DSA Information Session

DSA Information Session

Session starting in...

10:00

DSA Information Session

01 What is DSA

02 Timeline of events

03 Portfolio & Resume

04 Shortlisting

05 Selection Outcomes

06 DSA Conditions

THE LAB

What is DSA?

Direct School Admission (DSA)

Early placement

Secure a place before everyone else

Students can apply for and receive conditional offers for admission to the school they want

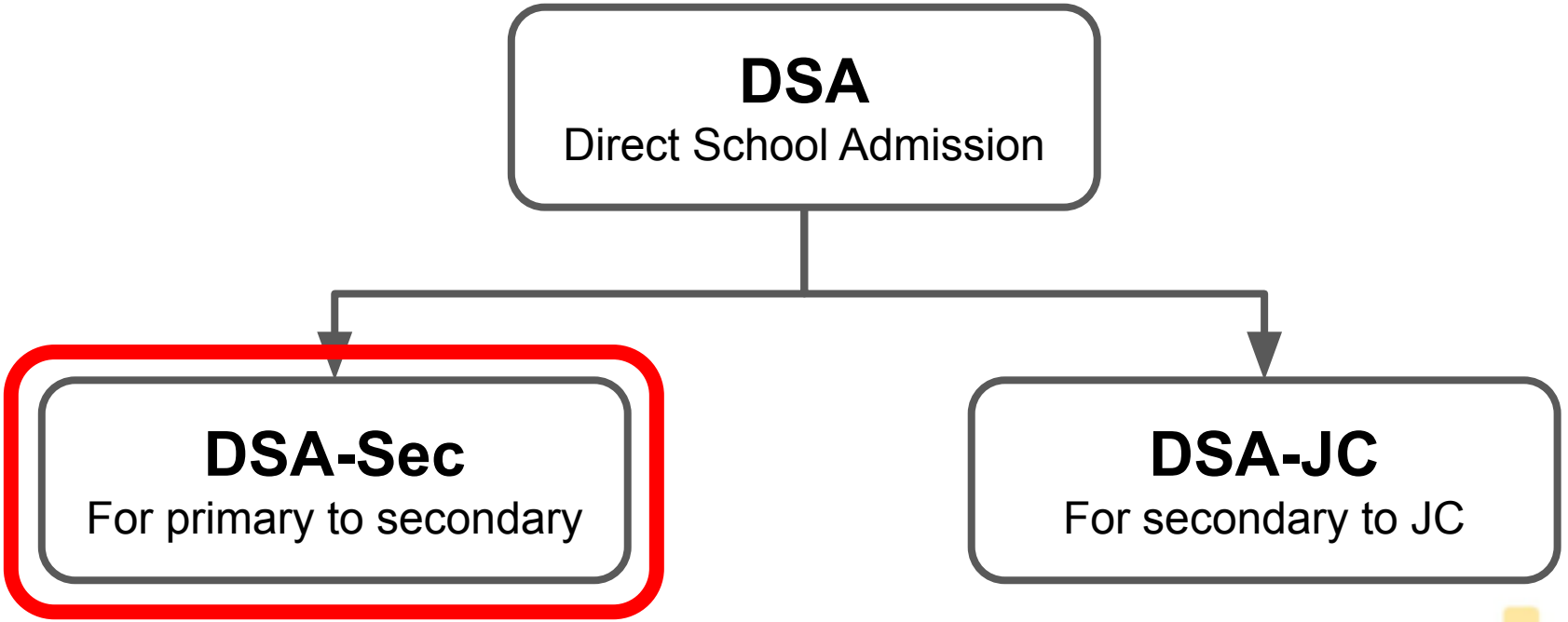
Talents

Aptitude-based admissions

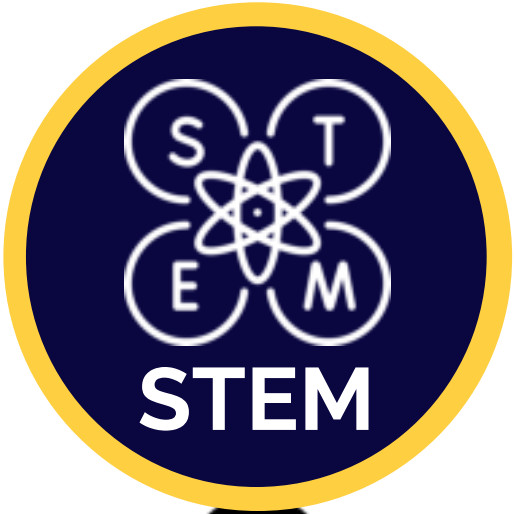
Schools will select and admit students based on their talents, aptitudes and interests

THE LAB

What is DSA?

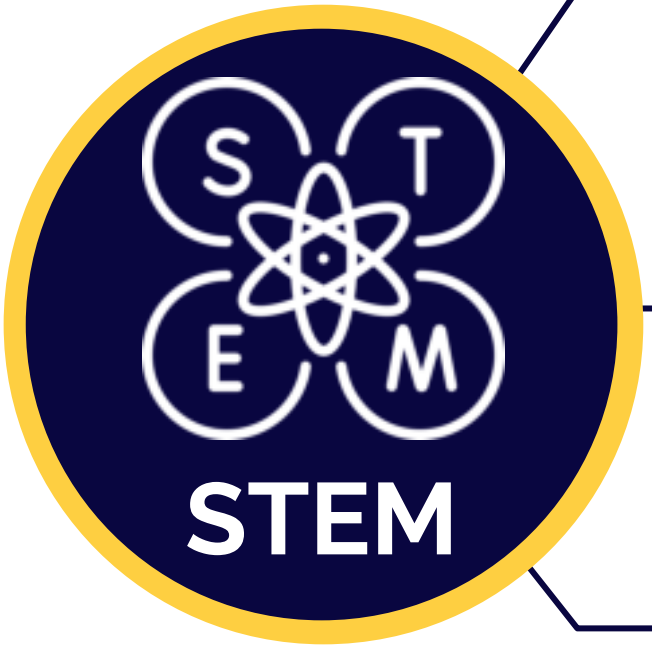


THE LAB



*Not all fields are listed

THE LAB



Robotics

Lego Mindstorms EV3,
Spike, Raspberry Pi,
Arduino System...

Coding

Blockly Programming, Scratch,
Python, Javascript, HTML,
C Languages...

