

SUBJECT BASED BANDING AT ST ANDREW'S: EVERY STUDENT CAN SHINE, LEAD AND SUCCEED!

We started the implementation of subject based banding (SBB) in 2018, which has enabled students posted to the N(A) and N(T) courses to take subject(s) at a higher academic level starting from Secondary one. Students are empowered to further develop their strengths in subjects they have performed well in at the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE).

Over the course of two years, we have received heartening feedback from teachers, students and parents about SBB, including: the forging of wider friendship circles as a result of mixed class groupings; nurturing a stronger culture of peer support; and building grit as well as self-esteem in our boys.

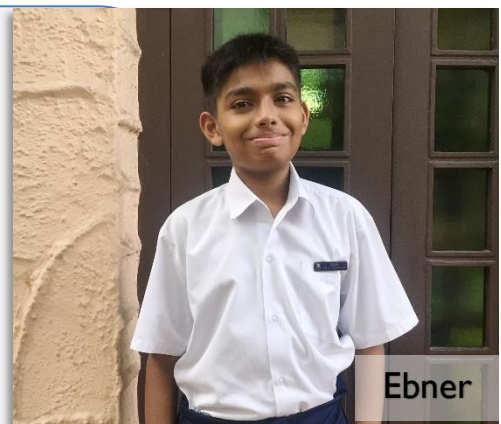
Students who have done consistently well in their SBB subjects also appreciated being offered the option to laterally transfer to a more demanding course (i.e. from N(T) course to the N(A) course, or from the N(A) course to the Express course). They include Secondary 2 students, Andre Ramraj Manalili Khurana and Ebner Dheeren Joshua, who have laterally transferred to the Express course at the end of 2018. Here, they share some of their thoughts on the SBB experience:



Andre

“SBB has given me the opportunity to widen my horizons and ‘level up’ in my learning. I now have a larger circle of friends to count on, as well as help out! Buddies in my new class have been encouraging, and they helped me to catch up at the start of the year. Now that I have fully adjusted to the faster learning pace, I am able to lend them a hand with subjects I am stronger at! SBB has offered me the best of both worlds!”

“SBB has allowed me to surprise myself with what I can achieve, and surprise others with how we [SBB boys] can rise to the challenge. The faster pace pushed me to constantly try harder and give my best across subjects. At first I was nervous about joining a new class, but I quickly found new pals. In January, my teachers also had extra sessions after school, just to help me find my footing. I am grateful for them!”



Ebner