



Secondary Transfer Admissions Entrance Examination

Children who wish to sit the Entrance Examination **must** live within one of our Local Priority Areas. Please refer to our Admissions Arrangements for a list of these areas. To register for the tests parents **must** submit the Test Registration Form (TRF) to the school during the registration period as detailed on the admissions section of the school website. **Please do not send in any supporting material of academic aptitude/ability as we are unable to take these into consideration.**

Letters with exact timings and further details will be sent out before the end of the summer term. The exams take place over two days (English and Verbal Reasoning on one day and Maths on the other) and the start time will be the same on both days. Unfortunately it is not possible to change the designated times. **Please inform the school if you decide to withdraw your child from these tests – admissions@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk.**

The Governors' Entrance Examination consists of three separate papers. These have been designed to identify the most able candidates and children of average or below average ability are likely to find them very difficult. The tests are considered to be valid, reliable and fair. The three papers are:

- **Verbal Reasoning**
A verbal reasoning test that takes approximately one hour to deliver and includes practice examples for each section
- **English**
- A 1 hour comprehension paper which includes an extended writing piece.
- **Mathematics**
A 1 hour paper

There will be a short break between the Verbal Reasoning and English tests and the children are welcome to bring a small snack and a drink.

Verbal Reasoning Test age standardisation

Once the verbal reasoning papers have been marked these raw scores are age standardised which produces the final standardised score.

Standardised scores are more useful measures than raw scores in order to place children's results on a readily understandable scale so that an allowance can be made for the different ages of the children. They are derived in such a way that the ages of the children are taken into account by comparing a child only with others of the same age (in years and months). An older child may in fact gain a higher raw score than a younger child, but have a lower standardised score. This is because the older child is being compared with other older children and has a lower performance relative to his/her own age group. This standardisation is based on extensive testing undertaken by the provider.

We do not mark the English and Maths papers of any child achieving less than the age standardised mark of 115* in the Verbal Reasoning as previous experience has showed us that children whose marks are below this will not secure a high enough combined score to be offered a place.

*NB The verbal reasoning test marks are analysed and this minimum mark may be adjusted as a result of this analysis.

Test Results

Results of these academic tests (which will include a breakdown of marks and a ranking) will be sent by letter before the end of October and may be helpful to parents when making their child's school application. Parents who wish to apply for a place at Dame Alice Owen's School **must** include it as one of their preferences when making their child's secondary transfer application via their home Local Authority.