

P4 Subject Based Banding (SBB) Briefing for Parents

5 July 2024



We Will Cover

01

What is Subject-Based Banding (SBB)?

02

How Does SBB Work?

03

How to Decide on the Combination?

04

Progression to Secondary School

05

Ways to Support Your Child

1. What is Subject-Based Banding (SBB)?

- Offering different subject combinations to cater to the different abilities of each child



1. What is Subject-Based Banding (SBB)?

- Students can take subjects at different subject levels according to their strengths, interests and learning needs.
- This provides more flexibility in the choice of subject combination.
- It will also encourage greater interaction among students with different strengths.





2. How Does SBB Work?

| STRETCH (Higher MT) | STRENGTHEN (Standard Subjects) | SUPPORT (Foundation Subjects) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Higher Chinese | Std English | Fdn English |
| Higher Malay | Std Math | Fdn Math |
| Higher Tamil | Std Science | Fdn Science |
| | Std Mother Tongue | Fdn Mother Tongue |



combinations



combinations



2. How Does SBB Work?

- Foundation subjects put focus on **mastery of core content and skills**. These are aimed at a more fundamental level compared to the corresponding standard subject.
- Offering subjects at the foundation level IS NOT a disadvantage to the students. It allows your child to **build up core fundamentals** in these subjects and better prepares him/her for secondary school.
- They can adjust their subject levels at appropriate junctures across their secondary school journey.

2. How Does SBB Work?

- More details at

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/primary/curriculum/subject-based-banding>





3. How to Decide on the Combination?

| Band | Mark Range | Subject Mastery |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 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 |



3. How to Decide on the Combination?

| Recommendation on Subject Combination | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Overall results | ✓ |
| Basic Items Score* | ✓ |
| Results from past 3 years | ✓ |
| Teachers' Feedback | ✓ |

- The set of basic items are provided by MOE to ensure the child meets the minimum content mastery that is necessary for the child to cope with the subject content at the standard level.



3. How to Decide on the Combination?

| Combination | Subjects | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 4 Standard Subjects (4S) | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Standard English2. Standard Math3. Standard Science4. Standard Mother Tongue |
| 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 |



3. How to Decide on the Combination?

| Combination | Subjects | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 | 3 Standard Subjects 1 Foundation Subject (3S1F) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standard English 2. Standard Math 3. Standard Science 4. Foundation Mother Tongue |
| 4 | 2 Standard Subjects 2 Foundation Subjects (2S2F) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standard English 2. Standard Mother Tongue 3. Foundation Math 4. Foundation Science |
| 5 | 1 Standard Subject 3 Foundation Subjects (1S3F) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standard English 2. Foundation Mother Tongue 3. Foundation Math 4. Foundation Science |



3. How to Decide on the Combination?

P4

- At the end of the year, school recommends subject combination based on P4 overall results.
- Parents indicate choice of subject combination.

P5

- Students take subject combination of parent's choice.
- At the end of the year, school decides subject combination suited for the child based on P5 overall results.

P6

- Students take subjects as recommended by school and sit for PSLE at the end of the year.



3. How to Decide on the Combination?

Part 1: SCHOOL'S RECOMMENDATION ON PUPIL'S SUBJECT COMBINATION FOR PRIMARY 5 2023

Dear Parents,

Your child, _____, of P4 (_____), is recommended the following subject combination for Primary 5 next year as indicated by a tick (✓) in the box below:

| Option | Subject Combination | (a) School's Recommendation | (b) *Parent's Option |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | English, Mother Tongue Language, Mathematics, Science [4S] | | |
| 2 | English, Mother Tongue Language, Mathematics, Science, Higher Mother Tongue Language [4S1HMTL] | | |
| 3 | Foundation English, Foundation Mother Tongue Language, Foundation Mathematics, Foundation Science [4F] | | |
| 4 | English, Mathematics, Science Foundation Mother Tongue Language [4S 1F] | | |
| 5 | Others: | | |



3. How to Decide on the Combination?

- HMT is offered to students who have demonstrated the ability to manage 5th subject. These students will have to sit for both the HMT and MT exams.
- Students who wish to offer HMT must fulfil the following:

| EL | MA | SC | MT |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Band 1 | Band 1 | Band 1 | Band 1 |

- Students who take HMTL at P5 will be allowed to drop the subject ONLY at the end of the year.
- To continue with HMTL at P6, pupils must score at least a Band 2 in Standard MTL and a pass in HMTL.

