

Catering to your child's abilities through Subject-Based Banding

31 August 2021



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AGENDA

- Subject-based Banding (SBB)
 - What is SBB
 - How it works
 - Considerations, Recommendations and Options Offered
- Progression to Secondary School
 - How PSLE Scoring Works
 - Scoring for Foundation Subjects
 - How Secondary 1 Posting Works
 - Eligibility for Higher MTL in Secondary Schools
- Question and Answer Session
- Feedback



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House-Keeping Matters

- Hold your queries to the Q&A segment at the end of the session
 - Type your comments/queries in the chat function
 - OR : unmute yourself to pose your question
 - Panelist will provide the best possible response
- Scan the QR Code at the end of the presentation to give us your feedback on the session



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Our Panelist



Mr Enoch Lau
Principal



Mr Sunny Ho
Vice-Principal



Mr Md Faisal
YH/Mid Pri



Mrs Rachel Long
HOD/Science



Mrs Sharon Chan
HOD/Math



Mr Seet CS
HOD/MTL



Mr Johnson Chee
HOD/PE & CCA



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Why introduce Subject-based Banding?

“We recognise different abilities... and help each student to proceed at a pace that he can manage.”



Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam
Minister for Education, 2006



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Why introduce Subject-based Banding?

Every child is unique, and has different capabilities and talents. Our schools believe in providing a balanced education that caters to the different abilities of each child so that we can prepare him for life.

Subject-based banding is a refinement to the streaming process to help each child realise his potential, based on his strengths and needs.



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What does Subject-based Banding mean for students?



- **More flexibility** for students with strengths and abilities that vary across subjects
- Offers students the **option of Standard and Foundation subjects** depending on their strengths
- Allows students to **focus on and stretch their potential** in the subjects they are strong in, while **building up the fundamentals** in the subject they need more support in
- **Greater interaction** among students with different strengths



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How Subject-based Banding Works



- School recommends a subject combination based on student's Primary 4 school-based examination results.
- Parents fill up an option form indicating the preferred combination



- Student takes subject combination chosen by parents



- Student takes subject combination decided by his/her school and sits for the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) at the end of Primary 6



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SBB Recommendation

- Student's **aptitude, motivation and performance** in each subject
- Student's **ability to cope** with a particular **subject combination** (at P5 and P6)
- Whether the subject combination **focusses sufficiently** on **literacy and numeracy**, and facilitates the student's **articulation to a secondary school and beyond**.



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Subjects Offered at Primary 5 & 6

Mother Tongue
Language

English
Language

Mathematics

Science

Higher
Standard
Foundation



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Difference Between Standard Subject and corresponding Foundation Subject

- Foundation subjects puts **focus** on the **mastery of core content and skills**, from which higher skills are built upon in the secondary school
- Foundation subjects are **pitched at a lower level** compared to the corresponding standard subject



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Offering Foundation Subjects

- Offering subjects at Foundation level is **not a disadvantage** to students.
- It enables them to focus on **building up strong fundamentals** in these subjects and better prepares them **to progression to secondary** school.



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Considerations for Higher MTL

- Is student **coping well** in the standard subjects, i.e.: English, Math, Science and MTL?
- Should student be spending **more time** in the **standard subjects**, rather than on an addition subject (HMTL) and perhaps, pursue **other interests**?
- Does student have an **interest** and a **flair** for the MTL?
- Overall **student well-being** and balanced lifestyle



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Recommendation Considerations – Performance in the Subject

P4 Achievement Band	Mark Range	Brief Description
Band 1	85 and greater	Is very good in the subject
Band 2	70 - 84	Is good in the subject
Band 3	50 - 69	Has adequate grasp of the subject
Band 4	Below 50	Has not met the minimum requirements for the subject



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Five Subject Combinations GYPS Offers

Option (Subject Combination)	Subject (Standard / Foundation)				
	English	Math	Science	MTL	Higher MTL
1. (4S + HMTL)	Std	Std	Std	Std	√
2. (4S)	Std	Std	Std	Std	-
3. (3S + FMTL)	Std	Std	Std	Fdn	-
4. (3F + 1S(MTL))	Fdn	Fdn	Fdn	Std	-
5. (4F)	Fdn	Fdn	Fdn	Fdn	-

S / Std : Standard

F / Fdn : Foundation

MTL : Mother Tongue Language



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How Subject-based Banding Works

Pupil takes a subject combination determined by the school

End of P5

Pupils who do very well

Pupils who do not meet expectations

All other pupils

upgrade or continue with the same subject combination

switch some subjects to foundation level

continue with the same subject combination

Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE)

End of P6



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Requirement for Higher MTL at P6

- Students who take Higher MTL at P5 and are **not doing well in all subjects**, will be told to discontinue
- To **continue with Higher MTL at Primary 6**, students must **score a good pass in Standard MTL** and at least a **pass in Higher MTL**.



