



# Subject-Based Banding (SBB) Briefing 2024





# What is Subject-Based Banding (SBB)?

- Every student is unique and possesses different strengths. Taking subjects at a more demanding level can help students nurture their strengths and give them more opportunities throughout their educational journey, so that they are more engaged in learning.

**SCHOOLBAG**  
THE EDUCATION NEWS SITE

☰ TUESDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> DEC 🔍

## Providing Greater Flexibility with Subject-Based Banding

17 MAR 2017

Miss Donna Koh of CHIJ St Theresa's Convent shares about the importance of working in partnership with parents to provide opportunities for students to cope academically and emotionally.



# Offering Subjects at More Demanding Levels

## *At the start of Secondary One:*

Students can be offered **English Language, Mother Tongue Languages, Mathematics and/or Science**, at the start of Secondary 1 at a more demanding level if they meet the eligibility criteria based on PSLE grades.



<b>Eligibility criteria for <u>English Language, Mathematics, Science, Mother Tongue Languages</u></b>			
<b>Posting Group</b>	<b>PSLE Standard grade</b>	<b>PSLE Foundation grade</b>	<b>Option to offer subject at</b>
PG2	AL 5 or better	-	G3
PG1	AL 5 or better	-	G2 / G3
	AL 6	AL A	G2



# Offering Subjects at More Demanding Levels

## *Beyond the start of Secondary One*

From Secondary 2 (S2), students will also be able to offer **Humanities subjects** (Geography, History, and Literature in English) at a more demanding level. The criteria for taking Humanities at a more demanding level will be based on students' aptitude for and interest in these subjects at Sec 1.

<u>Humanities</u>		
Current subject level	School-based results	Option to offer subject at
G1	≥ 75% overall in G1 English Language (or ≥50% overall in G2 English Language) & A Pass with Distinction grade for both G1 Humanities (Social Studies component) Performance Tasks in Semesters 1 and 2	G2
G2	75% or higher in specific subject	G3



## Other Opportunities to Take Subjects at More Demanding Level (Lower Secondary)

- Beyond the start of Sec 1, students can also take subjects (English Language, Mathematics, Science and/or Mother Tongue Languages) at a more demanding level, from Sec 1 Semester 2 / Sec 2 Semester 1.
- Eligible students will receive an application form via PG either after mid-year or after the year-end examinations, based on the following criteria:
  - 75% or higher in the specific subject;
  - Positive learning attitude to cope with the higher academic demand
- Our school will provide support through bridging programmes for these new SBB students.



# Offering Subjects at More Demanding Levels at Upper Secondary

Eligibility criteria for taking subjects at a more demanding level at upper secondary:

Subject level at lower secondary	Subject level for upper secondary												
Offered <b>English Language, Mother Tongue Languages, Mathematics, Science and/or Humanities subjects</b> at a more demanding level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To continue with subject/(s) at the more demanding level if the student scores <math>\geq 50\%</math> in the specific G3/G2 subject</li> </ul>												
Did not offer <b>English Language, Mother Tongue Languages, Mathematics and/or Science</b> at a more demanding level	Could <u>start to offer</u> the subject(s) at a more demanding level from Sec 3 if they are deemed able to cope with the subject based on the following criteria:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1447 993 1742 1118">Current subject level</th> <th data-bbox="1742 993 2104 1118">School-based Sec 2 results</th> <th data-bbox="2104 993 2494 1118">Option to offer subject at</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1447 1118 1742 1239">G2</td> <td data-bbox="1742 1118 2104 1239"><math>\geq 75\%</math> in the specific subject</td> <td data-bbox="2104 1118 2494 1239">G3 starting from next semester</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1447 1239 1742 1359">G1</td> <td data-bbox="1742 1239 2104 1359"><math>\geq 75\%</math> in the specific subject</td> <td data-bbox="2104 1239 2494 1359">G2 starting from next semester</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Current subject level	School-based Sec 2 results	Option to offer subject at	G2	$\geq 75\%$ in the specific subject	G3 starting from next semester	G1	$\geq 75\%$ in the specific subject	G2 starting from next semester		
Current subject level	School-based Sec 2 results	Option to offer subject at											
G2	$\geq 75\%$ in the specific subject	G3 starting from next semester											
G1	$\geq 75\%$ in the specific subject	G2 starting from next semester											



