



CANBERRA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Sharing on Full Subject-Based Banding (FSBB)

15 January 2026



Key Changes under Full Subject-Based Banding (FSBB)

Supporting Every Child's Learning Journey

- Removal of Streaming**

Express, N(A) and N(T) streams have been removed. Students are placed in mixed form classes at lower secondary

- Customised Learning Pathways**

Students take subjects at G1, G2 or G3, based on their readiness, strengths and interests

- Lower Secondary Curriculum**

Common Curriculum (for all students): CCE, Art, Music, PE, Design & Technology, Food & Consumer Education

Subjects offered at G1 / G2 / G3 levels: English Language, Mathematics, Science, Mother Tongue Language, Humanities



Rationale of FSBB

Full SBB aims for students to:



Have **greater ownership of their learning** according to their strengths, interests, abilities, talents and learning needs



Develop a **growth mindset and an intrinsic motivation** to learn for life



Have **more opportunities to interact with friends** of different backgrounds, strengths, interests, abilities and talents



Have **more options for post-secondary pathways**; while ensuring they have strong fundamentals and can thrive in their chosen pathway

Overview of Post-Secondary Pathways Under FSBB



Secondary School Experience under FSBB



Singapore Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate (SEC)

2027 onwards



JC/ MI

3-Yr Higher Nitec
(Yr 2 Entry)

Poly Year 1

3-Yr Higher Nitec
(Yr 1 Entry)

PFP

Changes to Post-secondary School Admissions

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

*Students who offer 4 G1 subjects will join Year 1 of Higher Nitec, and may be offered the accelerated pathway if they meet academic requirements during their Year 1 Semester 1 examinations. This pathway will allow them to attain a Higher Nitec in a shorter duration of about two years.

Increased access to post secondary pathways

Students who offer 4G1 subjects may first progress to Year 1 of the 3-year Higher Nitec.

Those who meet the academic requirements during their Year 1 Sem 1 exams may be offered the option for in-flight acceleration, which allows direct progression directly to Year 2 in the following semester.

Criteria for your child to be offered subjects @ MDL*

| <u>English Language, Mathematics, Science, Mother Tongue Languages</u> | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Current subject level | School-based results | Option to offer subject at |
| G1 | ≥75% in the specific subject | G2 |
| G2 | ≥75% in the specific subject | G3 |

*Supported by subject teachers' recommendations



Criteria for your child to be offered subjects @ MDL*

| <u>Humanities (Geography, History, Literature in English)</u> | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Current subject level | Humanities subjects | Eligibility Criteria School-based results | Option to offer subject at |
| G1 | <p>Humanities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Studies component• Humanities Exposure Modules (HEMs) in Geography, History and Literature in English | <p>≥ 75% overall in G1 English Language (or ≥50% overall in G2 English Language)</p> <p>&</p> <p>A Pass with Distinction grade for both G1 Humanities (Social Studies component) Performance Tasks in Semesters 1 and 2</p> | <p>G2</p> <p>Geography, History and/ or Literature in English</p> |
| G2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geography• History• Literature in English | <p>75% or higher in specific subject</p> | <p>G3</p> <p>Geography, History and/ or Literature in English</p> |

*Supported by subject teachers' recommendations

* Humanities at MDL will only be offered at the end of the year

Downward mapping of Grades

For students taking subjects at more demanding levels, downward grade mapping is used to compute the respective aggregate scores.

| G3 Subject Grade | G2 Subject Grade | G1 Subject Grade |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| A1, A2, B3 | 1 | A |
| B4, C5, C6 | 2 | |
| D7 | 3 | |
| E8 | 4 | B |
| 9 | 5 | C |
| | 6 | D |
| | | E |

Request for Subjects to be at Low Demanding Level (LDL)

- For **English Language, Mathematics and Science and Humanities subjects**, students should be encouraged to offer these subjects at as high a level as possible instead of offering them at a less demanding level as this may prematurely narrow students' post-secondary articulation options.
- However, if students are unable to cope with the subject levels at which they are offering the subject(s), there is flexibility beyond S1 to offer the subject(s) at a less demanding level based on the school's holistic considerations after considering other possible options (e.g., offering fewer elective subjects at upper secondary), to support the student.
- Schools should allow students to offer these subjects at a less demanding level **only by one subject level (i.e., 'one level down') at each juncture**.