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Progression to Secondary School



- Progression to secondary level **depends** on child's **PSLE performance**
- If he excels in his subjects, he has the opportunity to **pursue higher level options** in secondary school



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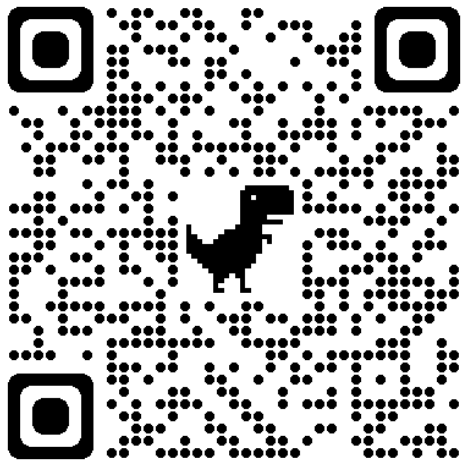


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Direct School Admission – Secondary (DSA-SEC)

- Allows students to seek admission to a secondary school on the basis of talents and achievements other than PSLE results



- Enable students to enter academic and non-academic programmes in secondary schools that can develop the students in these areas (e.g.: sports and games, leadership and uniform groups, etc)
- For more information, do visit :
<https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/dsa>



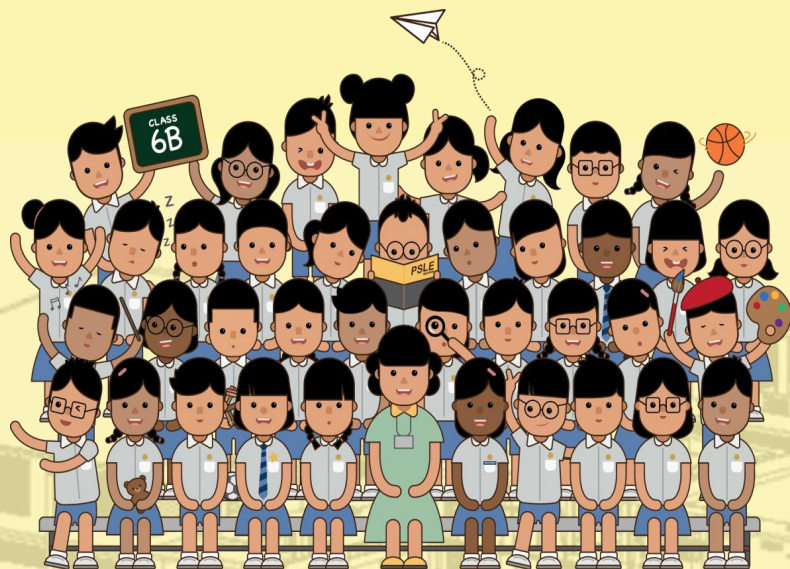
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Progression to Secondary School



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OVERVIEW

- How PSLE Scoring Works
- Scoring for Foundation Subjects
- How S1 Posting Works
- Eligibility for Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMTL) in Secondary Schools



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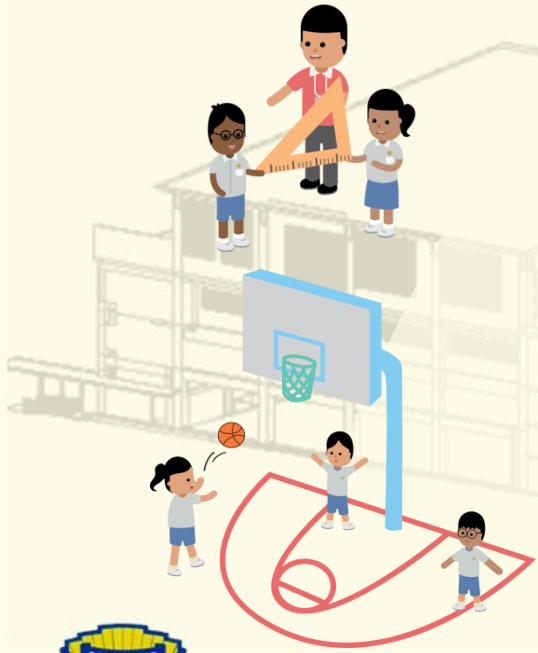
PSLE Changes are Part of a Bigger Story



