



**ST ANDREW'S
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

CONFERENCE WITH PARENTS, Sec 2 N(A)

13 April 2023

Ms Agnes Teo, Vice Principal



AGENDA

1. Progression Pathways after GCE 'N(A)' Level Examination
2. Promotion Criteria and Course Selection Options
3. Supporting your child's ECG journey (video)



RECENT SHIFTS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

- **Nurturing students to learn for life**
 - **Reduce overemphasis on academic results**
 - Help students develop an intrinsic motivation to learn and nurture their **joy of learning**
 - Provide **multiple educational pathways** to cater to our students' diverse strengths, interests and learning needs
- Some of the shifts to achieve the above include:

Reduction in
school-based
assessment

No Mid-Year Exam
for all levels

Full
Implementation
of Full Subject-
Based Banding
2024 S1 cohort

FSBB@SASS
since 2020

Increase in places
for Direct School
Admission

Changes to PSLE
Scoring and
Secondary 1
Posting System

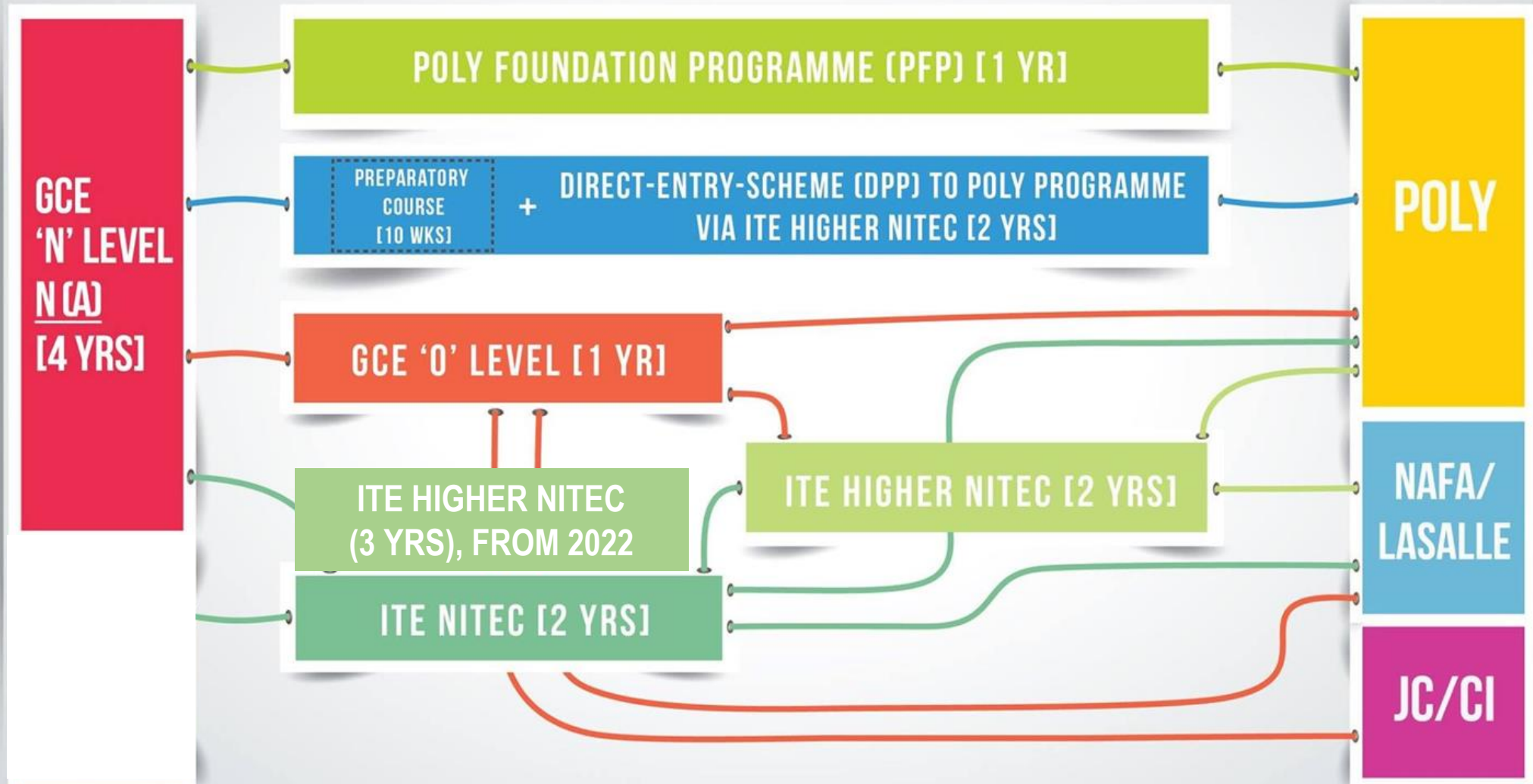


FULL SUBJECT-BASED BANDING

- Secondary School Course Eligible For: Normal (Academic)
- Full Subject-Based Banding (Full SBB) at Sec 1 & 2
 - Students take subjects at G2 level [aligned to N(A) level]
 - Some take selected subjects at G3 level [aligned to Express level] e.g. English, Math
- Sec 3 courses and subject combinations
 - Sit for GCE N(A)-Level Exam in 2025
 - Offer subjects for the N(A) course at Sec 3 & 4
 - May offer some subjects at the Express level, known as **Out-of-Stream (OOS)** subjects e.g., N(A) student offers O-Level Math (syllabus)



MULTIPLE PATHWAYS FOR N(A) STUDENTS





POLYTECHNIC FOUNDATION PROGRAMME (PFP)

- A one-year programme at the polytechnic that offers a practice-oriented curriculum, as an alternative to the Sec 5 year.
- PFP students are given provisional places in diploma programmes, subject to them passing all modules in the one-year PFP.



POLYTECHNIC FOUNDATION PROGRAMME (PFP)

- **Eligibility for PFP:**

Starting from the Academic Year 2024 intake, the PFP will be expanded to allow a wider group of students to benefit from a practice-based preparatory pathway to a polytechnic education, while ensuring that they are able to cope with the curriculum.

- ELMAB3 raw aggregate score of **12 points or better** (excluding CCA bonus points)
 - Grade **3** or better for EL, MA and 1 'Best' subject (Grade 2 in EL for some courses)