3. How to Decide on the Combination?

Should he be spending more time in the other subjects, rather than on an additional subject (HMTL)?

Is my child coping well in the other subjects—English, Maths, Science & Mother Tongue?

Does my child have a strong interest and flair for Mother Tongue?





P4 SBB Timeline

17 – 23 Oct

End of Year
Exams

Admin
Day

6 Nov

School
Recommends
Subject
Combination

5 Nov

Submission of
Parent's
Option Form

11 Nov



4. Progression to Secondary School

PSLE SCORING - ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

- Students with similar scores in each subject are grouped into scoring bands measured in 8 ALs.
- AL bands and mark ranges are set based on the learning objectives of the curriculum.

| 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 |

GRADING OF FOUNDATION SUBJECT GRADES

- Foundation subject grades are graded in scoring bands from **AL A to C**.

| FOUNDATION LEVEL AL | FOUNDATION RAW MARK RANGE | EQUIVALENT STANDARD LEVEL AL |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A | 75 – 100 | 6 |
| B | 30 – 74 | 7 |
| C | < 30 | 8 |

- To derive a student's overall PSLE Score for S1 Posting, AL A to AL C for Foundation level subjects are **mapped to AL 6 to AL 8 of Standard level subjects respectively**.

4 SUBJECT ALs WILL BE ADDED TO FORM THE OVERALL PSLE SCORE

- The PSLE Score can range from 4 to 32, with 4 being the best.
- Students are placed in secondary school courses based on their PSLE Score – Posting Groups G1, G2, G3 mapped from current N(T), N(A), Exp.

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| ENGLISH LANGUAGE | AL 3 |
| MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE | AL 2 |
| MATHEMATICS | AL 1 |
| SCIENCE | AL 2 |
| PSLE SCORE: 8 | |

| PSLE SCORE | POSTING GROUPS | SUBJECT LEVEL FOR MOST SUBJECTS |
|------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 4 – 20 | 3 | G3 |
| 21 – 22 | 2 or 3 | G2 or G3 |
| 23 – 24 | 2 | G2 |
| 25 | 1 or 2 | G1 or G2 |
| 26 to 30 | 1 | |

NEW

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR HIGHER MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE (HMTL)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR HMTL

- (i) An overall PSLE Score of 8 or better**
- or**
- (ii) An overall PSLE Score of 9 to 14 (inclusive); and attain**
 - **AL 1 / AL 2 in MTL or**
 - **Distinction / Merit in HMTL**

- The eligibility criteria for taking HMTL takes reference from past criteria.
- It ensures students can cope with the higher academic load.
- Secondary schools continue to have the flexibility to offer HMTL to students who do not meet the criteria if they:
 - have high ability and interest in MTL, and
 - are able to cope with the learning load required.