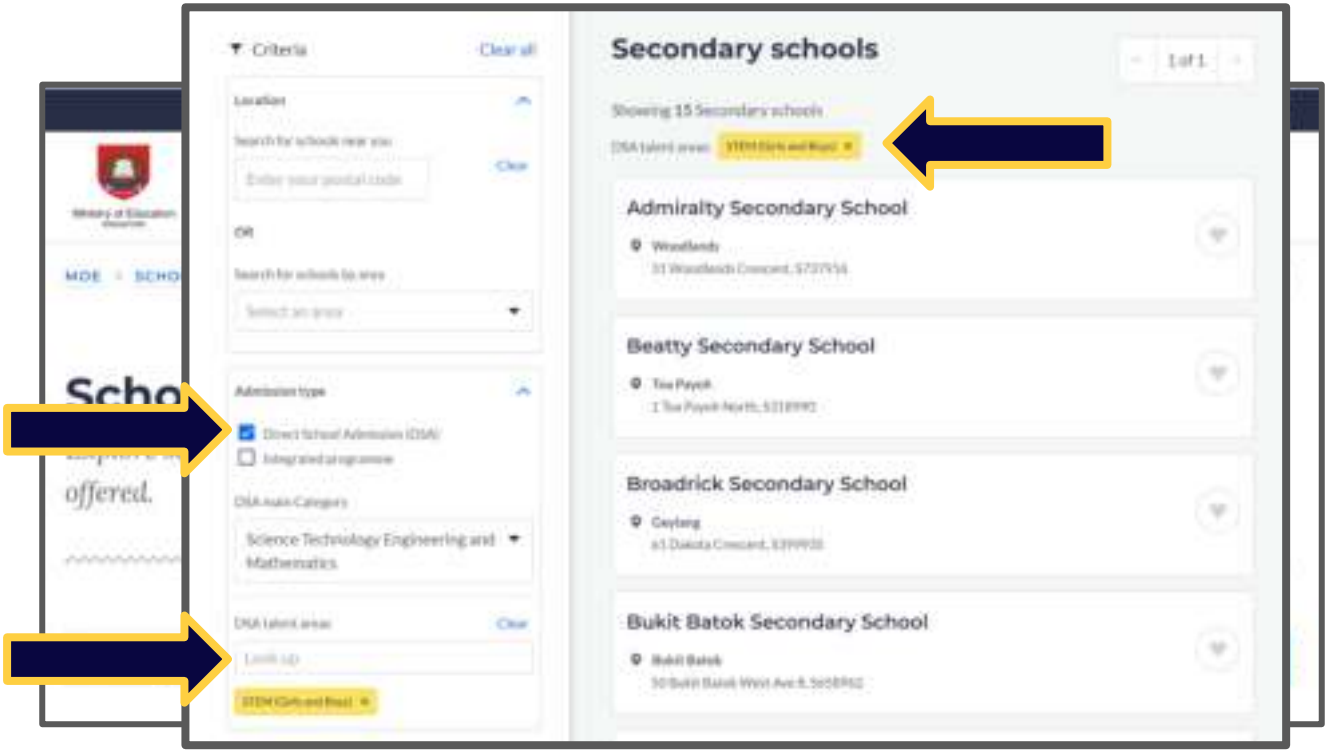
Science & Technology

Applied technologies,
computer sciences...

THE LAB

*Not all fields are listed

MOE School Finder



THE LAB

School choices

Admiralty Sec

Pei Hwa Sec

Ngee Ann Sec

Commonwealth Sec

Beatty Sec

ACS (Indp/Barker)

Maris Stella

St. Andrews

Hwa Chong

Methodist Girls

*Data is based on 2023's sensus

***Not all schools from the MOE database are listed**

THE LAB

DSA Timeline

< May

Explore school choices

Look out for updates on the school's websites

Consolidate your portfolio/resume

May

04 May, DSA online applications opens*

Submit your applications by 31 May*

Jun

Shortlisted students have to attend interviews /auditions/trials

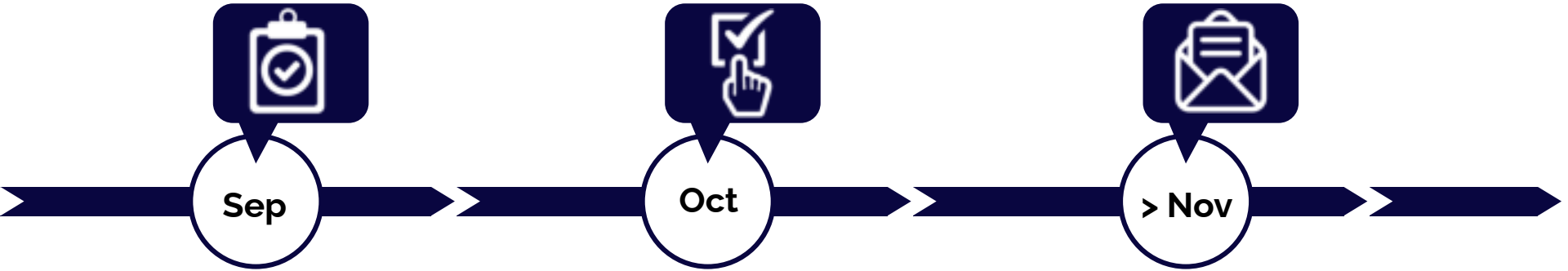
This will be conducted from Jun to Sep*

* As **dates may vary each year**, use this timeline as a rough estimate

** Current timeline is based on **MOE's timeline for 2023's DSA**

THE LAB

DSA Timeline



Students will receive their DSA application results by September Week 02*

(DSA 2023 - 11 Sept)

Submit your school choices on the DSA portal.

Any withdrawals from DSA must be completed here as well.

(DSA 2023 - 23 to 27 Oct)

Receive DSA school allocation along with results

(PSLE for Primary)
(January for O-Level)

* As **dates may vary each year**, use this timeline as a rough estimate

** Current timeline is based on **MOE's timeline for 2023's DSA**

THE LAB

What to prepare

Schools will be looking for students that will nurture their talent in their specialised programmes, carry the school name and fit into the school's culture.

Portfolio

A compilation of past works

Write-ups

Share more about yourself

Testimonials

Highlights and insights

THE LAB

Portfolio

Each school will have their own specific set of criterias that applying students should meet to have a <u>better chance</u> of being shortlisted.

Admission Criteria

The admission criteria are shown below.

ROBOTICS PROGRAMMING CRITERIA

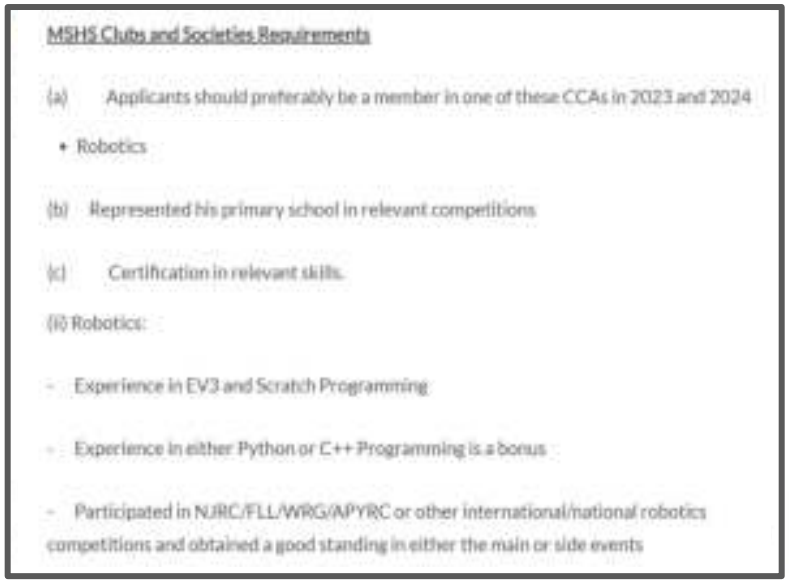
Talent/Experience in:

- LEGO NXT Robotics System or LEGO EV3 Robotics System
- LEGO Programming (Robotab / Mindstorm EV3)
- CoSpace Programming
- FTC Robotics System
- Vex Robotics System
- Arduino System
- Microbit microcontroller system
- Scratch Programming
- C Programming
- Python Programming
- Any other programming language

Level of Experience and Exposure: Participations in CCA, national or/and international robotics competitions, showcasing and projects.

