

# Going Global international education conference

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010

## How can institutions use league tables to improve performance?

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# Summary

- > The 1994 Group at a glance
- > Why do league tables matter in a Higher Education market?
- > The 1994 Group and league tables - taking advantage of the market
- > Performance management and the role of league tables

# 1994 Group Institutions at a glance

- > Members are small to medium size (10,000 students on average) full spectrum institutions
- > World-leading research is conducted. 57% is RAE rated 4\* '**world-leading**' or 3\* '**internationally excellent**'. In 17 major subject areas 1994 Group universities were the UK leaders achieving **1st place** in their field (THE RAE subject rankings 2008).
- > An excellent student experience. **7** of top **10** Universities in the NSS are **1994 Group** members
- > High quality research-led teaching. The vast majority of world-class research faculty teach students.

# Why do league tables matter in a Higher Education market?

- > Universities in the UK face market-oriented conditions at home and abroad, with competition for the best staff and students intensifying each year.
- > Scrutiny of the sector through the **Research Assessment exercise**, full economic costing of research grants, quality audit and the **National Student Survey** make higher education one of the most intensely monitored sectors in the country.
- > **In this market, Funding Follows Success**
- > In this context, it is essential that institutions do all they can to enhance their competitive position and achieve world-beating operational standards.

## 1994 Group taking advantage of the Market: In the last 15 years (according to Times Good University Guide)

- > To name but a few....
- > Exeter has **improved 30** places
- > Leicester has **risen by 17** places
- > St Andrews has **gone up 12**
- > East Anglia has **increased by 11**
- > Loughborough **increased by 8**; and
- > Lancaster has **climbed 5.**
- > **Importantly, funding for all has followed success**

# Taking Advantage of the Market: 1994 Group League Table Achievements 2009

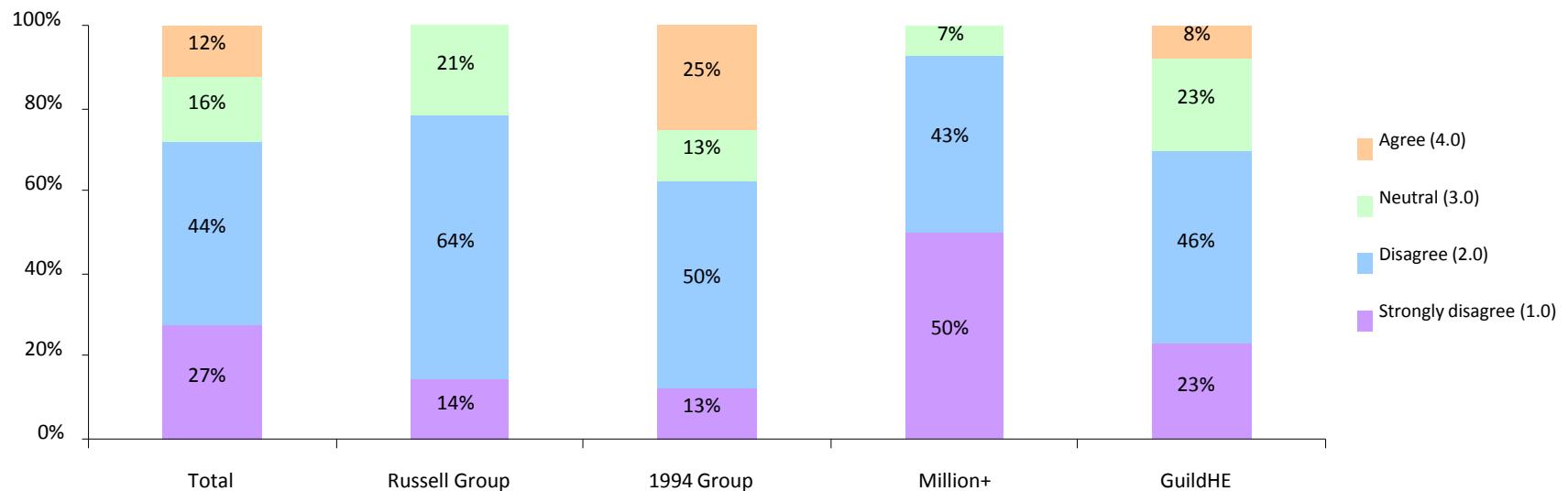
- > **10 of the top 18** universities in The Guardian University Guide
- > **11 of the top 25** universities in The Complete University Guide published in the Independent
- > **Top in six regions of the UK** in The Times Good University Guide
- > **9 of the top 200** universities in the world in the Times Higher World University Rankings