Eligibility Criteria for Secondary School HMT & SAP Schools

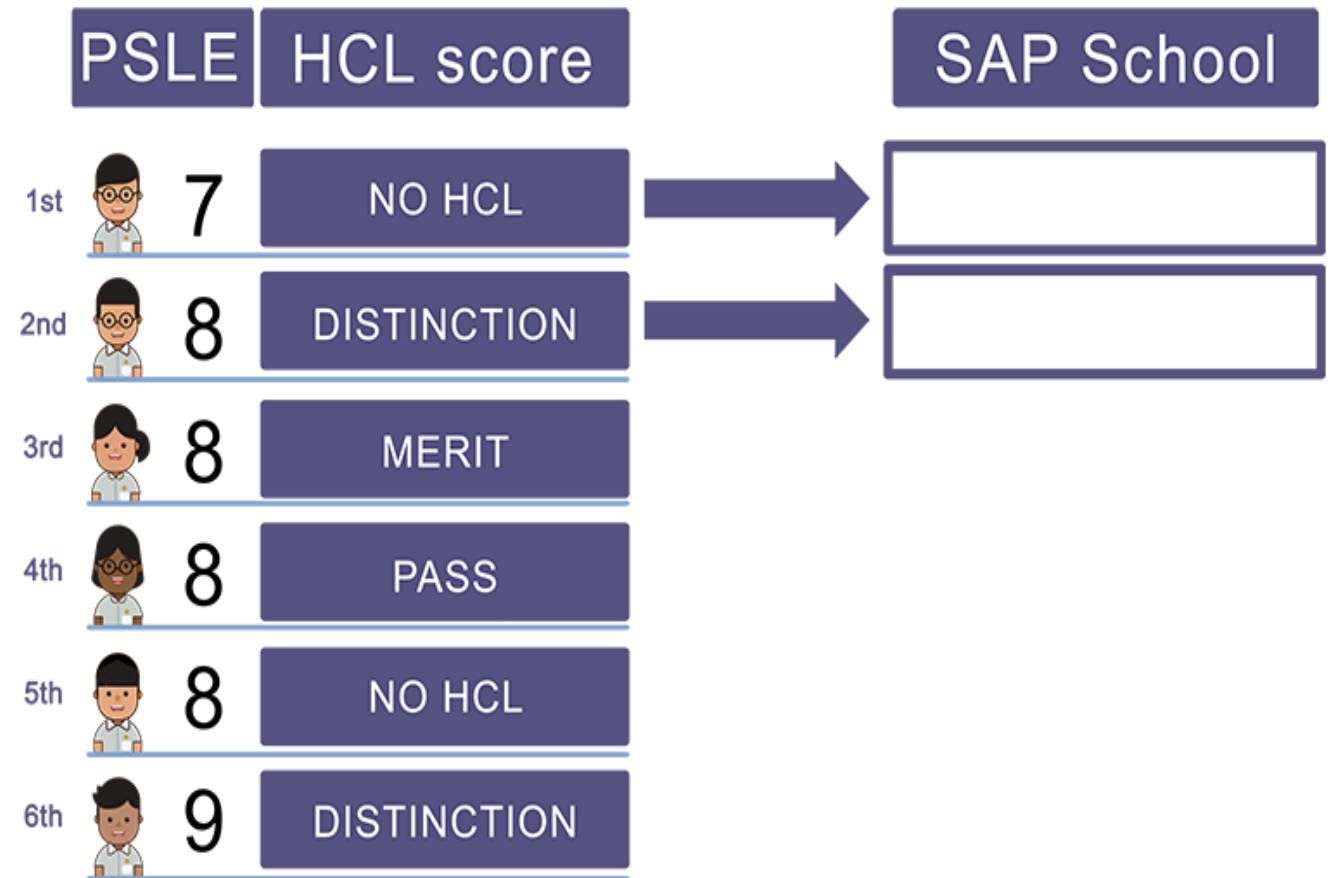
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL HMTL

PSLE Score of 8 or better

OR

PSLE Score of 9 to 14
inclusive; and achieving

- i) AL 1/AL 2 in MTL or
- ii) Distinction/Merit in HMTL





PSLE Score and Posting Group

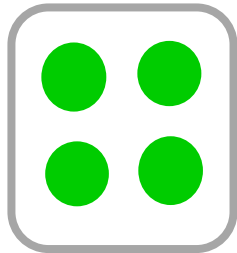
| PSLE Score | Posting Group | Subject level for most subjects |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 4-20 | 3 | G3 |
| 21 and 22 | 2 or 3 | G2 or G3 |
| 23 and 24 | 2 | G2 |
| 25 | 1 or 2 | G1 or G2 |
| 26 - 30 (with AL 7 in EL and MA) | 1 | G1 |

