

FUHUA PRIMARY SCHOOL
Fuhua Family – Let's Connect (Primary 5 and 6)
24 February 2023
Questions raised during the session and the responses

CURRICULUM:

Question: Why is algebra taught later in the Primary 6 year? Should it not be taught earlier so that the students know how to apply it?

The Curriculum Planning and Development Division plans and informs the schools of the Common Last Topics (CLTs) for Math. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, these topics will not be tested in PSLE for the particular year. In 2020 and 2021, the CLTs were removed from PSLE due to the impact of Covid-19 on teaching and learning. Algebra is one of the topics in the Common Last Topics.

In the primary school syllabus, Algebra is a very small topic and is only introduced in Primary 6, for students' exposure. In solving Math questions, though we do not stop students from using Algebra to solve questions, teachers do not typically use Algebra to solve questions. Instead, teachers will focus on the use of model drawings.

Question: Regarding the Full Subject-Based Banding for G1, G2, and G3 subject levels in Secondary School, would G3 be the most advanced where students learn the most in terms of breadth and depth?

Yes, G3 would be the most advanced out of the 3 subject levels in secondary school. From 2024, students can take subjects at three subject levels, known as G1, G2, and G3 (G stands for General), mapped from today's N(T), N(A) and Express standards respectively.

DIRECT SCHOOLS ADMISSION (DSA-SEC)

Question: Due to Covid, there were no opportunities for inter-school competitions, hence there was not much representation in CCA. Could the students still go for the DSA application?

Yes, they can. Secondary schools will recognise the student's talent, potential, passion and character through their school track record and information provided in the students' online application. Furthermore, secondary schools may invite students for selection trials for Sports/Performing Arts to establish their competence and passion for the Sports/Performing Arts. There are certainly opportunities for our students to demonstrate their talents/abilities through these selection trials and interviews, even without an experience in a national competition.

Question: How can the school assist in students' application for DSA through CCA (ie: Boy's Brigade)? Where do parents find this information to apply?

Students must apply for DSA through the DSA-Sec portal. For more information on the application process, you may visit <https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/dsa>. The application window is from May to June annually. If your child/ward requires additional support in his/her DSA application, you can ask him/her to approach his/her teachers for help.

Question: Can students apply for multiple secondary schools through DSA?

During the DSA application period, students can choose up to three Secondary schools and three talent areas. Within the same school, students can apply for two different talent areas.

Question: Are there minimum English and Chinese AL grades to obtain to be granted an interview by DSA schools?

There are no minimum English and Chinese AL grades that students must obtain to be granted an interview by DSA schools. However, students offered placement in a DSA-Sec school would still need to obtain a PSLE score that qualifies them for the Posting Groups offered by the school.

Starting from the 2024 Secondary 1 cohort, the Normal (Technical), Normal (Academic) and Express courses will be phased out. Under Full Subject-Based Banding (Full SBB), students will be posted through Posting Groups 1, 2 and 3 instead and have greater flexibility to offer subjects at appropriate subject levels.

Question: What are the AL requirements to apply for DSA? What kind of evidence needs to be submitted for different talent areas? Do these need to be demonstrated at school level or certificates from external private institutes?

Application for DSA-Sec is based on a wide range of talents. Students need not submit proof of achievement or contribution during the DSA application process. All information on your child's/ward's participation in competitions, or contributions to the school will be captured in the School Cockpit System, which secondary schools have access to.

HIGHER MOTHER TONGUE (HMT)

Question: What are the criteria for the school to decide whether students can continue with Higher Mother Tongue (HMT) in Primary 6? Will students be asked to drop the subject if they do not perform well in the standard Mother Tongue?

At the end of Primary 5, the student taking HMT must at least score a Pass in his/her P5 HMT overall results. The school will also look at the student's holistic performance in other subjects and then make the careful decision on a case-by-case basis.

Question: How does HMT AL compare in contrast to MT AL in PSLE?

Unlike Mother Tongue (MT), no AL is assigned to Higher Mother Tongue (HMT). HMT results are indicated as Distinction, Merit or Pass. While the MT AL contributes to the overall calculation of the PSLE Score, HMT grades are not considered for admission to Secondary Schools other than to SAP schools.

Students who obtained Distinction/Merit/Pass in HCL and a PSLE Score of 14 or better (i.e. PSLE Score \leq 14) at PSLE will be eligible for posting advantage to SAP schools.

If multiple students with the same PSLE Score apply for places in the same SAP school, those with better HCL grades will be allocated a place ahead of other students. This applies before the tie-breakers for Secondary 1 posting.

Question: What are the cut-off marks for Distinction, Merit and Pass in HMT so that parents can have a better gauge of students' progress when guiding them in revision?

The cut-off marks for Distinction, Merit, or Pass in Higher Mother Tongue are as follows:

Higher Mother Tongue Grade	Higher Mother Tongue Grade
Distinction	80 - 100
Merit	65 - 79
Pass	50 - 64

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT, CHARACTER EDUCATION AND CASE MANAGEMENT

Question: Will teachers spend some time having individual teacher-student chats to check on how students feel during the PSLE preparation and to guide them in their weaker subjects?

Currently, form teachers have 1-to-1 chats with each student at least once a term to check on their general well-being, and guide them in coping with the school demands including preparation for PSLE. Students are encouraged to approach their form teachers and/or subject teachers should they need more guidance or support in preparing for PSLE.