Over the years, we have been fine-tuning the education system to help our students discover and develop their strengths and interests, while moving away from an over-emphasis on academic results.

Our PSLE scoring changes aim to:

- Reduce fine differentiation at a young age
- Recognise students' level of achievement, regardless of how their peers have done



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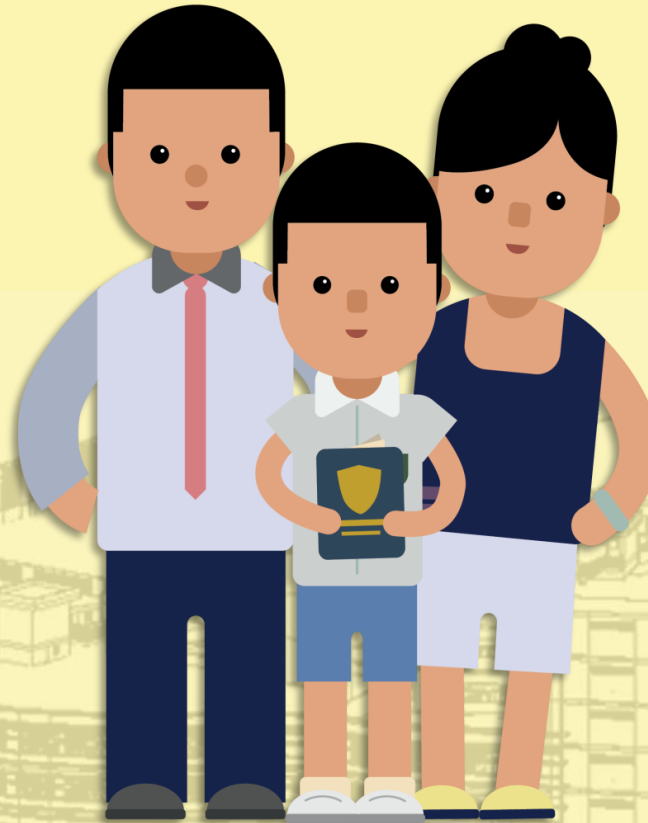
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How PSLE Scoring Works



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AL	RAW MARK RANGE
1	≥ 90
2	85 – 89
3	80 – 84
4	75 – 79
5	65 – 74
6	45 – 64
7	20 – 44
8	< 20

Achievement Levels

Reduces fine differentiation of students

- Students with similar scores in each subject will be grouped into wider bands measured in 8 ALs.

Reflects a student's individual level of achievement

- Unlike the current T-score, the students' AL for each subject will reflect their level of achievement, rather than how they have performed relative to their peers.



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Scenario #01 : Student Offering 4 Standard Subjects

4 SUBJECT ALs WILL BE ADDED TO FORM THE PSLE SCORE



ENGLISH	AL3
MOTHER TONGUE	AL2
MATHEMATICS	AL1
SCIENCE	AL2

PSLE SCORE: 8

- The PSLE Score replaces the T-score aggregate.
- The PSLE Score ranges from 4 to 32, with 4 being the best.
- Students will be placed in secondary school courses based on their PSLE score



