



of HBA Architects, who designed the eye-catching school.

The building, a former BBC office and recording studio, fuses Scandinavian design ethos with innovative learning technology. The design reflects the school's aim to equip students with an education suited to a 21st century international job market that places a premium on e-skills, creativity and collaboration.

It would be a mistake, however, to conclude that schools in the capital are prioritising the 'extras' at the expense of academic results. 'The deciding factor for the majority of families is still the academic offering,' says Anke Gosch, the founder and editor of Londonpreprep.com. 'But families with a choice of offers will then look at a school's sports, technological and cultural facilities that may impact on their choice. These can be the technology offering, sports facilities, languages and the type of curriculum offered: is it IB or traditional GCSE and A-levels?'

Gosch thinks, however, that the full impact of Brexit hasn't happened yet. She believes fewer French and German families may come to London, partly because opportunities and economic prosperity may



have improved back home, but that there are still high numbers from the US, Middle East and Asia – so the overall number of wealthy international families will remain resolutely high.

Ultimately, London's independent schools are riding high for no reason other than being better than their global rivals. And as long as they continue to deliver what international, wealthy families demand that success is set to continue for many years to come. **SR**



Southbank Westminster, here and above, will meet the demands of a 21st century education

