment of new departments of Economics and Arts and Science and Maths. **By 1962 there were over 6000 students associated with the institute.** In 1965 the work of the Arts Department was transferred to the West London College of Commerce.

(Abridged from: **Archives in London and the M25 area:**

[http://www.aim25.ac.uk/cgi-](http://www.aim25.ac.uk/cgi-bin/vcdf/detail?coll_id=6354&inst_id=46&nv1=browse&nv2=sub)

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