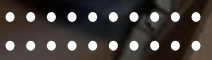




**DSA
Information
Session**





DSA Information Session

Session starting in...

10:00



**DSA
Information
Session**



DSA

01

What is DSA

02

Timeline of events

03

Portfolio & Resume

04

Shortlisting

05

Selection Outcomes

06

DSA Conditions

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

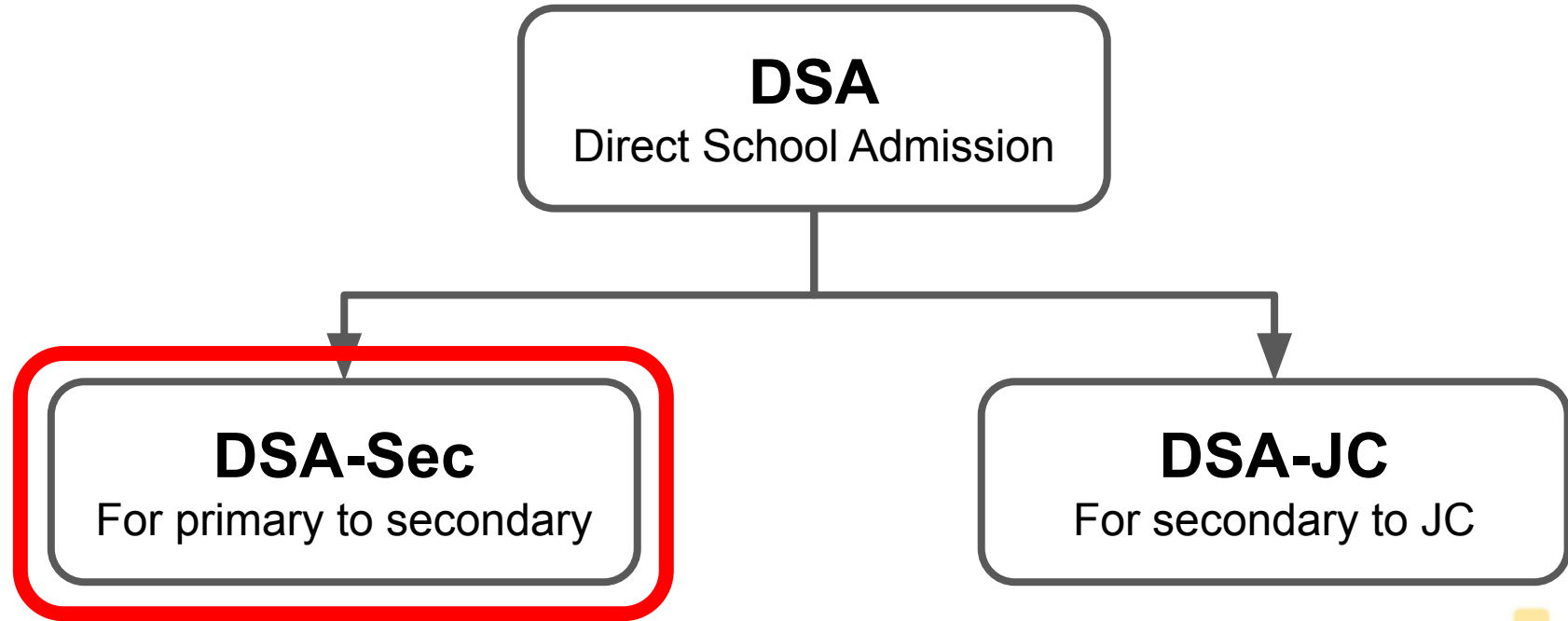


Talents

Aptitude-based admissions

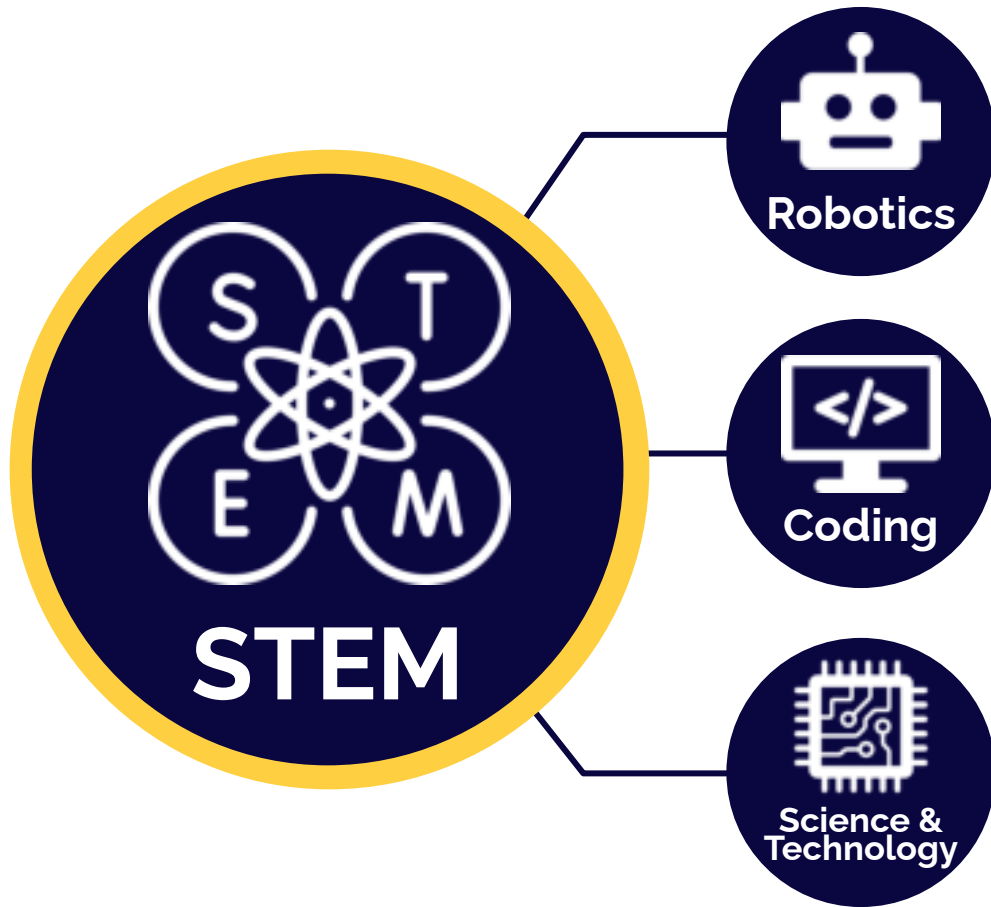
Schools will select and admit students based on their talents, aptitudes and interests

What is DSA?





*Not all fields are listed



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

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

Science & Technology
Applied technologies,
computer sciences...

*Not all fields are listed

MOE School Finder

The screenshot displays the MOE School Finder interface. On the left, a sidebar contains the Ministry of Education logo and navigation options. The main area is divided into two sections: 'Criteria' and 'Secondary schools'.

Criteria Section:

- Location:** Search for schools near you. Includes a postal code input field and a 'Clear' button.
- OR**
- Search for schools by area:** A dropdown menu to 'Select an area'.
- Admission type:** Includes checkboxes for 'Direct School Admission (DSA)' (checked) and 'Integrated programme'.
- DSA-sub Category:** A dropdown menu currently set to 'Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics'.
- DSA talent areas:** Includes a 'Link ID' input field and a 'Clear' button.
- A yellow button labeled 'STEM Gifted Pool' is located at the bottom of the criteria section.

Secondary schools Section:

- Header: 'Secondary schools' with a '1 of 1' indicator.
- Text: 'Showing 15 Secondary schools'.
- Text: 'DSA talent areas: STEM Gifted Pool' with a yellow arrow pointing to it.
- List of schools with details and heart icons:

School Name	Location	Postal Code
Admiralty Secondary School	Woodlands	31 Woodlands Crescent, S737554
Beatty Secondary School	The Payoh	1 The Payoh North, S212992
Broadrick Secondary School	Geiyang	41 Dakota Crescent, S299928
Bukit Batok Secondary School	Bukit Batok	30 Bukit Batok West Ave 8, S202952

School choices



Admiralty Sec



Pei Hwa Sec



Ngee Ann Sec



Commonwealth Sec



Beatty Sec



ACS (Indp/Barker)



