

## Briefing for Parents of Secondary 3 Students

### Frequently Asked Questions

<b>Educational Pathways and Admission Criteria</b>	
<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
1) What are the criteria for Secondary 3 students to be promoted to Secondary 4?	<p>The promotion criteria are as follows:</p> <p>Secondary 3 Express to Secondary 4 Express:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Grade 6 or better in English and 2 other subjects, OR</li> <li>b) Failed English but obtained Grade 6 or better in 5 other subjects</li> </ul> <p>Secondary 3 Normal (Academic) [N(A)] to Secondary 4 N(A):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Grade 5 or better in English and 2 other subjects, OR</li> <li>b) Grade 5 or better in 4 subjects</li> </ul> <p>Secondary 3 Normal (Technical) [N(T)] to Secondary 4 N(T):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Grade 5 or better in 2 subjects, one of which must be English or Math</li> </ul>
2) Can a student in the Secondary 3 N(A) course be promoted to the Secondary 4 Express course?	<p>There is currently no option for Sec 3 N(A) students to be promoted directly to Secondary 4 Express. The curriculum in the Secondary 3 Express course has a broader and more in-depth coverage compared to the Secondary 3 N(A) course. By the end of Secondary 3, these differences would be substantial and could be challenging for Secondary 3 N(A) students to catch up on the additional content and skills and bridge the gap in the remaining one year at Secondary 4 before the GCE O Level Examinations. This could potentially disadvantage the students in their GCE O Level performance.</p> <p>Secondary 4 N(A) students may pursue the following alternative pathways after completing their GCE N Level Examinations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP): This allows eligible students to enter a polytechnic diploma programme after Secondary 4 N(A).</li> <li>b) Direct Entry Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP): This is a 2-year Higher Nitec course that prepares students for future polytechnic studies and beyond.</li> <li>c) Secondary 5 N(A): Students can continue to Secondary 5 to take O-Levels, which may lead to Junior College or other post-secondary options.</li> </ul> <p>These pathways provide N(A) students with opportunities to pursue higher education aligned with their academic strengths and career aspirations.</p>
3) What are the post-secondary education options for N(T) students, particularly	<p>The common pathway for N(T) students after the completion of their GCE N Level Examinations is to enrol in the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) for Nitec or Higher Nitec courses. After completing ITE, students can apply to polytechnics for diploma programmes, depending on their results and course preferences. ITE graduates who have</p>

<p>with regard to polytechnic education?</p>	<p>attained Nitec or Higher Nitec certifications may apply for the ITE Technical Diploma or ITE Work-Study Diploma programmes. Some ITE courses have articulation pathways with specific polytechnic diplomas, allowing for more seamless progression. Even if students don't immediately qualify for polytechnic after ITE, they can gain work experience and apply later as working adults. Various schemes exist for working adults to pursue further education, including part-time diploma programmes at polytechnics.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, Secondary 3 N(T) students may have the opportunity to laterally transfer to the Secondary 3 N(A) course if they have performed exceptionally well and demonstrated the ability to cope with a more demanding N(A) course. This could potentially open up more direct routes to polytechnic education after the GCE N Level Examinations. However, this lateral transfer would add an additional year to the student's secondary education.</p> <p>Parents could explore post-secondary options with their child, considering their interest, strengths and aspirations. Our ECG counsellor is available for individual sessions to help students who need more personalised advice on their post-secondary options and career aspirations.</p>
--	--

**Preparation for National Examinations**

<p>4) How does the school prepare students for the National Examinations?</p>	<p>At Unity Secondary, we strive to develop every Unitian holistically nurturing them to be lifelong learners. Our aim is to nurture individuals who not only excel academically but also possess the values and skills to thrive in an ever-changing world.</p> <p>We focus on developing students as active learners who take ownership of their learning and engage in active and collaborative learning from Secondary 1. This early groundwork is crucial for students to develop strong academic foundations, cultivate strong learning habits, critical thinking skills and nurture the love for learning.</p> <p>Character coaches work closely with and guide students in setting meaningful targets based on their post-secondary education aspirations. Study strategies to manage learning and revision effectively are also shared by Year Heads regularly. For students who require more support, there are after-school academic interventions for specific subjects.</p> <p>In the lead-up to the National Examinations at Secondary 4, academic support programmes are in place, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Friday intervention programme which includes weekly timed practice after CCA stands down.</li> <li>b) Intensive coursework sessions during Term 2 Leadership Learning Week to ensure students complete as much of their coursework as possible.</li> <li>c) Intensive revision for non-coursework students during Term 2 Leadership Learning Week.</li> </ul>
---	--

