

Secondary 4&5 Parent's Briefing

Question and Answer Segment

1. Pathways & Post-Secondary Options

What is the difference between Junior College and Millennia Institute?

Junior college is a faster 2-year route, while Millennia Institute offers a 3-year route with a more manageable pace.

2. Admission Exercises & Application Processes (DSA / EAE / PFP)

Direct School Admission – Junior College

What is acceptance timelines of *Direct School Admission (DSA-JC)*?

For the Direct School Admission (DSA-JC), different JCs may have slightly different internal timelines, but the acceptance window is centrally set by MOE.

- *Phase 1 offers released by: around 12 August*
- *Acceptance period: typically mid-August (about 13–15 August)*
- *Phase 2 (if applicable):*
 - *Offers by early September*
 - *Acceptance in mid-September*

Do we get any notification regarding application for DSA in parents gateway?

For the Direct School Admission (DSA-JC):

- *The MOE website will be the official platform for DSA application updates (<https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions>)*
- *DSA applications are submitted via the MOE DSA portal*
- *Updates (e.g. shortlisting, interview details, outcomes) are usually sent:*
 - *Directly by the JC via email or phone, or*
 - *Through the DSA portal*

You may refer to the attached slides for the timeline.

What should students do to gain an edge for sports DSA when applying to a JC?

For the Direct School Admission (DSA-JC) via sports, students should:

- *Demonstrate strong and consistent performance in their sport (competitions, achievements)*
- *Prepare a portfolio (records, videos, achievements)*
- *Show commitment and good attitude (discipline, coachability)*
- *Be ready for trials and interviews*
- *Maintain academic eligibility*

If my child is accepted through DSA to a Junior College, what results must they achieve for their O-Levels?

For the Direct School Admission (DSA-JC):

- *Students must still meet the minimum academic requirement to enter a JC:*
 - *L1R5 $\leq$ 20, and*
 - *At least Grade 6 or better in English and other required subjects*

Polytechnic Early Admission Exercise

For Polytechnic Early Admission Exercise (EAE), how can parents help the children to prepare for it?

The most effective support is to:

- *Allow your child to take ownership of the process*
- *Affirm their strengths and interests to build confidence*
- *Stay open-minded and listen to the courses they are considering*

By doing so, you help your child make informed and authentic choices, which is key to a strong EAE application.

When does polytechnic registration for N-Level students take place, and do parents need to register on behalf of their child?

School has completed the N-level exam registration for the students.

To aim for Poly admission, student can consider

Polytechnic Early Admission Exercise

- *Application period: End June*

Poly Foundation Programme (PFP)

- *Application period: Typically in January, after the release of N-Level results*

Institute of Technical Education - Early Admission Exercise (ITE – EAE)

How does the application process for the ITE EAE in May 2026 work? Do parents or the school need to apply on behalf of the student?

For the ITE Early Admissions Exercise (EAE), the application typically opens in May and is a student-led process.

Students will need to:

- *Apply online using their own Singpass*
- *Select their preferred courses*
- *Submit a short write-up and any relevant portfolio*

Each Secondary 4 & 5 student has also been allocated an ECG mentor, whom they can approach for guidance and advice throughout the application process.

Parents can support by:

- *Discussing course options with your child*
- *Affirming their strengths and interests*
- *Encouraging them to take ownership of the process*

3. Scoring & Admission Criteria

Reference to the PFP program, how is the score calculated? Does the subject matter?

For the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP):

1. Score Calculation (ELMAB3) will be based on 5 subjects (ELMAB3 aggregate)

- *EL – English*
- *MA – Mathematics*
- *B3 – 3 best relevant subjects*

2. Do subjects matter?

✓ Yes, subjects matter:

- *English and Math are compulsory*
- *The 3 other subjects must meet course requirements*
- *Different courses may require specific subjects (e.g. Science for some courses)*

Do refer to the website below for more details.

https://pfp.polytechnic.edu.sg/PFP/pfp_eligibility.html

Will the CCA points be deducted when using PFP?

Under the Polytechnic Foundation Programme:

- Admission is based on your ELMAB3 aggregate (English + Math + 3 best subjects)
- You must still meet minimum subject requirements (e.g., English & Math grades)
- CCA Points will be deducted during posting exercise only

Can CCA grades contribute to a student's admission score, and when are these grades awarded?

Yes, CCA can contribute bonus points to a student's admission score, depending on the pathway.

- Students can receive up to 2 CCA bonus points, which are deducted from their aggregate score (e.g. for JC or poly admission).
- This is awarded based on the student's overall CCA grade (e.g. participation, leadership, achievement, service).

When is it awarded?

- The final CCA grade is computed and reflected in the student's results at the end of Secondary 4/5, together with their national examination results.

Do students have the option to exclude their Mother Tongue results when computing their admission score for JC or polytechnic?

Mother Tongue is not mandatory in the admission aggregate

Is Mathematics part of R2? Can we not include Mathematics in for polytechnic admission?

Under the ELR2B2 system:

- EL = English Language (compulsory)
- R2 = two relevant subjects, and Mathematics is one of them
- B2 = two other best subjects

For most polytechnic courses:

- Mathematics is required either as a relevant subject (R2) or as a minimum entry requirement
- You generally cannot swap it out with another subject

4. Subject Levels & Grading (SBB)

How will the markings be for those with mixed Normal and Express subjects?

Under Subject-Based Banding:

Each subject is marked based on the level it is taken at — not the student's overall stream.

e.g.

Student is taking predominantly G2 subjects & takes G3 Mathematics

- *Student's Math paper is marked using G3 (Express/O-Level) standards*
- *Student will receive a G3 grade (A1–F9) for Math*
- *The grade will be converted to G2 for post-secondary progression.*

<i>Downward Grade Mapping Table</i> <i>(from G3 to G2 and from G2 to G1)</i>		
<i>G3</i>	<i>G2</i>	<i>G1</i>
<i>A1, A2, B3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>B4, C5, C6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>D7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>A</i>
<i>E8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>B</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>C</i>
<i>-</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>D</i>
<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>E</i>

5. Exams & Administrative Matters

For students deciding to retake their papers in 2027. What is the impact to them as 2027 is SEC exam.

Change in Scoring System

- *2027 will use the new Singapore-Cambridge Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) instead of the current O-Level grading.*
- *Grades shift from A1–F9 → AL1–AL8 bands.*
- *Students retaking in 2027 will receive SEC grades, not O-Level grades.*

Impact:

Their results will be in a different format, so comparison with previous O-Level results is not direct.

Syllabus & Paper Format Changes

- *Some subjects may have:*
 - *Updated syllabus content*
 - *Different paper formats or emphasis*

Impact:

Students may need to relearn parts of the syllabus, not just revise.

Would it be possible to upload the Preliminary and O-Level examination timetables (including June 2026) onto the school website so that parents can easily refer to them?

*Students will be receiving their entry proofs that contains the exam timetable by mid-May.
Students will be receiving the Preliminary Exam timetable before the June holidays.*