FULL SBB: MIXED FORM CLASSES IN LOWER SECONDARY

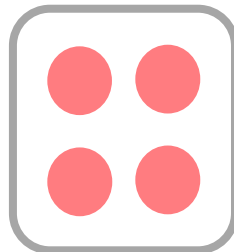
Intent:

Provide more opportunities for students to interact with friends of different strengths and interests, and mitigate the labelling and stigmatisation associated with streaming

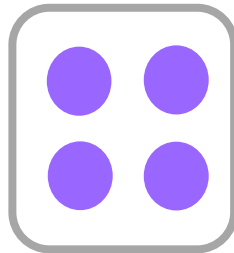
Form classes arranged by academic stream in schools yet to implement Full SBB



Students in Exp stream

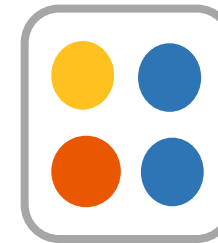
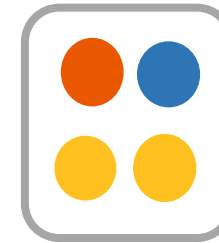


Students in N(A) stream



Students in N(T) stream

With Full SBB:
Mixed form classes



Students posted through **PG3**



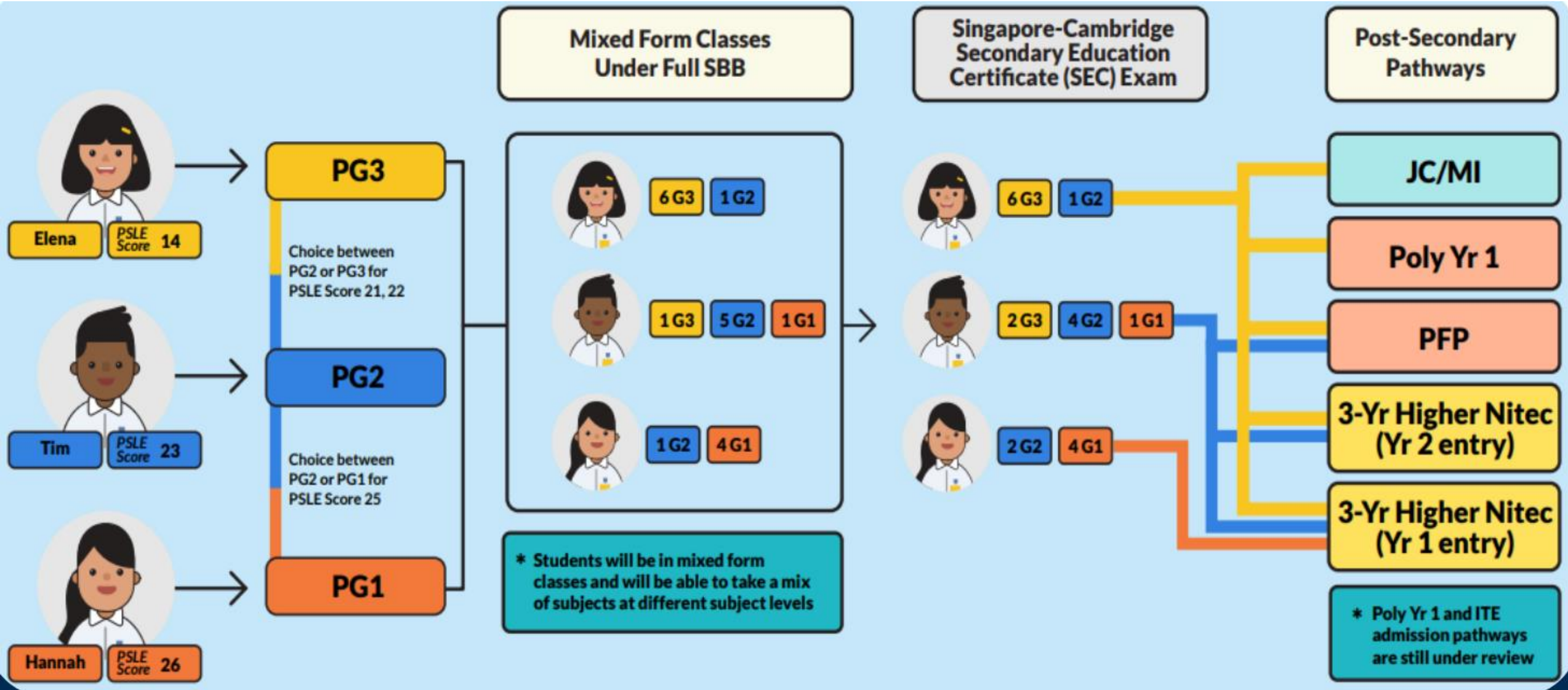
Students posted through **PG2**

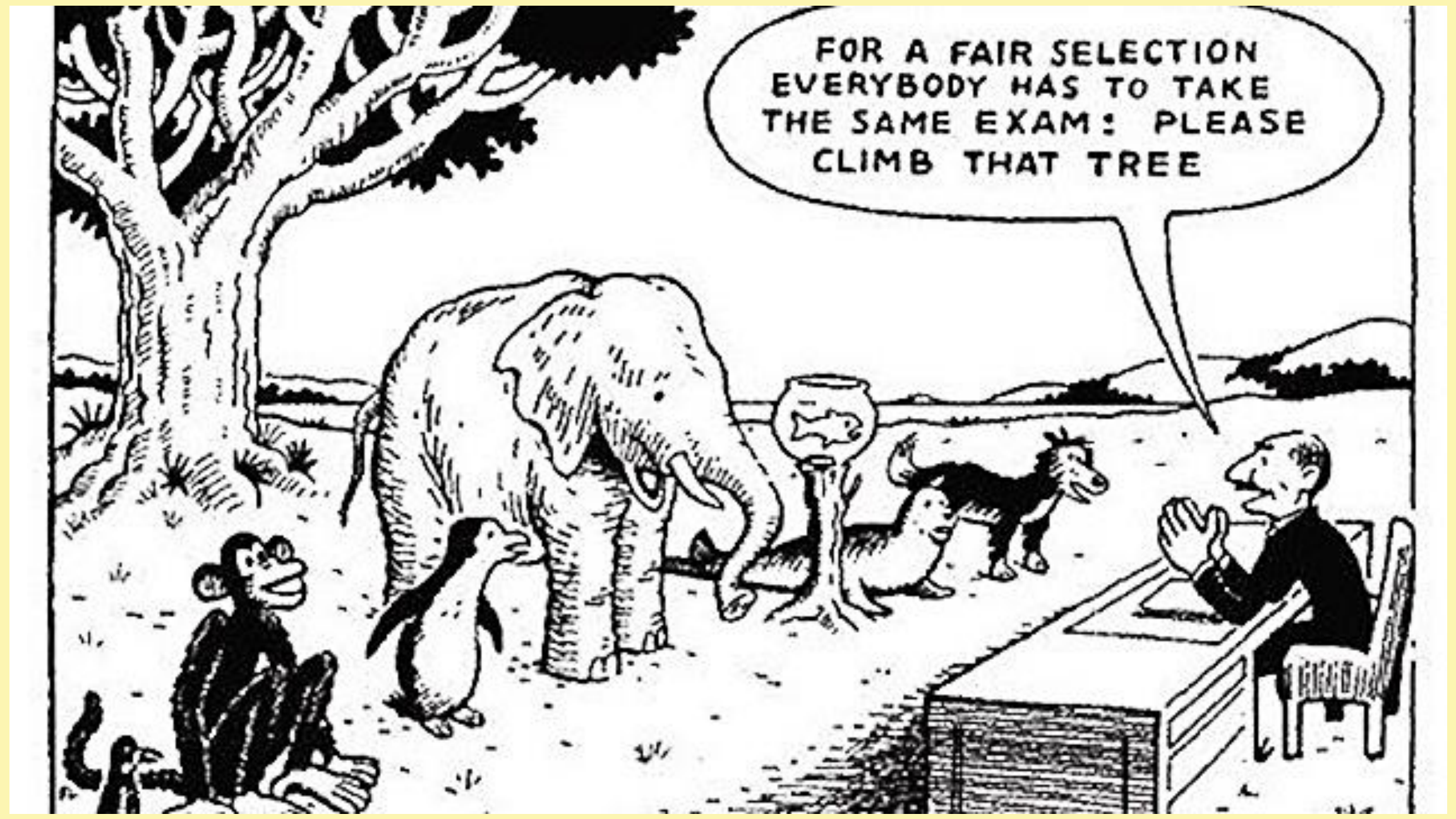


