

Cohort Briefing on Subject-based Banding 2025

Partnering Parents

FRIDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2025



- ▶ An understanding of how Subject-based Banding works



Why introduce [Subject-Based Banding?]

Introduced by
MOE in 2019

- ▶ Every child is unique and has different aptitudes, capabilities and talents.
- ▶ To recognise the different abilities of students
 - ▶ Provide more flexibility in subject combinations for students across subjects

What Subject-Based Banding means for your child?

- ▶ Greater flexibility in subject combinations
- ▶ Your child has the choice to take a combination of standard and foundation subjects, depending on his strengths
- ▶ Build up their understanding in subjects they need more help with.

FOR THE P4 SEMESTRAL ASSESSMENT, IF YOUR CHILD	YOUR CHILD MAY BE RECOMMENDED TO TAKE
Passes all 4 subjects and performs very well in MTL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 standard subjects + Higher Mother Tongue Language
Passes all 4 subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 standard subjects
Passes 3 subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 standard subjects; or • 3 standard subjects + 1 other foundation subject
Passes 2 subjects or less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 standard subjects; or • 3 standard subjects + 1 other foundation subject; or • 2 standard subjects+ 2 other foundation subjects; or • 1 standard subject + 3 other foundation subjects; or • 4 foundation subjects

What are the choices available?

[At P4]

School recommends subject combination, based on P4 exam results. Parents indicate preferred combination in an option form (via PG).



[At P5]

Student takes subject combination chosen by parents.
School assesses your child's ability to cope with the subjects at the end of the year.

How does
Subject-Based
Banding Work?

What
happens at
the end of
P5?

[End of P5]

Student who takes standard subjects and has difficulty coping	All other students
School may allow him to take 1 or more subjects at foundation level in P6	School will allow them to continue the same subject combination in P6



[At P6]

Student takes subject combination decided by school



[End of P6]

Student sits for Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE)

Subject-based Banding and Secondary School admission

- ▶ Progression to secondary level depends on the Revised PSLE Scoring System.
 - ▶ Different expectations of standard and foundation subjects will be taken into account
- ▶ Offering subjects at foundation level is not a disadvantage.
 - ▶ Your child will be able to focus on building up strong fundamentals

Revised PSLE Scoring System: **Achievement Levels (ALs)**

- ▶ The PSLE T-Score has been replaced with wider scoring bands, known as Achievement Levels (ALs).
- ▶ Each PSLE subject will be scored using 8 ALs. Students who perform similarly will be placed in the same AL for each subject.

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

Revised PSLE Scoring System: Scoring for Foundation Level Subjects

- ▶ Foundation subject grades are graded in scoring bands from AL A to AL C.
- ▶ To derive a student's overall PSLE score, AL A to AL C for Foundation level subjects are mapped to AL 6 to AL 8 of Standard level subjects respectively

Grades for Foundation	Foundation Raw Mark Range	Equivalent Standard Level AL
A	75 - 100	6
B	30 -74	7
C	< 30	8

- Exploring the subject combinations available



Band 1	85 marks and above	Is very good in the subject
Band 2	70 - 84 marks	Is good in the subject
Band 3	50 - 69 marks	Has adequate grasp of the subject
Band 4	Below 50 marks	Has elementary grasp of the subject

Achievement and Band Grades for Primary 4

- ▶ Based on overall examination score for Primary Four at year-end
- ▶ To take a subject at Standard Level:

Selection Criteria

English	50 marks / Band 3
Mathematics	
Science	
Mother Tongue	

Recommendation
for students taking
**4 Standard
Subjects** and
**1 Higher Mother
Tongue** in P5

EL	MATH	MT	SC
Band 1	Band 1	Band 1	Band 1

Benefits of taking HTML

- ▶ At PSLE, Students who obtained Distinction/Merit/Pass in HCL and a PSLE Score of 14 or better (i.e. PSLE Score ≤ 14) at PSLE will be eligible for posting advantage to **11 SAP schools**.

SAP Schools (Secondary)

16

Anglican High

Catholic High School

CHIJ St. Nicholas Girls' School

Chung Cheng High School (Main)

Dunman High School

Hwa Chong Institution

Maris Stella High School

Nan Chiau High School

Nan Hua High School

Nanyang Girls' High School

River Valley High School

Combination 1	4 Standard Subjects (4S)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Standard English2. Standard Math3. Standard Science4. Standard Mother Tongue
Combination 2	4 Standard Subjects 1 Higher Mother Tongue (4S1H)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Standard English2. Standard Mother Tongue3. Standard Math4. Standard Science5. Higher Mother Tongue