Note: Applicants do not need to possess **ALL** of the above criteria to be considered. Meeting all the criteria does not guarantee the applicant will be shortlisted / given an offer.

Pei Hwa's criteria



MSHS Clubs and Societies Requirements

(a) Applicants should preferably be a member in one of these CCAs in 2023 and 2024

- Robotics

(b) Represented his primary school in relevant competitions

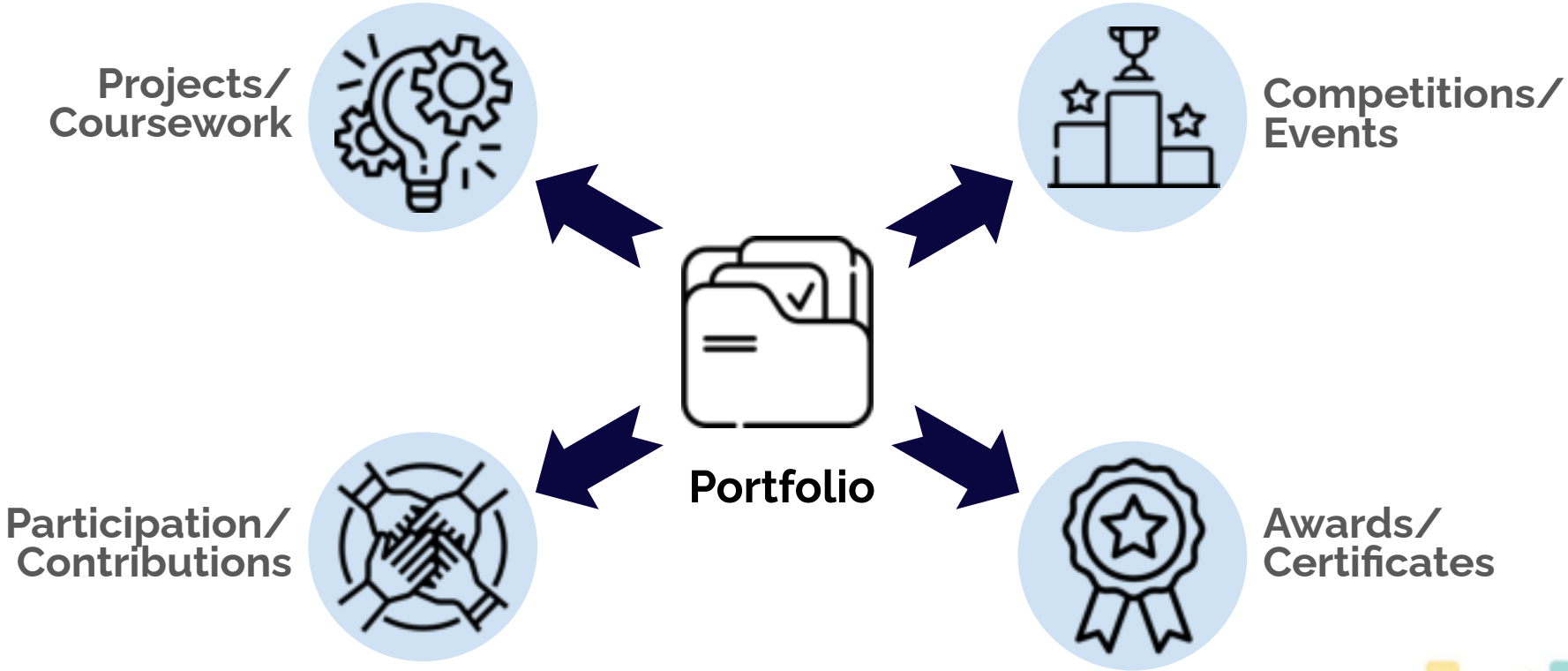
(c) Certification in relevant skills.

(ii) Robotics:

- Experience in EV3 and Scratch Programming
- Experience in either Python or C++ Programming is a bonus
- Participated in NJRC/FLL/WRG/APYRC or other international/national robotics competitions and obtained a good standing in either the main or side events

Maris Stella's criteria

THE LAB



Highly recommended to start building as soon as possible!

THE LAB

External Events

Core Programs

Holiday Programs

Internal Events

Others

National Robotics Competition Preschool Category

Coding Olympics for Lower Primary

National Robotics Competition – CoderZ Coding Challenge for Primary and Secondary

Coding Olympics for Higher Primary

Canadian Computing Competition

CodeQuest by IMDA

Kinder Foundation and Kinder

- Kinder Foundation Term 1 – 2 Projects / Presentations
- Kinder Term 1 – 4 Projects / Presentations

Junior Foundation and Junior

- Junior Foundation Term 1 – 2 Projects / Presentations
- Junior Term 1 – 4 Projects / Presentations

Coder Foundation and Coder

- Basic Lvl 1 Project
- Basic Lvl 2 Project
- Intermediate Lvl Project
- Advanced Project – Tic Tac Toe Game
- Advanced Project – Map

The Lab X Unity

- Platformer Game
- Skill Arcade Game
- Racing Game
- Predator Arcade Game
- Shooting Game
- First Person Shooter Game
- Strategy Game

The Lab X Competitive Programming

See External Events

Holiday Camps
<Each workshop is a project/portfolio itself.>

Monthly Best Project Award

Monthly Best Project Award

Monthly Fastest Coder and Best Project Awards

The Lab Thinkers Competition for Kinder, Junior and Coders. Winners will move on to the Singapore Science Buskers

The Lab Volunteer Program for Character Development

The Lab Instructor Assistant Program

Legend:

External Competitions

Internal Competitions

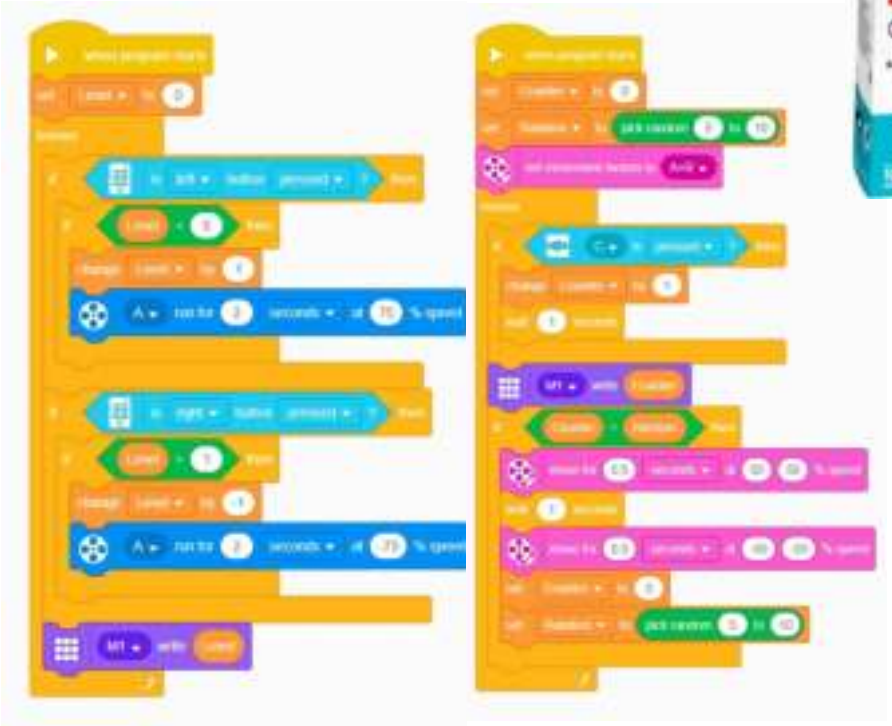
Other Programs

Build Your DSA Portfolio now!