Students posted through **PG1**



Multiple Pathways





FOR A FAIR SELECTION
EVERYBODY HAS TO TAKE
THE SAME EXAM: PLEASE
CLIMB THAT TREE

Nationally, these 4 E21CC will be prioritised.

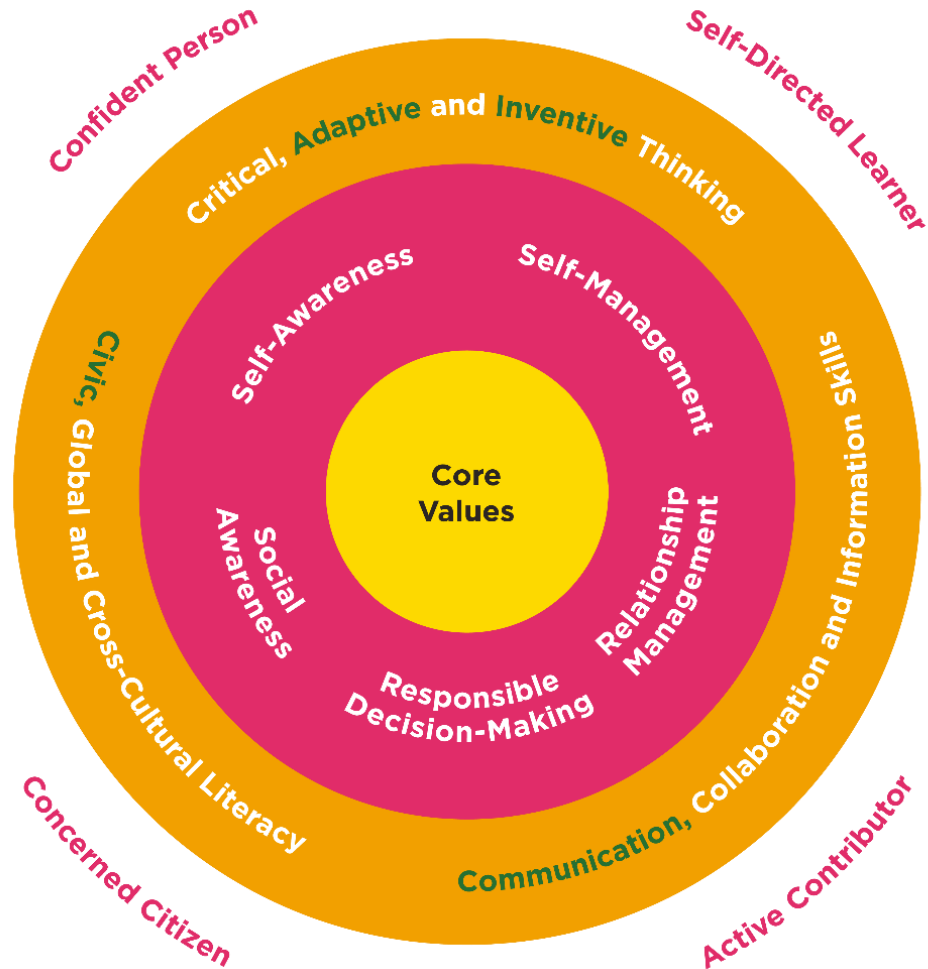
As a school, we will take time to consider which E21CC should be prioritised and developed through our programmes and curriculum.