# Offering Subjects at More Demanding Levels at Upper Secondary (Humanities)

Eligibility criteria for taking subjects at a more demanding level at upper secondary:

## Subject level for upper secondary

Students could take up Humanities subject(s) at a more demanding level from Sec 3 if they are deemed able to cope with the subject based on the following criteria:

Current subject level	School-based results	Option to offer subject at
G2	75% or higher in specific subject	G3
G1	≥ 75% overall in G1 English Language (or ≥50% overall in G2 English Language) & A Pass with Distinction grade for both G1 Humanities (Social Studies component) Performance Tasks in Semesters 1 and 2	G2



# What are the possible benefits of taking subjects at a more demanding level?

- 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).

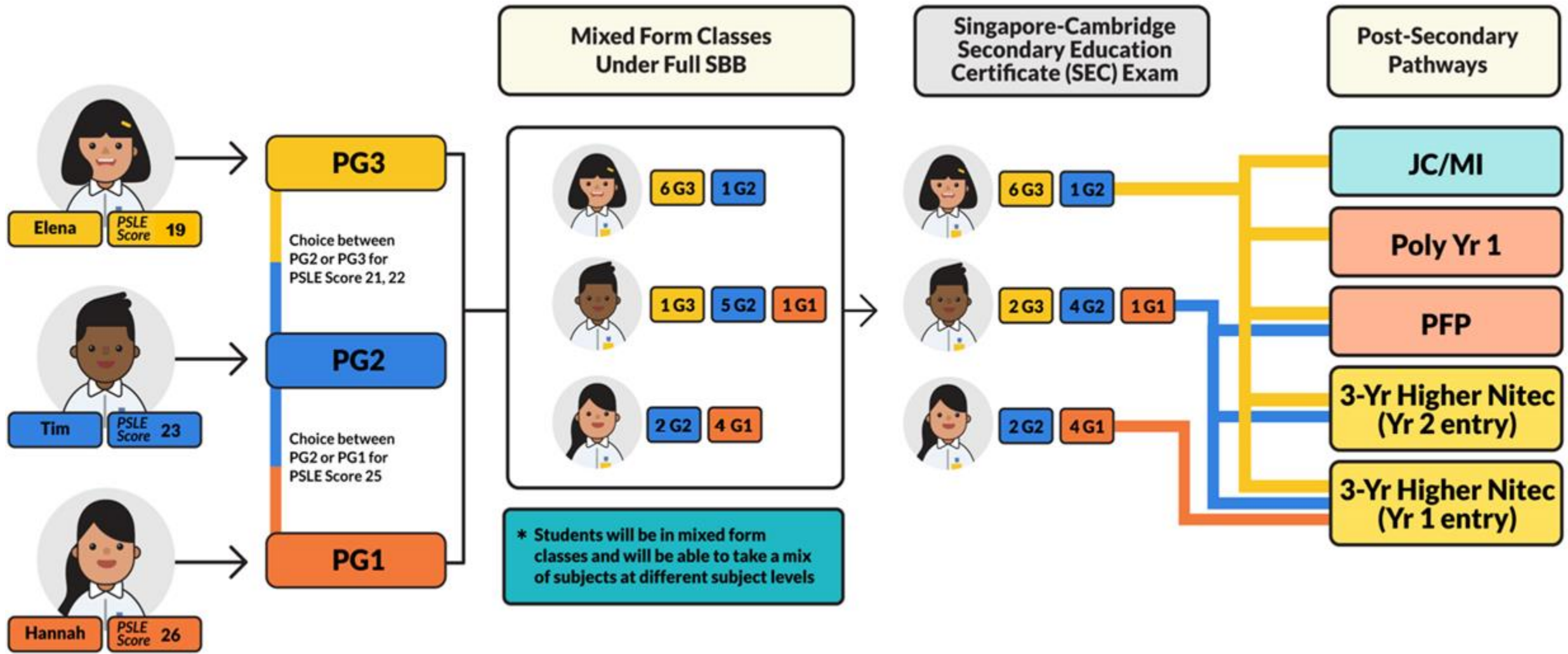




## Eligibility Criteria and Opting into SBB

- Eligible students should have received a PG notification.
- Please indicate Yes/No against the subject(s) your child wishes to take (or not to take) at a more demanding level. Please indicate via Parents Gateway (PG) by **27 Dec 2024**.

# What Could Students' Secondary School Experience Look Like with Full Subject-Based Banding?



# Changes to Post-secondary School Admissions

## Increased access to post-secondary pathways

Students taking at least	POST-SEC PATHWAYS					
	3-year ITE Higher Nitec	Year 2 of 3-year ITE Higher Nitec	Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP)	Polytechnic Year 1	Millennia Institute	Junior College
6 G3 subjects	✓	✓	NEW ✓	✓	✓	✓
5 G3 subjects	✓	✓	NEW ✓	✓	✓	
4 G3 + 1 G2 subjects	✓	✓	NEW ✓	NEW ✓		
5 G2 subjects	✓	✓	✓			
4 G1 subjects	✓	NEW* ✓				

The infographic includes a footnote (\*For students who meet ITE's Year 1 academic requirements) which states that entry into ITE Year 2 for students with 4 G1 subjects depends on them meeting ITE's academic requirements in Year 1.

Students who offer 4 G1 subjects may first progress to Year 1 of the 3-year Higher Nitec. Those who meet academic requirements during their Year 1 Semester 1 examinations may be offered the option for in-flight acceleration, which allows direct progression directly to Year 2 in the following semester.