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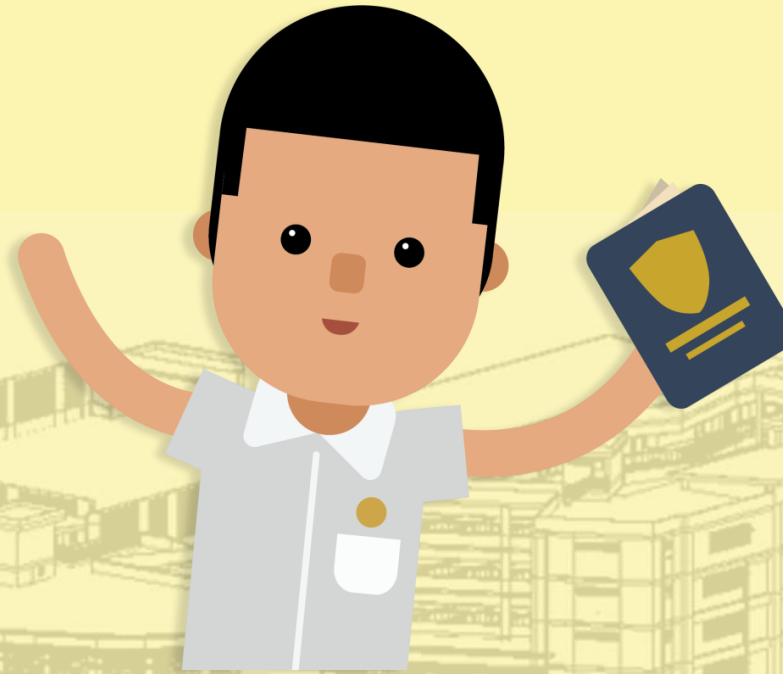
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Scoring for Foundation Level Subjects



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Foundation Level Subject Grades to be Less Finely Differentiated

Foundation Level AL Reflected on Result Slip	Foundation Raw Mark Range
A	75 – 100
B	30 – 74
C	< 30

- Under the new AL system, to reduce fine differentiation among students, Foundation subject grades will be graded in 3 scoring bands from AL A to C.
- Like Standard subject ALs, the Foundation subject ALs will reflect a student's level of achievement, rather than how they have performed relative to their peers.



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Foundation Level Subject Grades

- For the purpose of S1 posting, Foundation level **AL A to AL C** will be mapped to **AL 6 to AL 8 of Standard level subjects** respectively, to derive a student's overall PSLE Score.
- Similar to the current PSLE scoring system, this mapping is based on the learning and assessment load of the subjects, and informs students of their readiness to access the curriculum at the secondary level.

Foundation Level AL Reflected on Result Slip	Foundation Raw Mark Range	Equivalent Standard Subject AL	Standard Raw Mark Range
A	75 – 100	6	45-64
B	30 – 74	7	20-44
C	< 30	8	<20



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Scenario #02 : Student Offering Standard & Foundation Subjects

Scoring of Foundation Subjects for Secondary 1 Posting



ENGLISH AL 3

FOUNDATION AL 7
MOTHER TONGUE
(AL B)

MATHEMATICS AL 6

SCIENCE AL 6

PSLE SCORE: 22

- A student's PSLE Score is the sum of the four AL scores across his/her Standard and Foundation subjects.
- Students taking Foundation subjects are eligible for the Express Course, as long as they meet the course placement criteria.
- With Full Subject-based Banding in secondary schools, students may also take subjects at a higher level for those that they are strong in.



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Scoring for MTL-Exempt and students Studying an Asian Language / Foreign Language (AsL/FL) in lieu of an MTL



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Scoring for MTL-Exempt and AsL/FL Students

- For these students, their PSLE result slip will only reflect the three subjects they have taken.
- However, for the purposes of Secondary 1 posting, these students will need an assigned MTL score so that they have a PSLE score comprising four subjects
 - To determine the assigned MTL score, reference is made to MTL scores of other students who have achieved similar scores in English, Mathematics, and Science, including those taking Foundation MTL.



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Scoring for MTL-Exempt and AsL/FL Students

- In assigning a score for these students under the new PSLE scoring system, **a balance is struck** between:

- Acknowledging that **students have valid reasons** for seeking MTL exemption or taking an AsL/FL, and
- Ensuring some **parity between scoring** for exemption, Foundation and Standard MTL.



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Scoring for MTL-Exempt and AsL/FL Students

- Under the new scoring system, the assigned MTL score will :
 - Take **reference from peers with similar scores** for English, Mathematics and Science, including those taking Foundation MTL;
 - While **maintaining parity of treatment** with students who take Foundation MTL (who will score between AL 6 to 8).
- Hence, students will receive an assigned MTL score between AL 6 and 8 in PSLE.