STEMI ACCREDITED

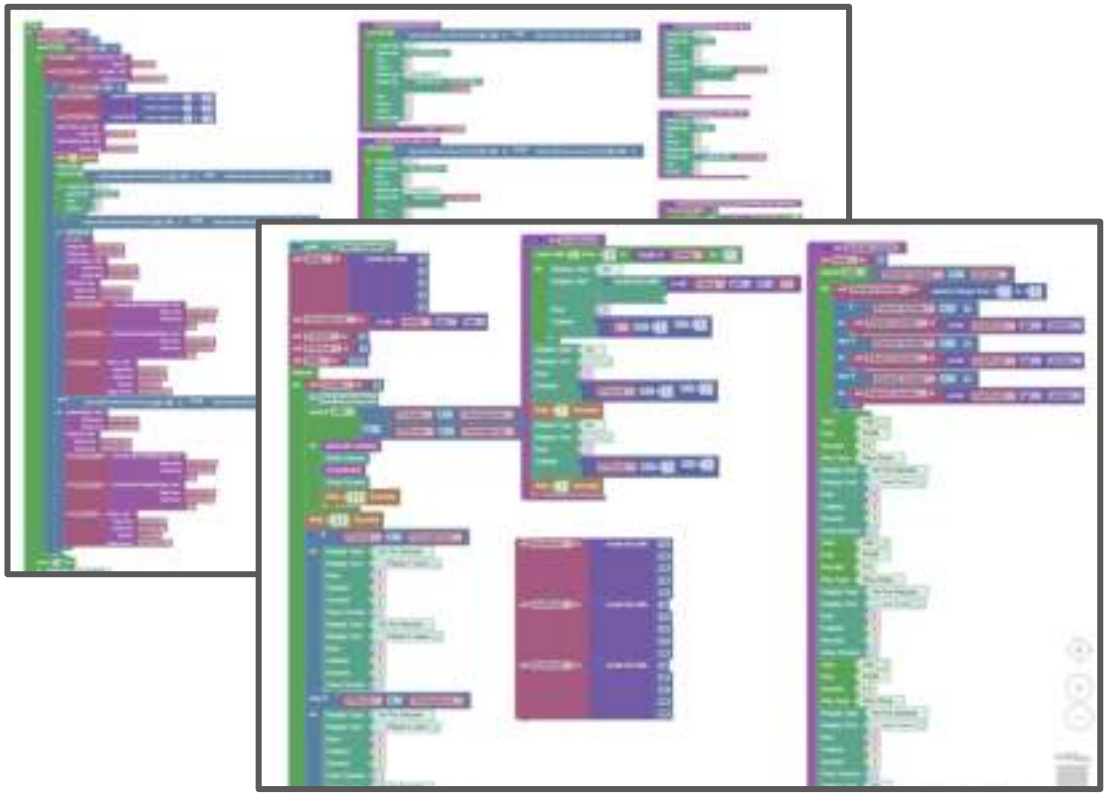
THE LAB

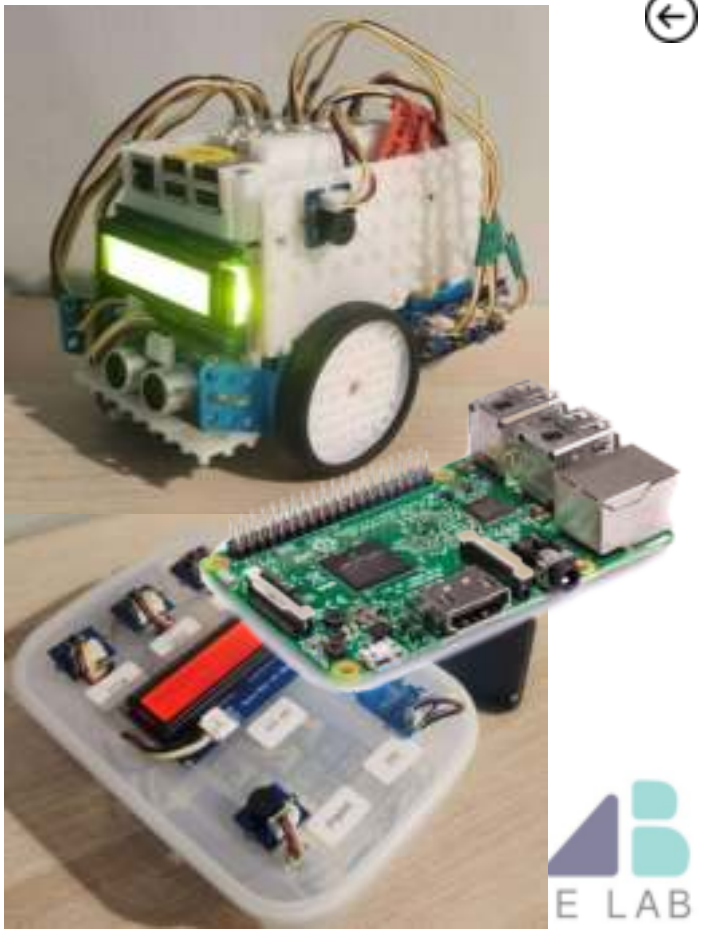
Portfolio



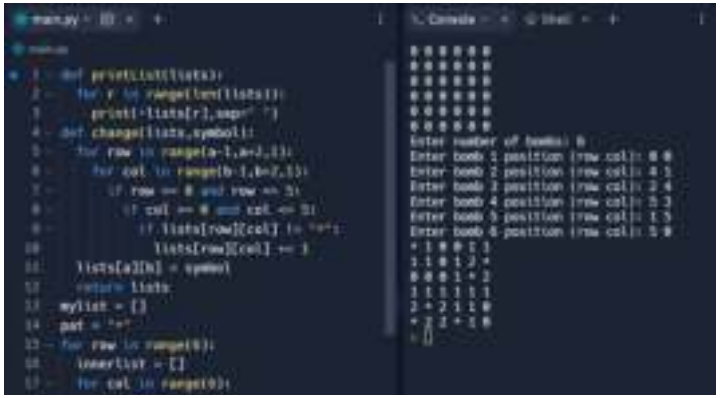
THE LAB

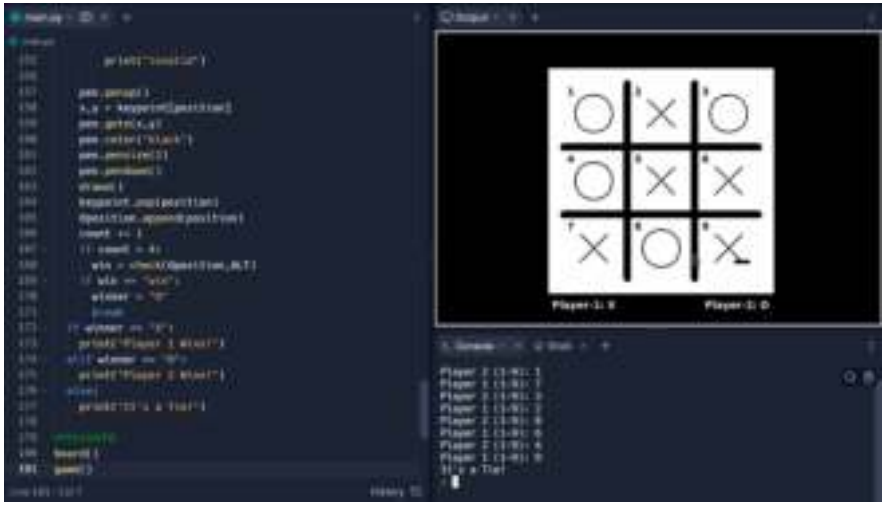
Portfolio

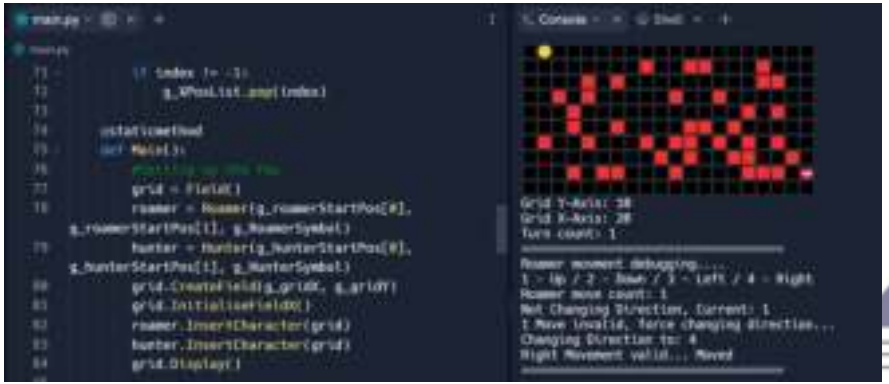




Portfolio







Certificates and Awards

Internal Competition(s)

The Lab Thinkers Competition 2023

Qualifying Round Submission Date

THE LAB

External competition(s)

THE LAB

External competition schedule

Ages	Competition Title	Presence	Competition Dates
5-6	National Robotics Competition - Preschool Category	Local	Late Aug - Early Sep
7-12	National Robotics Competition - CoderZ Coding Challenge (Primary Category)	Local	Early Sep
8-10	Coding Olympics - Lower Primary	Local	Mid-August
11-12	Coding Olympics - Upper Primary	Local	Mid-August
13-16	National Robotics Competition - CoderZ Coding Challenge (Secondary Category)	Local	Early Sep
Coder graduate	The Canadian Computing Competition	Global	Mid-Feb
14 and above Coder graduate	Code Quest - Lockheed Martin	Global	Late-Apr

THE LAB

Non-academic contributions

Sunshine Friday at Teck Ghee

Christmas with Econ Healthcare

GlyphCommunity holiday camp

THE LAB

Portfolio tips

It is important to show the school that your child have the relevant skills in the domain(s) they are interested in.

Certifications

Mastery and Achievements

Prove to the school that you are good and have what it takes

Relevancy

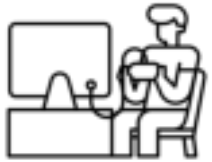
Show the important stuff first