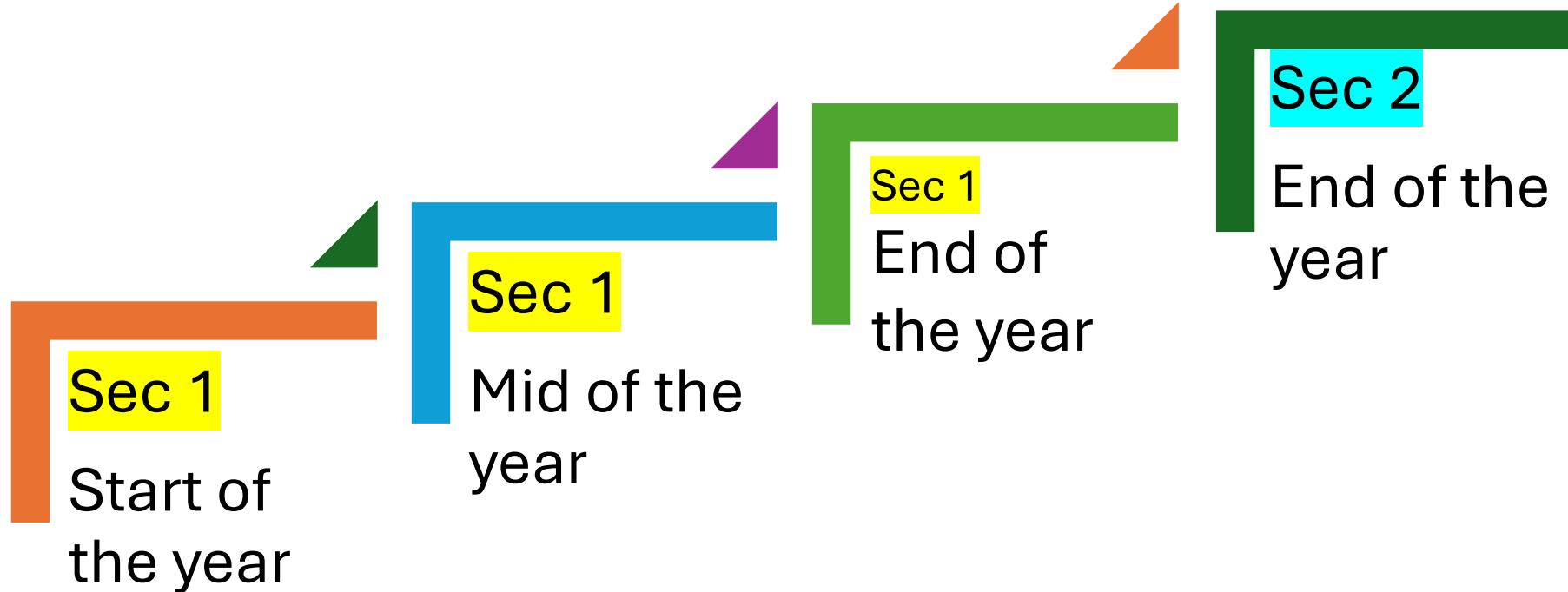
Request for Subjects to be at LDL

- For **MTL**, schools may allow students who are unable to cope with the subject at the current subject level to offer MTL at a less demanding level **as long as** they meet the following criteria.

| Student offering | Overall MTL grade after S3 end-year examination | Eligible to offer |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| G3 MTL | E8 or below | G2 MTL |
| G2 MTL | Grade 6 | G1 MTL |

Any request for a subject to be taken at LDL must be initiated by the parents through an official letter addressed to the school leaders.

Junctures in offering subjects at MDL in Our School



The school will **not** offer subjects at MDL to Secondary 3 and 4 students, as the preparation runway for the national examinations is too short.

EXAMPLE: SAMUEL FROM CLASS 1 RESILIENCE

After PSLE

- Indicative level of **most** subjects at start of Secondary 1: G2
- Scored AL5 for English



Subjects to be taken in Sem 1 of Sec 1

| | |
|---|---------------|
| G2 Math | G2 MTL |
| G3 EL | G2 Science |
| G2 Humanities (Geography, History, Literature) | |
| Common Curriculum Subjects | |

Accepted the offer of 1 MDL subject
at the start of Sec 1

How are the subjects at MDL determined at the start of S1?

- Applicable to English Language, Mother Tongue Language, Mathematics and Science only
- Parents of eligible students would have received an offer based on the following criteria:

| Indicative Level of Most Subjects at Start of S1 | PSLE Standard grade | PSLE Foundation grade | Option to offer subject at |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| G2 | AL 5 or better | - | G3 |
| G1 | AL 5 or better | - | G2 / G3 |
| | AL 6 | AL A | G2 |

EXAMPLE: SAMUEL FROM CLASS 1 RESILIENCE

Sec 1 Mid Year Juncture

- Showed **consistently** good performance in WA 1 and WA 2 for Science together with positive recommendations from his Science teacher
- Decided to accept the offer of G3 Science after discussion with his parents

2 MDL subjects in Semester 2

Subjects to be taken in Sem 2 of Sec 1

| | |
|---|---------------|
| G2 Math | G2 MTL |
| G3 English | G3 Science |
| G2 Humanities (Geography, History, Literature) | |
| Common Curriculum Subjects | |

EXAMPLE: SAMUEL FROM CLASS 1 RESILIENCE

Sec 1 End of Year juncture

- Showed **consistently** good performance over the year for the subject, History
- Decided to accept the offer of G3 History as he shows strong interest in History

3 MDL subjects at the start of Sec 2

Subjects to be taken in Sec 2

| | |
|--|---------------|
| G2 Math, MTL | G3 Science |
| G3 EL | G3 History |
| G2 Humanities (Geography, Literature) | |
| Common Curriculum Subjects | |

What are the support systems in place if my child takes up the offer?

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

TODAY MENU ▾ SEARCH

A struggle at first, but taking higher-level subjects helped boost confidence

By FARIS MOKHTAR



Jurong Secondary student Ismahani Azmi, 15, struggled with taking higher-level subjects when she first entered secondary school, but has seen her confidence blossom from the experience, with some help from her teachers, including Mdm Siti Hawa Zaini, her Malay language teacher (seated). PHOTO: FARIS MOKHTAR

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