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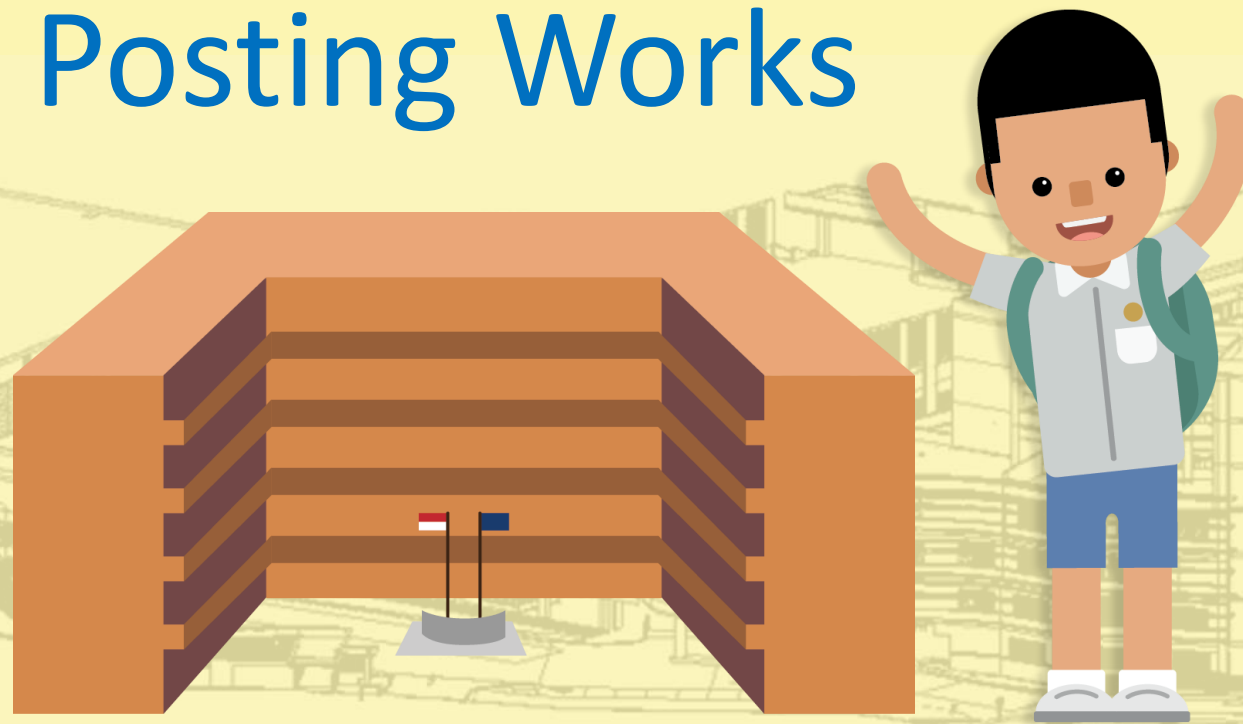
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How Secondary 1 Posting Works



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Choice Order of Schools Will Matter More

- Academic merit, i.e. the PSLE Score, remains the first criterion for secondary school posting.
- If two students with the same PSLE Score vie for a place in a school, the following tie-breakers will be used:

- 1. CITIZENSHIP**
- 2. CHOICE ORDER OF SCHOOLS**
- 3. COMPUTERISED BALLOTING**



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Choosing Secondary Schools

MOE SchoolFinder
Tool



- Parents and students should consider the student's strengths and interests and make school choices based on the school's unique culture, ethos and programmes
- Parents and students can find out more about secondary schools' distinctive programmes through MOE's SchoolFinder tool, secondary schools' websites and open houses.



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Use of HCL for admission into SAP Schools



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Posting Advantage of HCL for entry to SAP Schools

PSLE Score				
1st		7	NO HCL	7
2nd		8	DISTINCTION	8D
3rd		8	MERIT	8M
4th		8	PASS	8P
5th		8	NO HCL	8
6th		9	DISTINCTION	9D

- Students will be ranked taking into account their performance in HCL.
 - Their HCL performance will be indicated in their PSLE Score.
- This posting advantage applies before the tie-breakers for S1 posting.



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Eligibility for Secondary School Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMTL)



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Eligibility for HMTL in Secondary Schools

- The eligibility criteria for taking HMTL is intended to ensure that students can cope with the higher academic load, and takes reference from the current criteria.