Prioritise and show what the school is looking for

THE LAB

Portfolio tips

Schools also look at the student's growth and development in the subject over time. This shows the student's potential in being able to grow further and become an asset to the school.



Passion & Interests

Complimentary hobbies and projects

Showcases personal skill in research and development

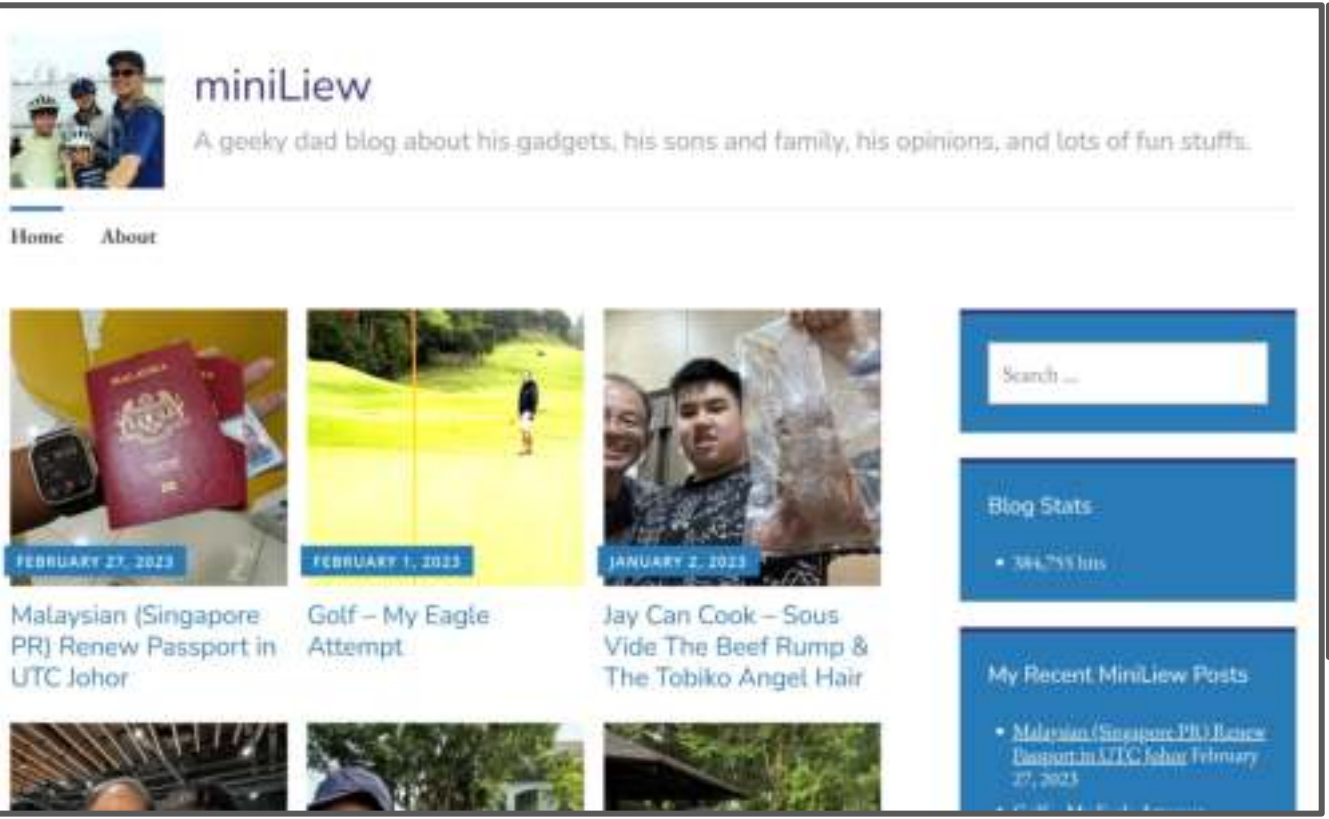
Journaling

The learning journey and progress

Highlights their passions and helps build personality

THE LAB

Examples



THE LAB

Write-ups

Some schools will require the students to submit a brief essay together with their applications and/or portfolios.

About themselves;
hobbies, passions, ambitions

Reflections on their journey on learning programming

Their interests in the field
Relevant experiences/projects

What differentiates them from the others

THE LAB

Write-up tips

01 Stay within the word limit and to the point.
Some schools might specify what to write.

02 Some schools may want students to write their essay.
Legibility and penmanship will be important.

03 The write-up should be in present tense because
it should be something the student is still interested in.

04 Research the school's history, motto, strengths and
achievements.

05 Start writing it early so that there is time to edit and refine it.

THE LAB

Testimonials

This helps provide the schools more insight about the applying student. Do note that not all schools entertain testimonials.

