



## **Frequently-asked questions (FAQ)**

### **Secondary Three Subject Options**

**1. When can my child opt for the subject option exercise?**

A pre-option survey will be carried out in July 2022. The actual subject option exercise will be carried out after Summative Review in October 2022. The release of results will be in mid November.

**2. How do my child exercise his/her option?**

Your child will log onto the online streaming portal to exercise the option. More details will be given out during briefing to student towards end of May 2022.

**3. How do the selection of the subjects work in the different clusters?**

Besides the compulsory subjects, your child will indicate rank their preferences for the subjects indicated in each cluster. In each cluster, we will offer one subject from the cluster to your child.

**4. How many subjects will my child take at Secondary Three?**

For Secondary Three Express stream, each student will be offered 7 subjects. For Secondary Three Normal Academic and Normal Technical students, everyone will take 6 subjects. Besides focusing on academic pursuit, students are encouraged to spend time and space to pursue their other areas of interests and passions.

**5. What are the chances that my child will be allocated the subject(s) that he / she wants to study in upper secondary?**

As far as possible, the school will allocate the subject based on students' choices, subject to them meeting the pre-requisites criteria for certain subjects. It is important that your child must makes his/her choice based on his/her interest, aptitude and aspirations.

**6. If my child is not allocated the subjects of his/her choice, can we appeal?**

Yes. You can obtain the appeal form from the General Office. Please take note that you will need to submit the appeal form to the school by the stipulated date. We regret to inform you that late submissions will not be considered.

**7. What is the success rate of appeal?**

There are several factors to consider for an appeal case. It is dependent on subject teachers'/Head of Departments' feedback, reasons for appeal, priority in preferences, as well as availability of facilities and resources for offering of certain subjects eg. Craft and Technical rooms for Coursework subjects and Science Labs etc.

**8. What is the criteria for students who have the interest to opt for Music as a subject?**

The student will have to go through audition and placement test in mid-August (where registration will be in July). However, the dates may be subjected to changes. For further details, please look for our Music Coordinator, Miss Susanna Wee.



## **Secondary 3NA and 3NT** **Subject-Based Banding**

- 1. What are the SBB subjects that are offered to students at Upper Secondary?**  
English, Mother Tongue Language, Mathematics, Combined Sciences and Humanities are offered to Sec 3NA and 3NT students.
- 2. What are the eligible criteria for a student to be offered to take a subject at a higher level based on their End-of-Year results?**  
Existing SBB students in the N(A) and N(T) courses who passed the corresponding subject at the Express level and Normal Academic level will be offered the SBB subject at Secondary Three.  
For non-SBB students in the N(A) and N(T) course who obtained an overall performance of 75% in the corresponding subject and subject to Teachers' recommendation, they will be offered the SBB. This is to ensure that students take subjects at a higher level only if they are clearly able to cope with, and benefit from, this flexibility.
- 3. Do students have the option not to offer a subject at a higher level, even if they meet the criteria?**  
Yes. However, they are encouraged to consider taking up the higher level subject. We hope to enable students to build on their strengths, build up their confidence and optimise their potential. It allows students to stretch themselves and acquire deeper competencies in areas they are strong in.
- 4. Will N(A) and N(T) students be allowed to take Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMTL)? Are there already schools where N(A) and N(T) students are allowed to take HMTL?**  
Yes. In fact, N(A) students are already allowed to offer HMTL. N(A) students take the O-level Mother Tongue Language (MTL) examination when they are in Secondary 4 and the O-level Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMTL) examination in Secondary 5.
- 5. How will my child be compared to the other students from his/ her course at the end of the year, for lateral transfers, promotion and Edusave awards, given that the higher level subject is more demanding?**  
For the purposes of determining eligibility for promotion, lateral transfers and Edusave awards, your child will be considered alongside those in his course. To ensure that students who stretch themselves by taking up higher-level subjects are not disadvantaged in terms of promotion to the next level, eligibility for lateral transfer, and Edusave awards, the school will adjust the marks obtained in the higher-level subject *at the backend*. For example, adding marks to the Math score obtained by an N(A) student taking Math at Express level.



**6. If my child is taking a subject at a higher level, will he be on par with the students from the other course? Will taking subjects at a higher level put my child at a disadvantage?**

Your child would have been offered the chance to take a subject at a higher level based on his or her strength in the subject. Our schools will adopt a variety of pedagogical approaches to cater to the different learning needs of students and provide support whenever possible.

**7. Can a student withdraw from taking higher-level subjects if he or she finds it unsuitable after a semester?**

Students and parents can make the final decision to continue or drop the subject. Nevertheless, students are encouraged to give themselves time to adjust to the greater demands of the higher-level subject. Before a decision is made to drop the subject, advice from subject teachers and form teachers should be sought on the students' academic progress. The school will also advise on the possible impact on admission to post-secondary courses. It will be a case-by-case basis.

**8. Will a student be made to give up the higher-level subject if he or she fails the examination?**

It will be on a case-by-case basis. In general, students are encouraged to continue with the higher-level subjects, as students do need time to adjust to the greater academic demands. Schools will endeavour to provide the necessary support for them to cope better with the higher-level subjects.

**9. At the national examinations, will my child be taking the higher-level subject examination or the normal level examination for this SBB subject? Is my child allowed to take the subject at both the Normal and higher-level examination.**

Your child will sit for the higher-level subject examination for the SBB subjects that they are taking. Example, a student in the Normal Academic Stream taking 'O' level Mathematics will sit for the 'O' level Mathematics examination only. He/she will not be sitting for the 'NA' Mathematics examination. This is to be consistent with school-based assessments where your child have been prepared and sit for the higher level paper.