 - Grade **4*** or better for 2 other 'Best' subjects (relaxed criteria)
- CCA bonus points used in computing the ELMAB3 net aggregate score for course posting

Refer to <https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/psle-fsbb/full-subject-based-banding/secondary-school-experience.html>



DIRECT ENTRY SCHEME TO POLYTECHNIC PROGRAMME (DPP)

- Admitted directly into a 2-year Higher Nitec programme at the ITE without having to sit for the O-Level examination or undergo a Nitec programme.
- Assured of a place in a related polytechnic course, if student achieves the required minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) score in the Higher Nitec course.
- **Eligibility for DPP:**
 - i. ELMAB3 raw aggregate score of **19 points or less** (excluding CCA bonus points)
 - CCA bonus points used in computing the ELMAB3 net aggregate score for course posting
 - ii. Grade **4** or better for English & Math (Grade 3 in EL for some courses)
Grade **5** or better for 3 other subjects



3-YEAR HIGHER NITEC PROGRAMME

New
From 2022

- Students attain a *Higher Nitec* qualification directly, in only three years instead of four years (Nitec → Higher Nitec).
- Students can apply using the existing *Nitec* entry requirements.
English, Math or Science (depending on the course applied for) plus 2 other subjects;
Grade 5 or better.

ITE is transitioning all its Nitec courses to the enhanced three-year curricular structure leading directly to a Higher Nitec certification.

ITE will continue to monitor the outcomes of this implementation and is on track to complete the transition by Academic Year 2026.



JUNIOR COLLEGE PATHWAY

Sec 5 in 2026

➤ ***No Change to Junior College (JC) Admission Criteria***

➤ ***A-Level curriculum to be revised***

- From 2026, only 3 H2 content-based subjects will count towards the University Admission Score (UAS) by default. Fourth content-based subject included only if it improves score.
- No more mid-year exams for JCs and Millennia Institute progressively, starting with the cohort entering in 2024.
- Project Work will be a Pass/Fail subject.
- From 2024, all JC1 students will be required to study General Paper (GP), which will be delinked from Knowledge & Inquiry (KI).
- KI remains a H2 contrasting subject for both Arts and Science.



Among the 105 courses offered by ITE are early childhood education (above) and aerospace engineering (below).