Adaptive Thinking

- i. Assesses **different contexts** and situations in order to **make connections** and draw new insights
- ii. Manages **complexities and ambiguities** by adjusting one's perspective and strategies

Civic Literacy

- i. Demonstrates **understanding of values, ideals and issues** of personal, community and national significance
- ii. Plays active and constructive roles to **improve the school, community and nation**

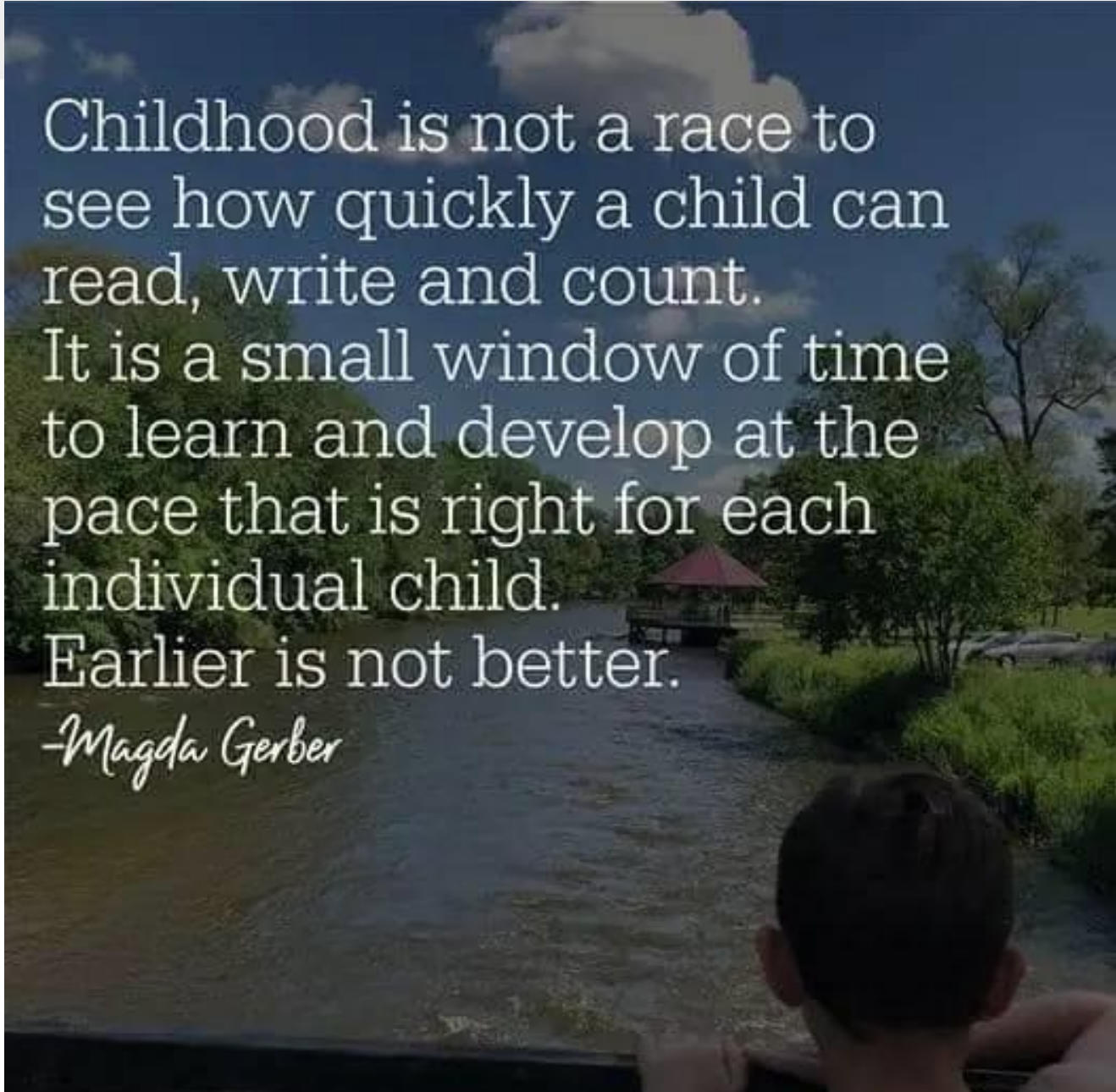


Inventive Thinking

- i. Explores possibilities and **generates novel and useful ideas**
- ii. **Evaluates and refines** ideas to formulate novel and useful solutions

Communication

- i. **Effectively communicates** information and co-constructs meaning
- ii. Engages **empathetically** with diverse perspectives

A photograph of a child's head and shoulders in the foreground, looking out over a river. In the distance, there is a gazebo on the riverbank surrounded by trees and a blue sky with clouds.

Childhood is not a race to
see how quickly a child can
read, write and count.
It is a small window of time
to learn and develop at the
pace that is right for each
individual child.
Earlier is not better.

-Magda Gerber

5. How Are We Supporting Your Child?