# Performance Management

- > National Indicators such as **RAE** and **NSS** are central to institutional performance management
- > Coupled with analysis of nationally collected data sets detailing institutional performance (available on line in user focused form)
- > Use of peer comparisons through use of national HE 'mission' groupings
- > League Tables (both national and international) play an important role in **measuring achievement** rather than **driving performance**

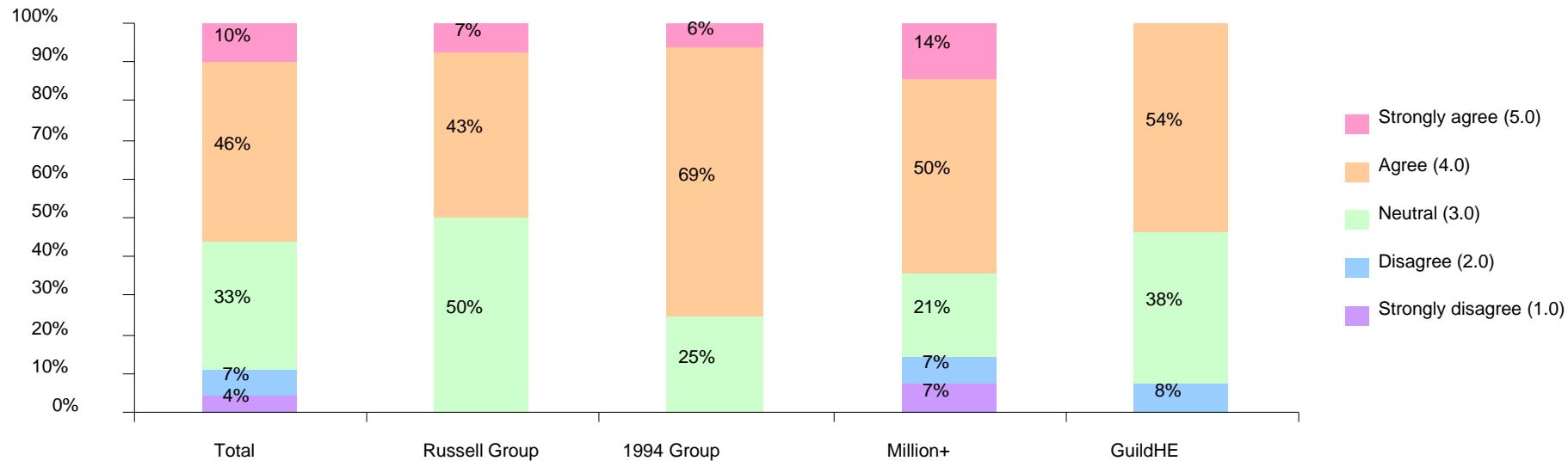
# Performance Management: The role of League Tables

Rankings provide a valuable means of public accountability for higher education institutions, and help to distinguish the ‘good’ from the ‘bad’



# Performance Management: The Role of League Tables

Reflecting on the changes you have made, how much do you agree or disagree with the following: The institution would have probably made these changes but the published rankings gave impetus to our actions?



# **Conclusions: How can institutions use league tables to improve performance?**

- › The market creates an environment where league tables matter
- › 1994 Group institutions are taking advantage of the market
- › Institutions can use league tables to measure achievement and benchmark

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## **How can institutions use league tables to improve performance?**

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