	<p>Besides the academic support programmes, we also support the social-emotional needs of our students through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Regular check-ins by Character Coaches on students' well-being</li> <li>b) Sharing by School Counsellors on stress management strategies</li> </ul>
<p>5) How can I support my child in managing stress and workload leading up to examinations?</p>	<p>To support their child at home, parents could consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Foster open communication: Create a non-judgmental space where your child can freely discuss academic challenges and concerns. Regularly check in on their progress and well-being.</li> <li>b) Discuss post-secondary plans: Engage in conversations about your child's goals and aspirations to help them maintain focus and motivation.</li> <li>c) Encourage organisational skills: Help your child develop time management techniques by introducing tools like planners or to-do lists. This will enable them to balance schoolwork with necessary breaks and relaxation.</li> <li>d) Provide emotional support: Acknowledge the stress your child may be experiencing and reassure them that challenges are a normal part of the learning process. Promote a growth mindset by framing mistakes as opportunities for improvement.</li> <li>e) Emphasise well-being: Remind your child that their overall well-being is just as important as academic achievement. Encourage a healthy lifestyle with adequate sleep, proper nutrition, and regular exercise.</li> <li>f) Promote help-seeking behaviour: Encourage your child to seek academic assistance from teachers or emotional support from school counsellors when needed.</li> <li>g) Establish a conducive study environment: Help create a quiet, comfortable space at home for studying and revision.</li> <li>h) Monitor and limit distractions: Set boundaries on potential distractions such as excessive screen time or social media use during study periods.</li> <li>i) Celebrate progress: Acknowledge and celebrate your child's efforts and achievements, no matter how small, to boost their confidence and motivation.</li> </ul>
<p>6) How can I help my child cultivate effective learning techniques and habits?</p>	<p>Parents could help their children stay focused and motivated in their learning with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Establish consistent routines: Develop a balanced study schedule that includes regular breaks and time for personal interests. Consistency often leads to improved focus and productivity.</li> <li>b) Encourage active learning: Promote use of thinking tools and graphic organisers (as shared in the Student Handbook) such as Frayers' Model, Y-chart, claim-evidence-reasoning.</li> <li>c) Foster effective study habits: Promote spaced repetition and regular review. Teach time management and goal-setting skills</li> <li>d) Create an optimal learning environment: Set up a distraction-free study space. Set boundaries on potential distractions such as excessive screen time or social media use during study periods.</li> </ul>

	<p>e) Nurturing a positive learning mindset: Foster a growth mindset and embrace mistakes as learning opportunities. Encourage self-reflection and strategy adjustment.</p> <p>f) Support physical and mental well-being: Ensure adequate sleep nutrition and exercise. Promote a healthy balance between academics and other activities.</p>
<b>Subject-Specific Information</b>	
7) How are Pure Science subjects and Combined Science considered admission to Junior Colleges?	<p>Pure Science subjects can be beneficial for students aiming to pursue science courses in Junior Colleges. For instance, some topics covered in Pure Science subjects at O-Levels are considered assumed knowledge for A-Levels Science courses in Junior Colleges.</p> <p>To be eligible for admission to a JC via JAE or DSA-JC, a student must meet the following 2 criteria:</p> <p>a) L1R5 gross aggregate score must not exceed 20.</p> <p>b) Meet the grade requirements for specific subjects.</p> <p>L1R5 gross aggregate score = First Language (L1)+ Relevant Subject 1 (R1) + R2 + R3 + R4 + R5  L1 - English or Higher Mother Tongue Language  R1 - Any 1 best-scoring subject from Humanities  R2 - Any 1 best-scoring subject from Mathematics or Science  R3 - Any 1 best-scoring subject from Humanities, Mathematics or Science  R4, R5 - Any 2 best-scoring subjects except <a href="#">Religious Knowledge</a></p> <p>Students taking two Pure Science subjects may have an advantage as they can count one Pure Science subject as a relevant subject (e.g. R2) and the other as an additional subject (e.g. R3).</p> <p>Some Junior Colleges may have specific requirements of students' results in the Pure Science subjects or the Combined Science to offer the relevant science subject at H1/H2/H3 levels.</p>
8) If my child is struggling to cope with the pure science subjects, it is possible to switch to combined science instead?	<p>Students may choose to offer Combined Science if they find it challenging to cope with Pure Science subjects. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Pure Science subjects can be beneficial for students aiming to pursue science or science-related courses in Polytechnics or Junior Colleges. For instance, some topics covered in Pure Science subjects at O-Levels are considered assumed knowledge for A-Levels Science courses in Junior Colleges. While students who offer Combined Science can still move on to take H2 Science at the A-Levels, they may need to undertake additional self-study to bridge any knowledge gaps.</p>
<b>Co-Curricular Activities (CCA)</b>	
9) What is the frequency of CCA sessions?	CCA schedules may vary depending on the specific activity and time of year. We strongly encourage parents to communicate regularly with