Subject
Combinations
offered in
Bukit Timah
Primary
School

Combination 3	3 Standard Subjects 1 Foundation Subject (3S1F)	1. 3S1F(FMA) 2. 3S1F(FMT)
Combination 4	2 Standard Subjects 2 Foundation Subjects (2S2F)	1. 2S2F (FMA & FSC) 2. 2S2F (FMA & FMT)
Combination 5	1 Standard Subject 3 Foundation Subjects (1S3F)	1. 1S(EL)3F

Subject
Combinations
offered in
Bukit Timah
Primary
School

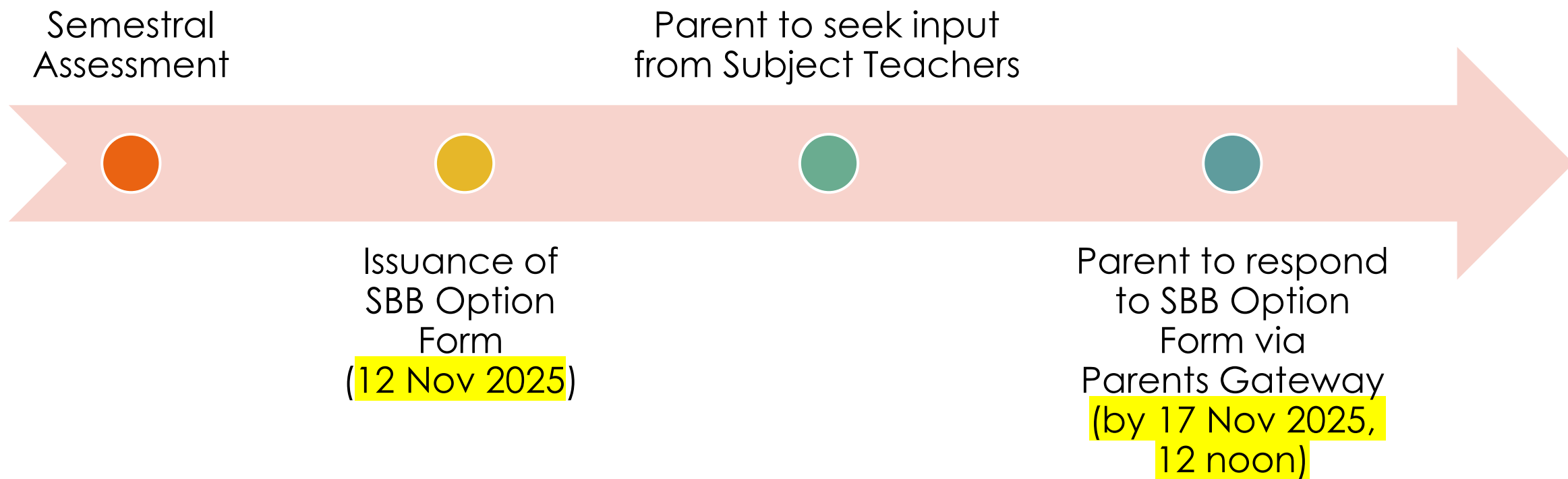
To continue
HMT in P6

- ▶ Pupils need to attain
 - ▶ 75 marks and above for Standard MT and a pass for HMT

► The SBB Process @ BTPS



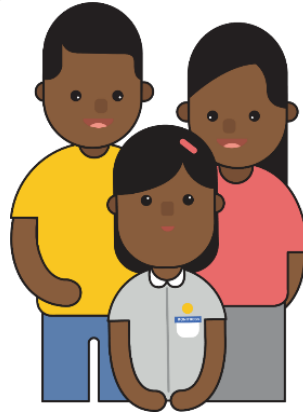
SBB Process @ BTPS



Be open and flexible
when discussing your
child's preferences,
needs and choices.

Manage your own
expectations and do not
project these expectations
onto your child.

Have regular conversations
with your child to understand
more about his/her interests
and aspirations.



Affirm your child and
offer support when
he/she shares his/her
plans with you.

TIPS FOR PARENTS 😊

Questions posed via Parents Gateway

1. What is the impact of selecting a certain kind of banding subject on secondary school?
2. Is there an intentional split/allocation of students with differing aptitudes in the same class?
3. How are teaching methods adjusted to different bands?
4. For kids who are borderline pass/fail, what's the recommended approach?

5. Will the recommendations be based only on year end exam or the entire P4 examination?
6. SBB means my kid will be in a class based on the performance of the Subject in exams? In P5, will they be getting any extra support from teachers in the subject he is weaker in?
7. My child requires learning support – How will SBB affect him?

Questions
posed via
Parents
Gateway

Any other
questions?

- ▶ If you do have further questions,
please do not hesitate to
contact me via:
low_swee_ling_angeline@schools.gov.sg

Thank You

► Find out more about SBB here:
go.gov.sg/p4moesbb