Eligibility criteria for Secondary School HMTL

(i) PSLE Score of 8 or better

OR

(ii) PSLE Score of 9 to 14 inclusive; and attain

- **AL1 / AL2 in MTL or**
- **Distinction / Merit in HMTL**

- For students who do not meet the above criteria, secondary schools will continue to have the flexibility to offer HMTL to students, if they are assessed to have high ability and interest in MTL and are able to take HMTL without affecting their performance in other subjects.



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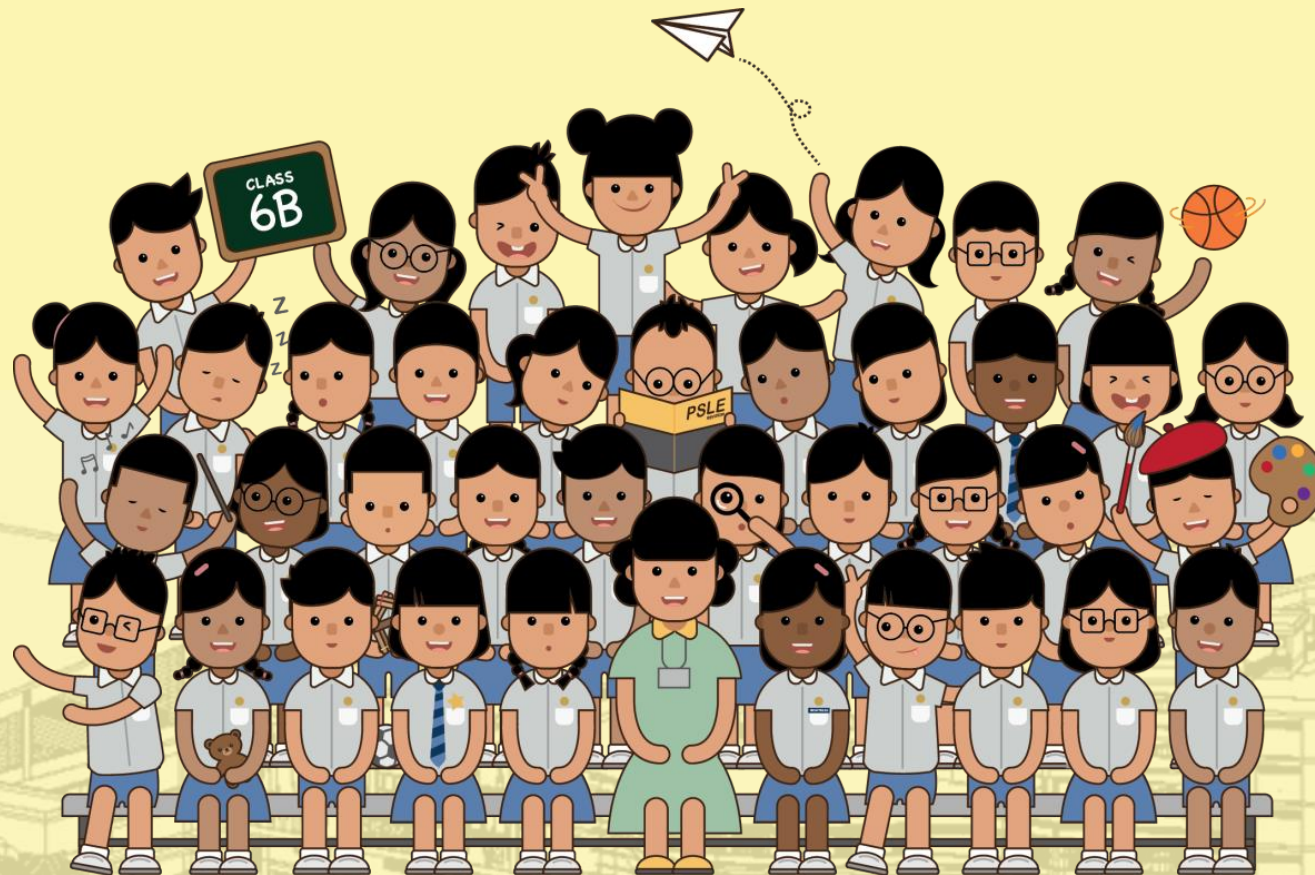
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Thank you



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