

29 April 2016

## Realising Potential

Dear Parents,

On Tuesday May 2nd you will be receiving your student's [ISA \(International Schools' Assessment\)](#) results. ISA is based on the internationally endorsed reading and mathematical literacy frameworks of the [Programme for International Development \(PISA\)](#) developed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It is designed and developed in Australia by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).

### What are the ISA tests?

Your student took the ISA test in February and the results were externally marked and returned to us. Here is a brief overview of how to understand these results. The main purpose of these tests is to provide data for teachers to use to further enhance student learning within the school. It is one component of the many assessments teachers give to determine your child's overall academic progress.

### Do the ISA tests impact my student's grades?

There is no link between the ISA tests and any grading your student is receiving of work within the PYP or MYP programmes.

### How do I read the reports?

For Mathematical Literacy, Reading, and Writing, the ISA Reference Norm is based on over 64,000 participating students from 312 international schools in 78 countries. The Scientific Literacy test was taken by over 4000 students worldwide.

The **dark blue circle** shows the attainment based on a student's performance on this test.

The green shaded areas show the results of the middle 90% of the students that sat the ISA tests

The **dark green shaded area** band in the middle shows the result of the **middle 50%** of all students at this grade level who took the test around the world.

- If the blue circle is **above** the dark shaded area your student is in the **top 20%** achievement level of those that took the test.
- If the dark circle is **inside** the dark shaded area your student is within the **middle 50%** achievement level of those that took the test.
- If the dark circle is **below** the dark shaded area your student is in the **lower 20%** achievement level of those that took the test.
- If the dark circle falls outside the green bands your student is in the top or bottom 5% of all students who took the test.

The **descriptor** in line with the dot describes what the student demonstrated they were able to do.

### ISS International School

Central Administration and High School  
21 Preston Road, Singapore 109355  
T +65 6475 4188 F +65 6273 7065  
W [www.iss.edu.sg](http://www.iss.edu.sg)

Elementary and Middle Schools  
25 Paterson Road, Singapore 238510  
ES: T +65 6235 5844 F +65 6732 5701  
MS: T +65 6737 6407 F +65 6735 4966



**What do the numbers of the scale mean?**

The scale is marked at intervals of 100. This scale has the same meaning for all grades.

Whatever Grade Level your student is in **the scale score of 500 represents the average score for the half a million 15 year olds in 65 countries who sat the PISA tests.** For example if a grade 7 student and a grade 10 student both have a scale score of 500, regardless of the fact that they sat different tests, they have the same level of ability in relation to the skills that ISA measures. Younger students will thus be expected to have lower average scale scores on the PISA/ISA scale than older students. It does not matter which ISA test a student takes, their scale score will show their performance relative to the 500 mean for PISA 15 year olds.

Best regards,

Derek Pinchbeck  
Elementary School Principal

Tim Walsh  
Middle School Principal

Nicola Zulu  
High School Principal