The new and modern premises of ITE campus (above) boast recreational areas (left) for badminton, basketball and street soccer, outdoor sports facilities (bottom) such as football pitches and grounds, and even an Olympic size swimming pool (below) at the Ang Mo Kio campus.



ITE COMES OF AGE

The Institute of Technical Education matures and gains recognition as a place of learning as it turns 21

However, as it celebrates its 21st year – an age that signifies independence for young people – the institution is moving from its “it’s the end” image towards a new beginning.

Established on April 1, 1992, as a post-secondary institution focusing on engineering and technical work, taking in the least academically inclined 25 per cent of each cohort of secondary school leavers, it has fought over the years to shed its image as the lesser cousin of other post-secondary institutions.

These days, however, it is well on a place

The other mega-campuses are the \$240-million ITE College East in Simei and the \$260-million ITE College West in Choa Chu Kang. They opened in 2005 and 2010 respectively.

All three schools are a far cry from the hand-me-down premises (below) that ITE used to occupy.

Almost 20 years on, the transformation

Mr Roy Goh, 27, director and chief executive of recording label company P.U.S. Music Records, studied aerospace technology in ITE Ang Mo Kio in the early

1990s. If you do not build such a good school, who would send their children there?”

He is married with four children aged five to 19. If his children ever faced the question of whether to go to ITE, he would encourage them to do so, he says.

But it is not just the campus facilities that are making an impact – ITE students and graduates have also made their mark on employers in Singapore.

The Central Confidential Singapore has been taking in about 15 to 20 ITE students on six-month internships every year since

Mr Bruce Peh, 58, director and chief executive of the ITE, says: “Previously, public perception was as Jack Neo put it in his movie *I Not Stupid – It’s The Guit*, that we have transcribed the image to a stage where the ITE is a good educational pathway.”

Watching ITE students “bliss out” in “Learners”, he adds.

And one place he has seen them thrive is at the Amber @ West Restaurant in ITE College West, which is a training restaurant for ITE students.

It is the spirit of the ITE that has



PHOTO: NABU LING, COURTESY INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Possibilities and Opportunities

ITE graduates get highest starting pay in four years

Reduced talent pool in engineering helps push salary up 18% to \$1,650



ITE graduate Chow Zhi Hua, 23, a retail assistant at Home-Fix, earns about \$1,650. The rising wages appear to be a result of SMEs being more willing to pay more and the manpower crunch. —ST PHOTO: LIM SIF THAI

BY PEARL LEE

Students who graduated from the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) last year started their working life with an average monthly salary of \$1,646 - the highest in four years.

Their pay was 18 per cent higher than the \$1,391 a month earned by those who graduated in 2009, according to an ITE survey.

More ITE grads go on to poly and varsity

Institute of Technical Education enrolment up by nearly 20% in 5 years

By AMELIA TAN

THE number of full-time students enrolled in the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) has grown by nearly 20 per cent - from 20,900 in 2001 to 24,800 now.

This means that students who in the past would have gone to work after secondary school, picked private schools or dropped out of the school system are now opting to further their education with ITE, said the institution's chief executive, Mr Bruce Poh.

This trend is buoyed by ITE's success in developing polytechnic-ready students, its course offerings and the attractiveness of its seven campuses across the island, he said.

Not only has its enrolment gone up, it has also produced a steadily rising number of successful graduates, with many more furthering their studies at the polytechnics and the universities.

Mr Poh, speaking to The Straits Times on the sidelines of the ITE graduation ceremony yesterday, noted that one to five or 20 per cent of ITE graduates went on to the polytechnics last year, up from just 14 per cent five years ago.

A total of 12,499 students will graduate this year in decentralised ceremonies held in their respective colleges.

Those who received their awards in the ceremony at the National University of Singapore's University Cultural Centre

yesterday were the 700 recipients of the certificate of merit, which goes to the top 1 per cent in each course.

Education Minister Ng Eng Hen, the guest of honour at the ceremony, said in his speech that strong industry demand for ITE graduates reflected the quality of an ITE education.

More than eight in 10 ITE graduates landed jobs within six months of graduation last year - despite the weaker economy in the first half of the year.

Dr Ng said: "The introduction of a flexible curriculum to cater to students with different abilities as well as holistic support for students through student motivation programmes, counselling services and financial help have been effective in retaining students who would have otherwise fallen out of our social system."

He announced that a new school of hospitality will be set up in ITE College West in Choo Choo Kang. It will have a 22-room training hotel, training kitchens, training restaurants and a wine cellar.