Maris Stella



St. Andrews



Hwa Chong



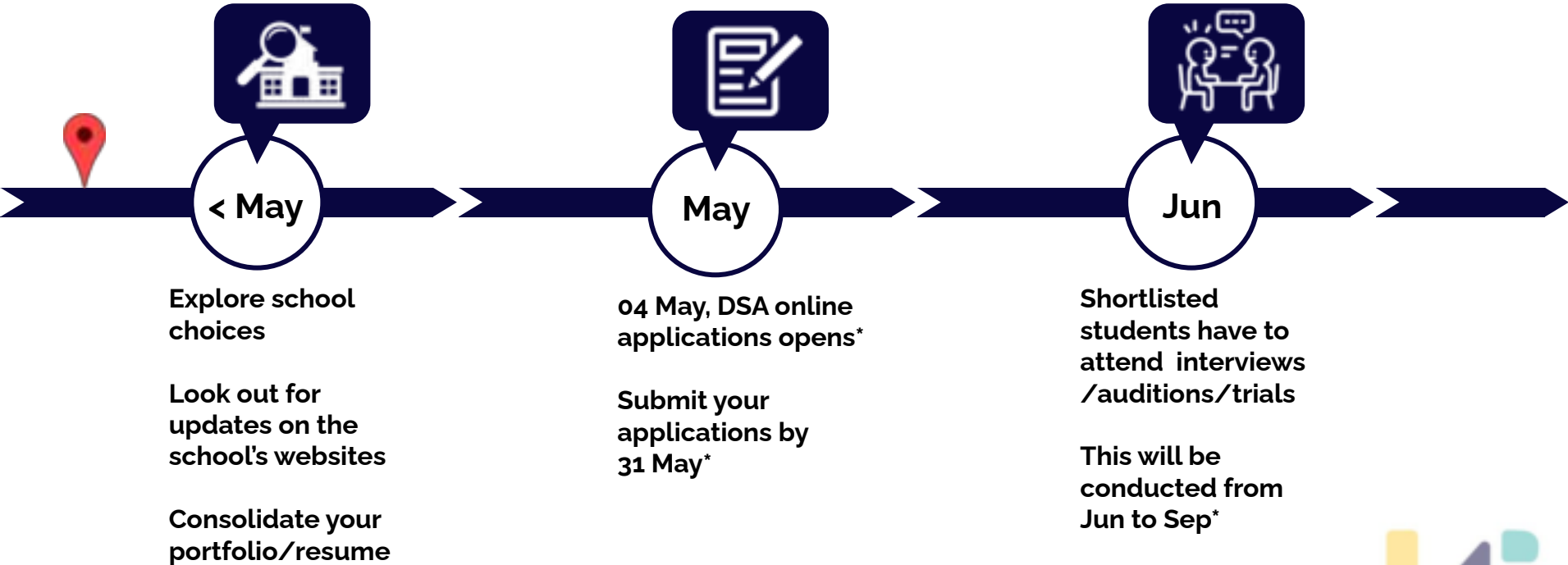
Methodist
Girls



*Data is based on 2023's census

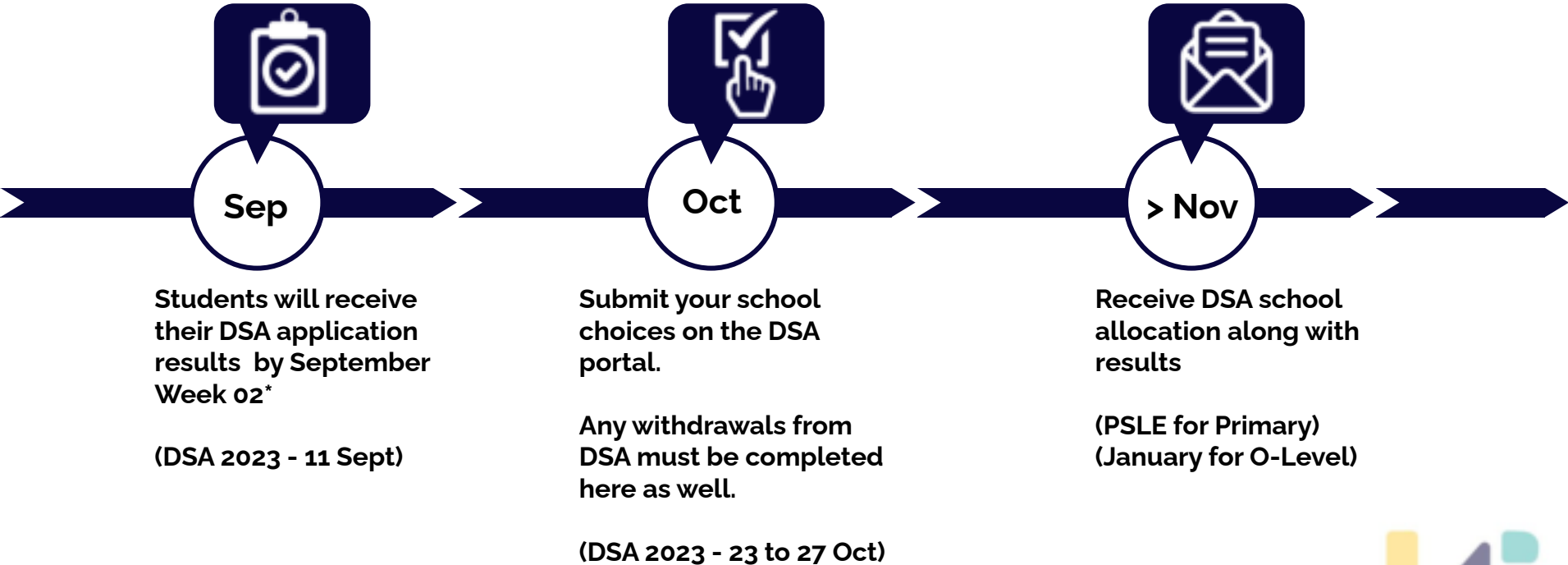
*Not all schools from the MOE database are listed

