

# Subject-Based Banding

for students in the Normal course



# WHY SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (SBB)?

- Every student is unique and possesses different strengths.
- Subject-Based Banding can:
  - Nurture students' strengths**
  - Provide more educational opportunities**
  - Encourage students to be more engaged in learning**
  - Allow students to build a stronger foundation in subjects that they are good at**



**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.

# EXAMPLE: ANGELA FROM 1 ANGELA

## ANGELA

- Enrolled into N(A) course
- Scored AL5 for English at PSLE

*Note: SBB works the same for students enrolled into the N(T) course; they are offered subjects at the N(A) level.*



## Subjects to be taken in Sem 1 of Sec 1

N(A) Math	N(A) History
Express English	N(A) Science
Common Curriculum Subjects	



# WHAT IF YOUR DAUGHTER IS NOT ELIGIBLE AT PSLE?

## How does SBB work?

### ➔ Three 'stages'



**Subjects offered:**  
English Language,  
Mother Tongue,  
Mathematics,  
Science

*\*Students will  
be offered only  
**one** additional  
SBB subject at  
each insertion  
exercise.*

**Subjects offered:**  
English Language,  
Mother Tongue,  
Mathematics,  
Science,  
History,  
Geography,  
Literature



## OTHER JUNCTURES TO TAKE UP SUBJECTS AT THE MORE DEMANDING LEVEL

- via school-based assessment, after Sec 1 WAs or year-end examinations, based on:

- (a) Excellent and consistent performance in the subject;*
- (b) Positive learning attitude to cope with the higher academic demand; and*
- (c) Teachers' recommendations*



# EXAMPLE: ANGELA FROM 1 ANGELA

## Sec 1 Mid Year Juncture

- Showed consistently good performance in WA 1 and WA 2 for Science
- Decided to take up Exp Science



## Subjects to be taken in Sem 2 of Sec 1

N(A) Math	N(A) History
Express English	Express Science



# EXAMPLE: ANGELA FROM 1 ANGELA

## Sec 1 End of Year

- Showed consistently good performance over the year for History
- Decided to take up Exp History



## Subjects to be taken in Sec 2

N(A) Math	Express History
Express English	Express Science





# EXAMPLE: ANGELA FROM 2 ANGELA

## Sec 2 End of Year

- Did not meet criteria to continue with Exp History but met criteria for Exp English and Science
- Decided to take up Exp English
- Chose to take N(A) Science



## Subjects to be taken in Upper Sec

N(A) Math	N(A) History/SS
Express English	N(A) Science

**Taken at O  
levels!**

**Taken at N  
levels!**



# WHAT IF MY DAUGHTER STRUGGLES WITH THE SBB SUBJECT(S)?

- Students to **continue SBB until the end of Secondary 2** ('adjustment' period)
- **Constant monitoring of students' progress**
- **Monitoring of students' socio-emotional and academic needs**
- **Provision of necessary support to students to help them cope, e.g. bridging lessons will be conducted for all SBB inserts**



# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TAKING UP SUBJECTS AT A MORE DEMANDING LEVEL?

- To help each student **find fulfilment** in learning and be motivated to excel in what she is good at
- Taking subjects at a more demanding level at Lower Secondary, where possible, **builds a stronger foundation** for Upper Secondary
- Eligible for **grade conversion** at the national examinations for desired courses (where applicable)



# CONVERSION OF GRADES FOR PFP ADMISSION

- For N-Level students offering O-Level subjects, their grades will be converted to the N(A)-Level grades for admission to the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP).

GCE O-Level Grade	GCE N(A)-Level Grade
A1-B3	1
B4-C6	2
D7	3

*Subject to changes by MOE*



# CONVERSION OF GRADES FOR DPP ADMISSION

- The computation of ITE aggregate points for Normal (Academic) subject grades for merit-based ranking for admission to full-time 3-year *Higher Nitec* and 2-year *Nitec* courses, is shown in the table below.

GCE N(A)-Level Grade	ITE Aggregate Points
1, 2	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
U	5

*Subject to changes by MOE*



# WILL MY DAUGHTER CONTINUE WITH HIGHER-LEVEL SUBJECTS ALL THE WAY TO SEC 4 OR 5?

- Entry into SBB at Secondary 1 **does not automatically guarantee transition** to higher-level subjects at Secondary 3.
- Child's performance need to meet the **school's criteria** at the end of Secondary 2 (*subject combination criteria applies*).



# FOR FURTHER QUERIES ON SBB

Please contact Ms Balvinder Kaur at:  
[balvinder\\_kaur@moe.edu.sg](mailto:balvinder_kaur@moe.edu.sg)

