

Subject-Based Banding (SBB)

Information for Parents

Education Minister Ng Chee Meng @ MOE 2017 Committee Of Supply Debate



“ . .. I recognise that we cannot take a one-size-fits-all approach. We have increased porosity across the various courses. For late bloomers, they can transfer to a more demanding course if they are able to cope with the academic requirements of the course.

For students with uneven strengths across their subjects, they can stretch themselves in their areas of strength through subject-based banding.

These are all ways to ensure that our students are not held back but instead are better supported in realising their potential.”

What is Subject-Based Banding (SBB)?

- Every student is unique and possesses different strengths. Taking subjects at a higher academic level can help students nurture their strengths and give them more opportunities throughout their educational journey, so that they are more engaged in learning.
- Previously, students in N(A) and N(T) courses can take higher-level subjects starting from Secondary 3. With SBB, your child can start doing so from the start of Secondary 1, to build a stronger foundation in subjects that they are good at.



What are the possible benefits of taking higher-level subjects?

- Some students (and parents) have shared that SBB allows the students to challenge themselves, and to have **more options** for Sec 3 subject combinations and post-secondary courses.
- A **strong foundation in literacy, numeracy and reasoning**, would ensure students are better prepared for various post-secondary progression pathways (e.g. to ITE and Polytechnic).

Eligibility Criteria and Opting into SBB

- Eligible N(A) and N(T) students should have received an offer letter, based on the following criteria:

Course	PSLE Standard Grade	PSLE Foundation Grade	Option to offer subject at
N(A)	A*, A	-	Express
N(T)	A*, A	-	Express/ N(A)
	B, C	1	N(A)

- Each student should take no more than 3 higher-level subjects so as to ensure that he/she can cope with the overall academic demands.

Other Opportunities to Take Higher-Level Subjects

- Beyond the start of Sec 1, students who do well in school-based examinations may be considered to take higher-level subjects if found suitable to do so by our school.
- Eligible N(A) and N(T) students will receive an application form after the Sec 1 mid-year or year-end examinations, based on the following criteria:
 - **75% or higher in the subject;**
 - **60% or higher in the overall average; and**
 - **Positive learning attitude to cope with the higher academic demand**
- Our school will provide support through bridging programmes for these new SBB students.


What if my child struggles with the higher-level subject?

- Students are encouraged to continue with the higher-level subjects until the end of Sec 2, as students do need time to adjust to the higher academic demands.
- Our school will monitor students' progress in the higher-level subjects as well as overall progress in all subjects.
- Our school is mindful of students' socio-emotional and academic needs and will endeavour to provide the necessary support to students to help them cope.

TODAY MENU

A struggle at first, but taking higher-level subjects helped boost confidence

By FARIS MOKHTAR



Jurong Secondary student Ismahani Azmi, 15, struggled with taking higher-level subjects when she first entered secondary school, but has seen her confidence blossom from the experience, with some help from her teachers, including Mdm Siti Hawa Zaini, her Malay language teacher (seated). PHOTO: FARIS MOKHTAR

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What does the offer letter look like?

APPLICATION TO OFFER SUBJECT(S) AT A HIGHER LEVEL IN SEC 1

Name of pupil:

NRIC/FIN No.:

School: SECONDARY SCHOOL

Sec 1 Course: NORMAL(TECHNICAL)

Please put a tick (✓) in the box where applicable:

I wish to offer ENGLISH LANGUAGE at the **NORMAL (ACADEMIC)** level.

I wish to offer CHINESE LANGUAGE at the **EXPRESS / NORMAL (ACADEMIC)*** level.

*Please delete accordingly.

Submission of Offer Letter

- Please complete the offer letter to indicate the subjects your child wishes to take (or not to take) at a higher level. Submit the completed form to the **General Office** or **Mr Tan Kee Seng (SBB Coordinator)** latest by **Wednesday, 27 Dec 2017**.



Thank
You

A blue paper cutout with the words "Thank You" in white, hanging from a string. The text is in a bold, rounded, sans-serif font. The cutout has a decorative, bubbly border. A small metal ring is attached to the top of the cutout, and a thin brown string is threaded through it, hanging from the top of the frame.