For Lee Joo Wei, 16, yesterday was a red-letter day. The aerospace technology graduate who topped his cohort said the encouragement of his teachers and the steady improvement of his grades spurred him to work hard.

He said: "My teachers told us we must believe in ourselves. When I started to do well, I could see myself going on to the poly and furthering my studies. In secondary school, I didn't put in the effort because I couldn't see where I was heading."

That he has now charted his route ahead is clear: He is studying aeronautical engineering in Singapore Polytechnic and hopes to go on to the Nanyang Technological University after that.

ameliatan@sg.mg



ITE alumnus Mohamed Akbar Khan Akhtar, 27, graduated with first-class honours in electrical engineering from the National University of Singapore this month. ST PHOTO: ALPHONSE CHEN

Top of the class at ITE, S'pore Poly and NUS

MR MOHAMED Akbar Khan Akhtar, 27, stands out among successful alumni of the Institute of Technical Education (ITE).

He was not only among the top students in his class there, but he also went on to the polytechnic and then the university. He capped his education earlier this month with a first-class honours degree in electrical engineering from the National University of Singapore.

His primary and secondary school years had been unremarkable, he said, but his turnaround came when he took up electronics at ITE College West (Shater Campus).

With his teachers then consistently encouraging him, he began to do well. They also encouraged him to take up fencing and pushed him to represent Singapore in competitions.

He said: "For the first time in my life, I was scoring As. I realised that I could do it if I set my mind to it. So I started studying hard and applying myself. After I started doing well, I didn't want to give up since I had already put in so much effort to get to where I was."

Mr Akhtar was a guest at the ITE graduation ceremony yesterday because he was mentioned in a speech by ITE chief executive Bruce Poh.

The third of four children of a delivery man and a housewife was among the ITE's top students back in 2007.

He went on to study electronics, computer and communication engineering at Singapore Polytechnic, where he continued his run of good grades and emerged as one of the top graduates.

Mr Akhtar said his first-class honours degree came from sheer hard work. He put in at least four hours of revision daily and would turn down friends who asked him out as he wanted to spend his spare time studying.

Now, with a good degree under his belt, he hopes to become a research engineer in a government agency. In five years, he wants to go back to ITE - as a teacher.

He said: "My teachers taught me to believe in myself and I hope that I can do the same for other ITE students."

AMELIA TAN

Polytechnics

Courses are **market driven**
(relevant & specific skills)

and **career oriented**

Hands-on experience

Students **graduate with a**
Diploma

Ready to enter the
workforce



Possibilities and Opportunities

Junior Colleges (JCs) & Millennia Institute (MI)

Prepare students for 'A' levels
and tertiary education

Length of study:

JCs – 2 years

MI – 3 years

Possibilities and Opportunities



Information

- Entry requirements of courses
 - JC; MI; Polytechnic, ITE courses
- Aggregate computation and subject descriptions
- JAE registration and posting

JAE 2023 Information Booklet

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/jae>



<https://go.gov.sg/downloadjaebooklet>
2023



Possibilities and Opportunities



- Enable us to better understand the needs and interests of our boys
- Give our boys a sense of how they have performed via Weighted Assessments
- Data collected from this exercise will allow the school to finalise the subject combinations at year-end

Results of Pre-Course Selection Exercise have no consequential effect on the boys' actual course selection outcomes at the end of the year



SEC 2 SUBJECT EXPERIENCE (ELECTIVES)

NEW!

Through this
initiative,
students will:



Have a better understanding of what
the elective subject entails



Make informed decisions



Have the opportunity to interact with
their peers



OUR PLANS

Allow our boys to choose the elective subjects they want to experience

Schedule our boys to go into the elective subjects (1 choice) in Weeks 2-3 of Term 3



SUBJECT COMBINATIONS FOR SEC 3N(A)

Number of subjects	6 subjects	7 subjects
Common Subjects	English, Mother Tongue, Mathematics	
Combined Science	Science (Physics & Chemistry)	
Humanities (Choose 1)	Hum(SS, History) OR Hum(SS, Geography)	
Elective Subjects	Choose 1 CW/NCW	Choose 2 (CW+NCW) <u>or</u> 2 NCW

Non-Coursework Subjects	Coursework Subjects
Additional Math	Art
Literature	Design & Technology
Principles of Accounts	Nutrition & Food Science
	'O' Level Music*