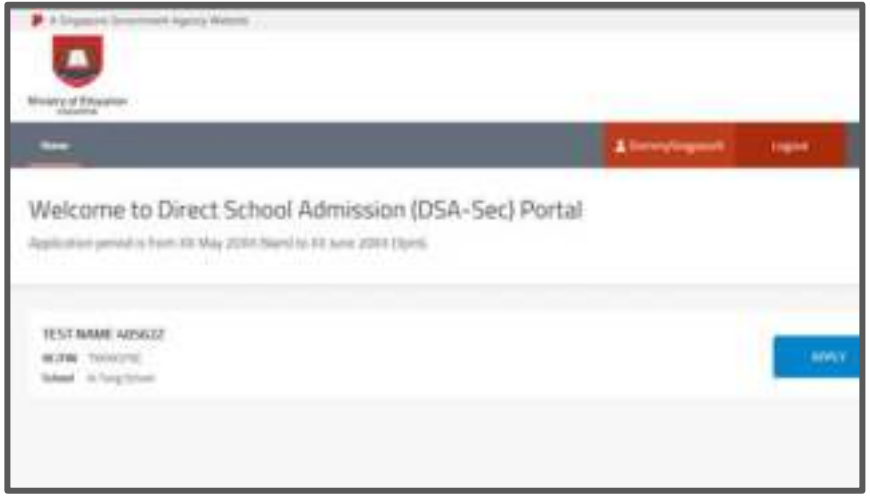
These testimonials can come from the student's school and/or from us.

If you require a testimonial from us, do email a request to contact@thelab.sg at least 2 weeks ahead of time.

THE LAB

Application

As the date nears the DSA application period, updated information and the application portal will be published on the MOE and school sites.

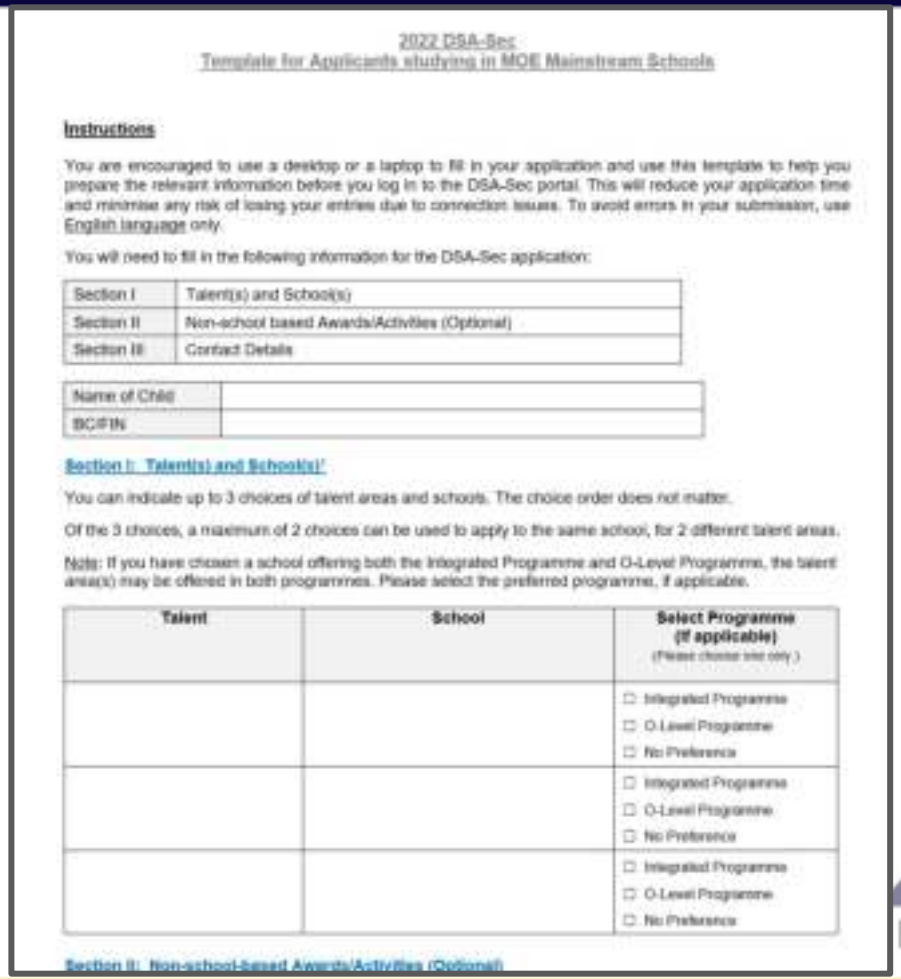


Login into the DSA Portal and submit your application before the deadline. You can update, withdraw and resubmit during this period.

THE LAB

Application

Use the provided application template to consolidate all necessary materials before starting the actual online application.



2022 DSA-Sec
Template for Applicants studying in MOE Mainstream Schools

Instructions

You are encouraged to use a desktop or a laptop to fill in your application and use this template to help you prepare the relevant information before you log in to the DSA-Sec portal. This will reduce your application time and minimise any risk of losing your entries due to connection issues. To avoid errors in your submission, use English language only.

You will need to fill in the following information for the DSA-Sec application:

Section I	Talent(s) and School(s)
Section II	Non-school based Awards/Activities (Optional)
Section III	Contact Details

Name of Child	
BC/FIN	

Section I: Talent(s) and School(s)'

You can indicate up to 3 choices of talent areas and schools. The choice order does not matter.

Of the 3 choices, a maximum of 2 choices can be used to apply to the same school, for 2 different talent areas.

Note: If you have chosen a school offering both the Integrated Programme and O-Level Programme, the talent area(s) may be offered in both programmes. Please select the preferred programme, if applicable.