- WE Culture
- Level recess talks / Level assemblies
- One-on-one chats
- Teachable moments
- Close partnership with parents



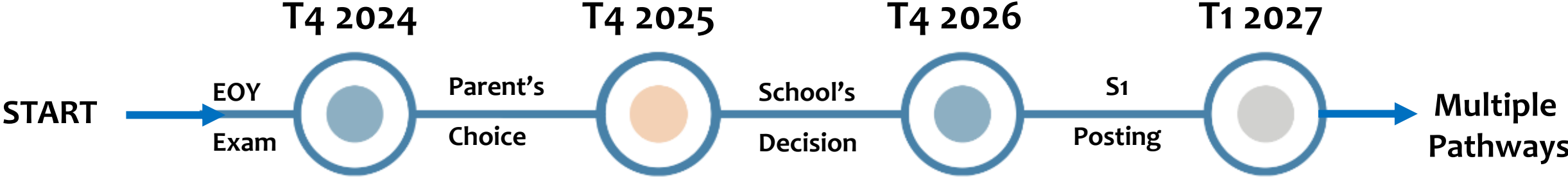
5. How Can You Support Your Child?

- **Build** their character and values with more intentionality and importance.
- Be **present** and connect with your child.
- **Nurture** their strengths.
- **Support** their areas for growth.
- Recognise that your child is **unique** and learns best at his/her own pace.
- **Model** the behaviour you would like to see in your child.





SBB in a Nutshell for P4 2024 Cohort



P4

Based on student's results for each subject, the school will recommend a subject combination.

Parents will fill up an option form indicating the preferred combination.

P5

The school assesses student's ability to cope with the current subject combination at the end of the P5 year.

Adjustments to the number of Standard and Foundation subjects can be made, if necessary.

P6

Student sits for PSLE.

Sec 1

For subjects the student is strong in, they can be offered the subject at a higher level in Secondary school.



THANK YOU

*Briefing slides will be made available on the school website on 12 July under the tab 'Partners -> Parents'