CW - Coursework
NCW - Non-Coursework



SUBJECT COMBINATIONS FOR SEC 3N(A)

RATIONALE

- Broad-based education; next level of education at post-secondary

COURSE SELECTION CRITERIA

- Merit against criteria for subjects
 - a. Overall results (all subjects for the whole year)
 - b. Performance in specific subjects (End-of-Year result)
- Final subject combinations offered at year-end are subject to changes, based on availability of manpower resources and interest indicated by students
- Elective subjects will only be offered if the minimum number of students necessary to make up a class is met



SUBJECT-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

N(A) Subjects	Criteria based on End-Of-Year Exam results
Additional Math	At least 60% for G2 Math
English Literature	At least 60% for G2 Lit
Art	At least 60% for Art
Principles of Accounts	At least 50% for G2 Math
Design & Technology	At least 60% for D&T (*based on WA1 & WA2)
Nutrition & Food Science	At least 60% for FCE (*based on WA3 & EOY)
'O' Level Music	Pass audition and selection test
7-subject combination	60% for overall percentage for all subjects; and At least 60% for English Language, Science and Mathematics (EOY result)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The criteria serve as a guide and the actual cut-off depends on the performance of the cohort and the demand for various subjects.2. For students taking subjects at G3, the marks will be converted to G2-equivalent scores for subject allocation.	



CRITERIA FOR OFFERING OOS SUBJECTS

- Met eligibility for promotion to Secondary 3
- Subjects offered for Out-of-Stream Subjects (OOS)
 - EL, MTL, Math, Combined Sci, Combined Hum (SS/HS, SS/GE)

	EL	MTL	MATHS	SCI	HUMANITIES (SS/HS)	HUMANITIES (SS/GE)
For students doing SBB subjects (at G3)	C5 (55%)	C5 (55%)	C5 (55%)	C5 (55%)	C5 (55%)	C5 (55%)
For students not doing SBB subjects (at G2)	2 (70%)	2 (70%)	2 (70%)	2 (70%)	1 (75%)	1 (75%)



GRADE CONVERSION

GCE O-Level Grade	GCE N(A)-Level Grade
A1 – B3	1
B4 – C6	2
D7	3
E8	4
9	5



GENERAL GUIDELINES TO CONTINUE WITH OOS SUBJECTS

Students taking OOS subjects at Sec 3 will be encouraged to revert to the appropriate level of study for that particular subject if they:

- Fail (<50%) in the OOS subject(s) they are offering and/or
- Fail overall (overall results <50%)

*Review of subject offerings will be based on Sec 3 year-end results.
Students who are not managing well will be advised and
recommendations made in consultation with parents.*



PROMOTION CRITERIA

Outcome	Conditions
Promoted to Sec 3N(A) Lateral transfer to Sec 3Exp	Pass in EL and 2 other subjects Overall percentage of at least 70%; and at least 65% EL & Math (EOY results)



WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

- It is not “the more the merrier or the more difficult the better...” [7 subjects, OOS subjects a double-edged sword]
- It is about students’ interests and strengths
- Opt for combinations that are within one’s academic capability
- Rank choices after careful consideration

Study shows that if the subject combination that the student is in is not one of their preferred choices, but one imposed by others, the student is less motivated to do well.

Understanding Your Son

- Strengths? Consistently good at?
- Interests? Curious about?
- Preferences? People or data?

Understanding Subject Combinations

- Aims, content and requirements of subjects
- Pathways available
- Speak to subject teachers for clarification

Conversation with your Son

- Involve him in the selection of subject combination
- Listen to his perspective and explore the various combinations available



Finding a Good Fit





BOOK AN ECG APPOINTMENT

- Ms Nur, ECG Counsellor
- Availability: Every Tuesday and Wednesday
- Time: 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.
- Location: ECG Room at St Andrew's House
- Email:
nurkhadijah_mustafa_bamadhaj@schools.gov.sg



<https://go.gov.sg/ecg-sass>

Supporting Your Child's ECG Journey

Ms Nur, ECG Counsellor
St Andrew's Secondary School





USEFUL LINKS

- Information on subjects e.g. D&T and O-Level Music

<https://www.seab.gov.sg/>

- Information on JC curriculum

<https://www.seab.gov.sg/content/alevelInformation/InformationSheet.pdf>



Thank You!