



February 2015

## **Reporting of standardized examination scores (Years 8 – 10)**

Dear Parent / Guardian

Please note that standardized examination scores will be reported in Years 8 – 10. This decision has been taken following extensive consultation with pupils, parents and staff. The process of standardization involves a recalibration of your child's raw examination percentage mark onto a common scale such that the year average is set at 150. The decision to adopt a mean value of 150 was agreed with the pupil / parent body in order to:

- minimize confusion between raw percentage marks and standardized scores; and
- remove the perceived injustice / negative impact of percentage marks being recalibrated to a lower standardized score. The latter will no longer happen.

The process of standardization yields scores that will enable pupils, parents and staff to:

- make **valid comparisons of the performance** of your child **between different subjects**; and
- **directly compare the performance** of your child, in individual subjects, **to the average in the year group**.

Unfortunately, the publication of raw percentage marks and the year average does not facilitate a valid comparison of your child's performance between subjects.

I have attached additional information (including examples) on the reverse side of this letter. However, please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

Dr Robert Rolleston  
Vice-Principal



### What is standardization?

- Standardization is a process by which percentage marks are converted to a “standardized” score on a common scale.
- Standardization facilitates the valid comparison of scores from examinations with differing degrees of difficulty.
- Standardized scores **are NOT** percentage marks and should not be directly compared.
- There is no maximum nor minimum standardized score; however, the vast majority (approximately 99%) of pupils’ standardized scores will be within the range of 100 – 200.
- In addition, it should be noted that ALL external GCSE / AS / A2 qualifications are graded using a standardized method.

### Advantages of standardization

- Standardized scores facilitate the valid comparison of performance between subjects.
- It provides a comparison of a pupil’s performance relative to the rest of the cohort.
- Standardized scores will allow pupils to reliably identify their strengths / weaknesses.
- In Grosvenor, pupils will be encouraged to track their “true” progress in individual subjects throughout Years 8 – 10 by comparing standardized scores in both the Winter and Summer examinations. In turn, this will enable pupils to set meaningful academic targets.

### Difficulties with using raw percentage marks

- Unfortunately, the publication of raw percentage marks and the year average does not facilitate a valid comparison of your child’s performance between subjects (see below).
- Pupils, parents and staff may incorrectly interpret the data.
- Raw percentage marks and the year average will not allow pupils, parents and staff to make informed decisions regarding subject choices at GCSE.

### Example

Table 1 provides data for the performance of a pupil in three subjects from a previous examination series. It is **not possible to correctly interpret the raw percentage marks and the year averages in order to identify the subject in which the pupil had performed best** – without making reference to the data in the last column.

**Table 1: Raw percentage marks**

Subject	% Mark	Year Average	Standard deviation
A	65	59	6
B	76	70	3
C	76	70	12

In Table 2, the standardized scores have been calculated.

Direct comparison of these scores demonstrates that the **pupil had performed significantly better in subject B compared to subject C.**

**Table 2: Standardized scores**

Subject	Standardized Score	Year Mean	Standard deviation
A	168	150	18.5
B	187	150	18.5
C	159	150	18.5