



Subject-Based Banding (SBB)

Information for Parents



What is Subject-Based Banding (SBB)?

Subject-Based Banding (Secondary) [SBB] is one of many ways for students to nurture their aptitudes throughout their educational journey. SBB allows your child to take English Language, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue Language at a more demanding level when he/she enters Secondary 1, based on his/her performance in these subjects at the PSLE. If he/she is in the N(A) or N(T) course, he/she may be able to take some subjects at Express or N(A) Level to allow him/her to stretch himself/herself and acquire deeper competencies.



Eligibility Criteria for Opting into SBB

- Based on their PSLE performance, eligible N(A) and N(T) students should have received an application form, based on the following criteria:

Option to take a subject at	PSLE Subject Grade under the AL system
Express level	AL 5 or better in a Standard level subject
N(A) level	AL 6 or better in a Standard level subject or AL A in a Foundation level subject

- 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

- Besides the start of Secondary 1, it is also possible for students to be offered SBB during their course of study. They will need to meet the school's academic criteria by doing well in school-based assessments in respective subjects and be assessed holistically by their teachers.
- Successful students will be identified in the middle or end of the year in Secondary 1, and end of the year in Secondary 2.





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 Secondary 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).





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

- Students are encouraged to continue with the higher-level subjects **until the end of Secondary 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 provide the necessary support to students to help them cope.





Will my child continue with the higher-level subjects all the way to Sec 4?

- Your child may continue with the corresponding higher-level subject, referred to as **Out-of-stream (OoS) subject** at Upper Secondary if he/she meets the school academic criteria and teachers' professional judgement at the end of Secondary 2.
- It is important to understand it is critical to do well for all subjects instead of excelling in only 1 or 2 subjects at upper secondary due to the national exams and progression pathways. Students should consider their subject results and overall result carefully before making a decision.





Thank you

For any queries, please call the school GO at 68815047.