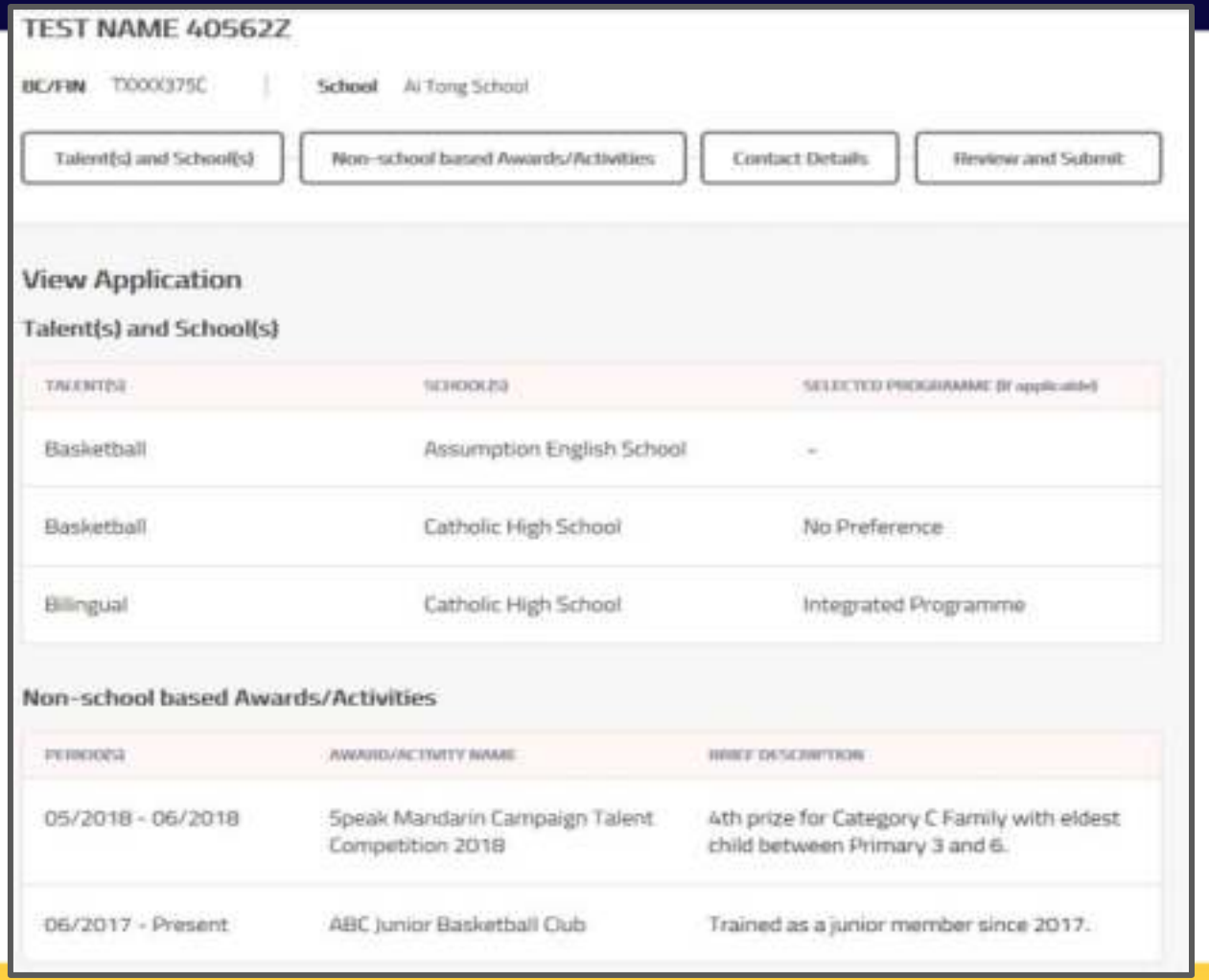
Talent	School	Select Programme (If applicable) (Please choose one only.)
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ O-Level Programme ☐ No Preference
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ O-Level Programme ☐ No Preference
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ O-Level Programme ☐ No Preference

Section II: Non-school-based Awards/Activities (Optional)

E LAB

Application

Select up to 3 choices and 3 talent areas. You may indicate up to 2 talent areas for the same school.



TEST NAME 40562Z

BC/FIN T0000375C | School Ai Tong School

Talent(s) and School(s) | Non-school based Awards/Activities | Contact Details | Review and Submit

View Application

Talent(s) and School(s)

TALENT(S)	SCHOOL(S)	SELECTED PROGRAMME (If applicable)
Basketball	Assumption English School	-
Basketball	Catholic High School	No Preference
Bilingual	Catholic High School	Integrated Programme

Non-school based Awards/Activities

PERIOD(S)	AWARD/ACTIVITY NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
05/2018 - 06/2018	Speak Mandarin Campaign Talent Competition 2018	4th prize for Category C Family with eldest child between Primary 3 and 6.
06/2017 - Present	ABC Junior Basketball Club	Trained as a junior member since 2017.

Application

For students in non-mainstream schools applying for DSA:

1. **Additional steps need to be completed before applying.**
   (Registration number, etc)
2. **Application template requires more details**
   (Mainstream schools will automatically share information between schools)

For more details, https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/dsa/application **has 2022's step-by-step application process for both Mainstream and Non-mainstream schools.**

THE LAB

2022 DSA-Sec
Template for Applicants studying in MOE Mainstream Schools

Instructions

You are encouraged to use a desktop or a laptop to fill in your application and use this template to help you prepare the relevant information before you log in to the DSA-Sec portal. This will reduce your application time and minimise any risk of losing your entries due to connection issues. To avoid errors in your submission, use English language only.

You will need to fill in the following information for the DSA-Sec application:

Section I	Talent(s) and School(s)
Section II	Non-school based Awards/Activities (Optional)
Section III	Contact Details

Name of Child	
BC/FIN	

Section I: Talent(s) and School(s)[1]

You can indicate up to 3 choices of talent areas and schools. The choice order does not matter.

Of the 3 choices, a maximum of 2 choices can be used to apply to the same school, for 2 different talent areas.

Note: If you have chosen a school offering both the Integrated Programme and O-Level Programme, the talent area(s) may be offered in both programmes. Please select the preferred programme, if applicable.

Talent	School	Select Programme (If applicable) (Please choose one only.)
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ O-Level Programme ☐ No Preference
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ O-Level Programme ☐ No Preference
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ O-Level Programme ☐ No Preference

Section II: Non-school-based Awards/Activities (Optional)

2022 DSA-Sec
Template for Applicants Not Studying in MOE Mainstream Schools

Instructions

You are encouraged to use a desktop or a laptop to fill in your application and use this template to help you prepare the relevant information before you log in to the DSA-Sec portal. This will reduce your application time and minimise any risk of losing your entries due to connection issues. To avoid errors in your submission, use **English language** only.

You will need to fill in the following information for this DSA application:

Section I	Talent(s) and School(s)
Section II	Academic Information
Section III	Awards/Activities (Optional)
Section IV	Contact Details

Name of Child	
RG Number	

Section I: Talent(s) and School(s)[1]

You can indicate up to 3 choices of talent areas and schools. The choice order does not matter.

Of the 3 choices, a maximum of 2 choices can be used to apply to the same school for 2 different talent areas.

Note: If you have chosen a school offering both the Integrated Programme and O-Level Programme, the talent area(s) may be offered in both programmes. Please select the preferred programme, if applicable.

Talent	School	Select Programme (if applicable) (please choose one only)
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ O-Level Programme ☐ No Preference
		☐ Integrated Programme ☐ O-Level Programme

Shortlisting

Schools will shortlist students based on their own selection criterias.

If selected, students can expect to attend some of the following(s):

(Can be a combination of any)

- Aptitude tests/Trials
- Auditions
- Interviews

THE LAB

Shortlisting - Aptitude tests/Trials

Selection Process for DSA (STEM)

- Shortlisted applicants who meet the criteria will be invited for an interview and a hands-on trial (subject to prevailing SMM).
- After the interview, we will conduct a final round of selection before confirming our candidates.

Selection Process and Criteria

The selection process will involve **an interview and a selection test** which requires applicants to attempt **a programming task.**

Criteria	Weighting
Level of Experience & Exposure as a Programmer	20%
E-Portfolio (Evidence of Students' existing work from School-Based Activities)	20%
Interview	30%
Selection Test	30%

DSA-SEC Selection Process and Key Dates

Part One: Selection Process

All shortlisted students will be invited to the school for a selection test, an audition or trials. Students will be assessed on their ability to play the game or instrument, as well as their potential. Do note that you only need to attend ONE of these selection tests.

Students should come prepared with their instrument, equipment and/or sports attire or school uniform. They should report to the school's general office, and will be directed to the respective venues.