\*For students who meet ITE's Year 1 academic requirements

# Admissions to Polytechnic Year 1

- From 2028, one 'Best' [B] subject can be fulfilled at G2 or G3 as part of the aggregate score for admission to Polytechnic Year 1
  - Students who offer both [B] subjects at G3 will have the [B] subject with a lower grade mapped from G3 to G2 based on a grade mapping table.
  - Correspondingly, the net aggregate cut-off will be adjusted from 26 points to 22 points.

<b>Grade Mapping Table (G3 to G2)</b>	
<b>G3</b>	<b>G2</b>
A1, A2, B3	1
B4, C5, C6	2
D7	3
E8	4
9	5
-	6

# What if my child struggles with the subject at more demanding level?

- Students are encouraged to continue with the subjects at the more demanding level until the end of Sec 2, as students need time to adjust to the higher academic demands.
- Our school will monitor the students' progress in the subjects at the more demanding level as well as overall progress in all the other 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.





# Will my child continue with the subject(s) at the more demanding level all the way to Sec 4?

- Your child may continue with the corresponding subject(s) at the more demanding level at upper secondary if he/she meets our school's criteria at the end of Sec 2 (at least 50% for the subject).



# Buying of books for SBB

- Students opting to take subject at a more demanding level need to **only buy** the relevant books for the subject/level.
- Once parents have decided on taking up the SBB option and indicated the option via Parents Gateway, parents may proceed to **order the books online** or head to **the school bookshop** to purchase the books.

Mode	Dates for purchase of books	Time	Comments
Walk-in/ Pick up (Order at oapl.sg)	 Friday, 20 Dec 2024, Monday, 23 Dec 2024 Thursday, 26 Dec 2024 Friday, 27 Dec 2024	9am – 3pm	Payment Mode: Cash, PayNow (SGQR), NTUC Care Fund e-Voucher, CDAC e-Voucher  Bring your own bag. Plastic bag will be chargeable.





**THANK YOU!**