	<p>their children about their CCA commitments, including training days, times, and any upcoming events or competitions.</p> <p>Detailed information about CCA training dates and venues is available on our school website at:  <a href="https://www.unitysec.moe.edu.sg/students/CCA/trainingdays-venues/">https://www.unitysec.moe.edu.sg/students/CCA/trainingdays-venues/</a></p> <p>Please note that while the online schedule provides a general overview, there may occasionally be changes due to special events, competitions, or other circumstances. Students will be informed of these changes during CCA sessions or through their CCA teachers.</p> <p>If there are specific queries about the CCA that may not be found in the online information, parents can contact the respective CCA teacher-in-charge to find out more.</p>
<p>10) Does the school arrange for overseas learning journeys?</p>	<p>With the emphasis on developing 21st Century Competencies (21CC), the school aims to develop our students' global awareness and cross-cultural skills. Overseas learning journeys are powerful learning experiences for the students to reflect and deepen their commitment and rootedness to Singapore. These overseas learning journeys are organized and open to Secondary 2 and 3 students. More information will be shared with parents and students in Term 3 regarding the selection process and preparation for the overseas learning journeys.</p>
<p><b>School Communication</b></p>	
<p>11) How can parents stay updated on class end times and other school activities?</p>	<p>Parents can stay updated on class end times and other school activities through several channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Parents are encouraged to regularly check and communicate with their children about their daily schedules. This helps ensure you're aware of any changes or special activities that may affect pick-up times or after-school arrangements.</li> <li>b) Class end times may vary daily depending on the timetable. The full class timetables are available on our school website at:  <a href="https://www.unitysec.moe.edu.sg/students/students-resources/classtimetable/">https://www.unitysec.moe.edu.sg/students/students-resources/classtimetable/</a>. Please note that while the online timetable is generally up-to-date, there may occasionally be short-term changes due to special events or unforeseen circumstances. Students will be informed of these changes in school.</li> <li>c) Our Unity Home School Connect provides parents with an overview of the events and programmes planned in each term. Should there be any changes to the calendar, the school will inform parents through their child and/or Parents' Gateway.</li> </ul> <p>If there are specific queries about their child's schedule that may not be found on the online timetable, parents can contact child's Character Coaches to find out more.</p>
<p>12) Where can parents find information, e.g. dates, about the</p>	<p>Parents can access the details on the Weighted Assessments available on our school website at:  <a href="https://www.unitysec.moe.edu.sg/students/Students-Resources/assessment/">https://www.unitysec.moe.edu.sg/students/Students-Resources/assessment/</a></p>

<p>Weighted Assessment?</p>	<p>On this page, parents will find a detailed schedule of all Weighted Assessments, including specific dates for each subject and level. We encourage parents to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Bookmark this page for easy reference throughout the academic year.</li><li>b) Review the schedule with their child regularly to help them plan their study time effectively.</li></ul> <p>Note that while we strive to adhere to this schedule, there may occasionally be changes due to unforeseen circumstances. Any such changes will be communicated to students in class.</p> <p>If there are questions about the assessment schedule, parents can contact their child's Character Coaches to find out more.</p>
-----------------------------	---