Selection tests, auditions and trials details (usually first two weeks of July- exact details to be confirmed):

Talent Area	Date (Day)	Time	Venue
Coding	30 Jun (Thu) 01 Jul (Tue)	3.30 to 4.30pm 3.30 to 4.30pm	Computer Lab 1 MRT Classroom

Coding

(i) Applicants are expected to do a Multiple-Choice Question test which assesses aptitude in computational thinking skills. Programming language will not be assessed.

Part Two: Interview

Successful applicants from the selection process will be required to attend an interview session.

Dates: Last week of July and first week of August (To be confirmed)
Venue: Ngee Ann Secondary School Conference Room
Time: From 3 pm onwards

THE LAB

Interviews

Usually a face to face interview with the school's teacher(s).

(i.e, with the Head-of-department and/or teacher in-charge of the CCA/subject.)

These interviews are the student's chance to:

1. Share about themselves
2. Show their passion/interest in the subject
3. Share about their reasons in picking their school
4. Convince them they are the right choice
5. Demonstrate their eloquence and confidence

THE LAB

Commonly-asked questions

Questions about yourself

- Describe yourself
- What are some hobbies that you pursue?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?

Questions about the school and programme

- Why are you applying to our school?
- Among the other schools with you applied to, at what choice did you rank our school?
- How will you contribute to our school?

* Questions will vary from school to school

THE LAB

Commonly-asked questions

Questions about the talent

- What are some of your proudest achievements?
- What are some troubles you faced learning programming?
- Have you attended any talent-related events?

Ad-hoc questions

- Current affairs and/or global issues
- Programming knowledge questions

* Questions will vary from school to school

THE LAB

Interview Tips

01 As the application form should already list the student's achievements, focus on sharing the experience instead.

02 Be confident. The interview is about showcasing yourself to the teachers and leave a good lasting impression

03 Don't lie, schools can easily share data to verify your account.

04 Be smart about how you phrase your answers if you do not know how to reply to a question.

05 Role-playing with family and friends will help build confidence in speaking aloud.

THE LAB

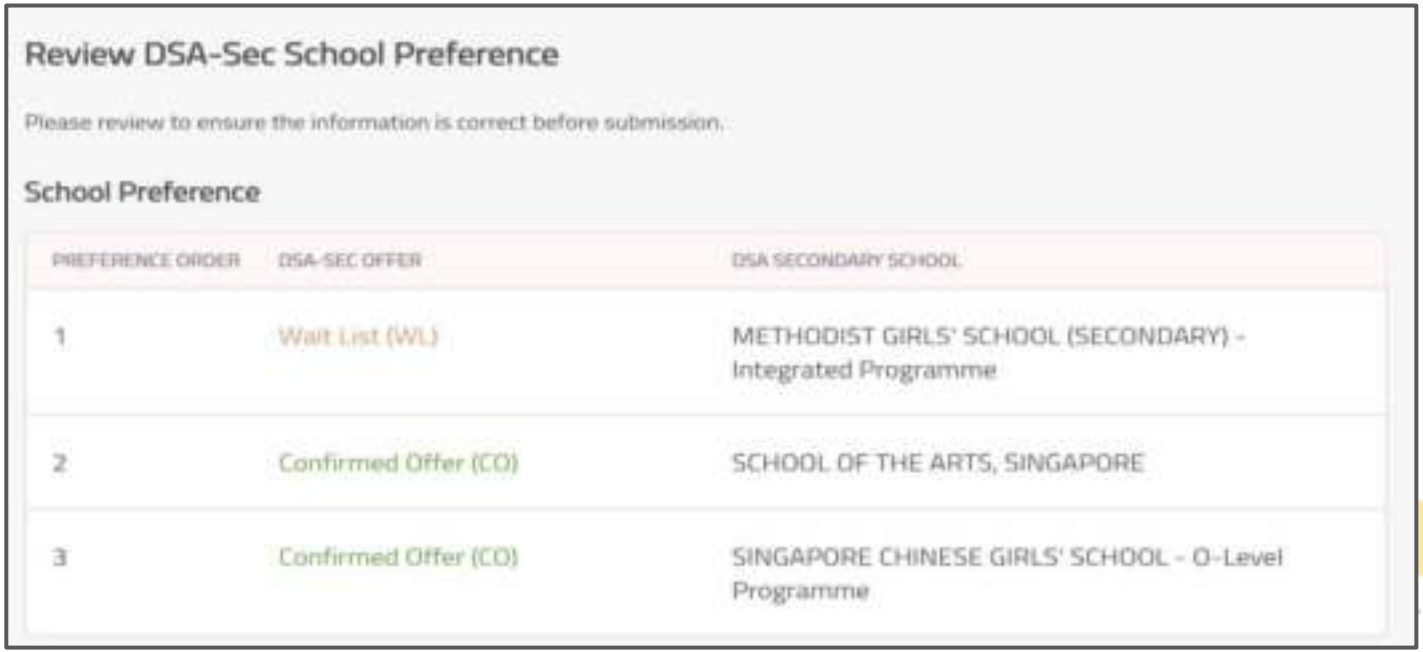
Selection outcomes

After the interviews and/or tests, these are the possible outcomes.

Confirmed Offer	Your child has a reserved place in the secondary school. To gain admission, your child will still need to opt for the school during the school preference submission period and achieve a PSLE score that qualifies them for a course offered by the school.
Wait List	Your child will be given a reserved place in the school if other students turn down their confirmed offers. Your child will still need to opt for the school during the school preference submission period and achieve a PSLE score that qualifies them for a course offered by the school.
Unsuccessful	Your child has not been given a place through the DSA-Sec, and must take part in the Secondary 1 posting process.

Preference ranking

After receiving the offers, students should submit their preferred choice of schools via the DSA portal by the deadline.



Review DSA-Sec School Preference

Please review to ensure the information is correct before submission.

School Preference

PREFERENCE ORDER	DSA-SEC OFFER	DSA SECONDARY SCHOOL
1	Wait List (WL)	METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL (SECONDARY) - Integrated Programme
2	Confirmed Offer (CO)	SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, SINGAPORE
3	Confirmed Offer (CO)	SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' SCHOOL - O-Level Programme

THE LAB

DSA Conditions

Your child's results still matter. Students offered placement still need a score that qualifies them for the course offered.

- **DSA-SEC**
  - **Students offered placement in a DSA-Sec school still need a PSLE AL that qualifies them for the course offered.**

1. What is the minimum AL score for entry into MSHS via DSA?

Answer: We do not set a minimum AL score for DSA. Being a SAP school, we only offer Posting Group 3 course of study. Applicants who wish to enrol via DSA must meet MOE placement criteria for Posting Group 3 under the Achievement Level Scoring System. The AL score for Posting Group 3 is between 4 and 22.

THE LAB

DSA Conditions

- If your child is admitted through DSA, they are not allowed to submit school choices during the S1/JAE posting process.

- They are also not allowed to transfer to another school after the release of their results. They must commit to their chosen school for the duration of the programme.

- **If the student does not meet the requirements, their DSA offer will be revoked.**

THE LAB

Personalised DSA consultations

- Portfolio preparation
- Project review
- Resume writing
- Trial simulation
- Interview practice

Hourly rates:

Members - $80

Non-Members - $100

For more information,
email us at contact@thelab.sg
or call 8916 0017

Terms and Conditions:
Sessions are billed on an hourly basis with a minimum duration of one hour, and subsequent sessions also consisting of one hour each.
Participants cannot divide the session into multiple smaller sessions.

THE LAB

QnA