DSA Timeline



* 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**

DSA Timeline



* 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**

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

Portfolio

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

Admission Criteria
The admission criteria are shown below.

ROBOTICS PROGRAMMING CRITERIA

Talent/Experience in:

- + LEGO M3T Robotix System or LEGO EV3 Robotix System
- + LEGO Programming (Robotix / Mindstorms EV3)
- + Colson Programming
- + FTC Robotix System
- + Vex Robotix System
- + Arduino System
- + Microbit microcontroller system
- + Scratch Programming
- + C Programming
- + Python Programming
- + Any other programming language

Level of Experience and Exposure: Participants 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.

(i) 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

Projects/
Coursework



Competitions/
Events



Participation/
Contributions



Portfolio

Awards/
Certificates



**Highly recommended to
start building as soon as possible!**




External Events


 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

Core Programs

**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


Holiday
Programs


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

Internal
Events

 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 X Competitive
Programming**

- # See External Events

Others

 The Lab Volunteer Program for Character
Development

 The Lab Instructor Assistant
Program

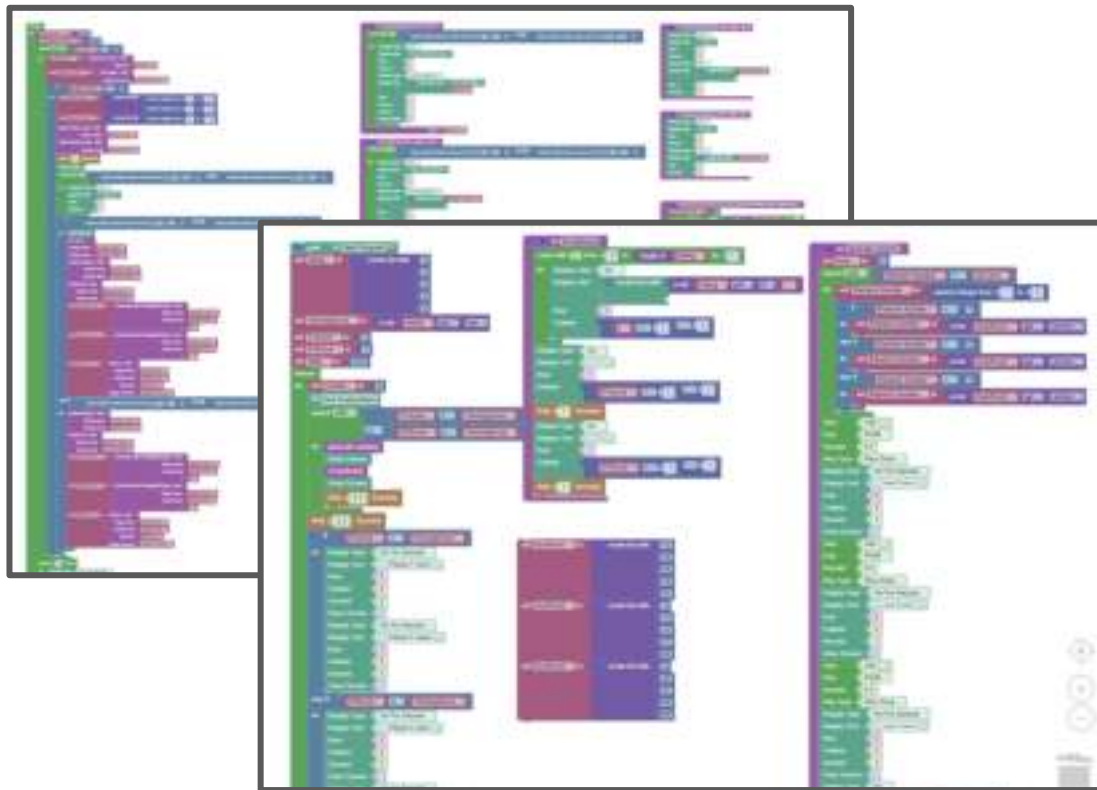
Legend:

-  External Competitions
-  Internal Competitions
-  Other Programs



Build Your DSA Portfolio now!

Portfolio





Portfolio

```

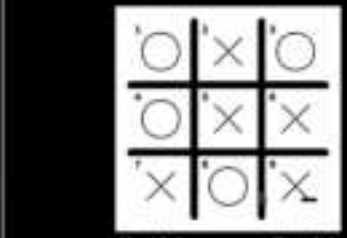
main.py | ID | +
Python 3.8.5 Shell
main.py
1 def printLists(lists):
2     for r in range(len(lists)):
3         print(lists[r], sep=" ")
4
5 def changeLists(symbol):
6     for row in range(1, 4+1):
7         for col in range(1, 4+1):
8             if row == 4 and row == 3:
9                 if col == 4 and col == 3:
10                  if lists[row][col] != "X":
11                      lists[row][col] += 1
12
13 lists[0][0] = symbol
14
15 return lists
16
17 mylist = []
18 pat = ""
19
20 for row in range(4):
21     innerlist = []
22     for col in range(4):

```

```

main.py | ID | +
Python 3.8.5 Shell
main.py
200 print("Bombing")
201
202 pat = input()
203 A, a = input().split()
204 pat = pat.upper()
205 pat = pat.lower()
206 pat = pat.lower()
207
208 while 1:
209     position = input()
210     position = position.split()
211     row = int(position[0])
212     col = int(position[1])
213     if row < 0:
214         print("Invalid position")
215         continue
216     if col < 0:
217         print("Invalid position")
218         continue
219     if row > 3:
220         print("Invalid position")
221         continue
222     if col > 3:
223         print("Invalid position")
224         continue
225     if row == 0:
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913         print("Invalid position")
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988         print("Invalid position")
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991         print("Invalid position")
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993     if row == 3 and col == 3:
994         print("Invalid position")
995         continue
996     if row == 3 and col == 2:
997         print("Invalid position")
998         continue
999     if row == 3 and col == 1:
1000        print("Invalid position")

```



```

main.py | ID | +
Python 3.8.5 Shell
main.py
1 word = []
2 number = []
3 Alllogic = ['what is', 'is a number', 'is a word']
4 while True:
5     Input = input("Input: ")
6     Input = Input.replace(" ", "")
7     Input = Input.lower()
8     if Input[0] == "quit":
9         break
10    if Input[0] == " " + Input[1] == Alllogic[0]:
11        if Input[1] in number:
12            print("number")
13        elif Input[1] in word:
14            print("word")
15    else:
16        substring = any(Input[1] in string for string in word)
17        substringNT = any(Input[1] in string for string in
18        word)
19        value = any(Input[1] in string for string in number)

```

```

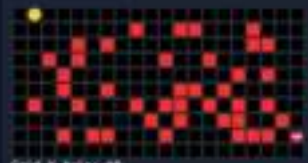
Input: Apple is a word
Searching
Input: 123 is a number
Searching
Input: what is Apple
word
Input:

```

```

main.py | ID | +
Python 3.8.5 Shell
main.py
71 if index != -1:
72     g.WPosList.append(index)
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84

```



```

Grid Y-Axis: 10
Grid X-Axis: 10
Turn count: 1
Player moved. Debugging...
1: Up / 2: Down / 3: Left / 4: Right
Player move count: 1
Not Changing Direction, Current: 1
1 Move Invalid, Force changing direction...
Changing Direction to: 4
Right Movement valid... Moved

```





Certificates and Awards



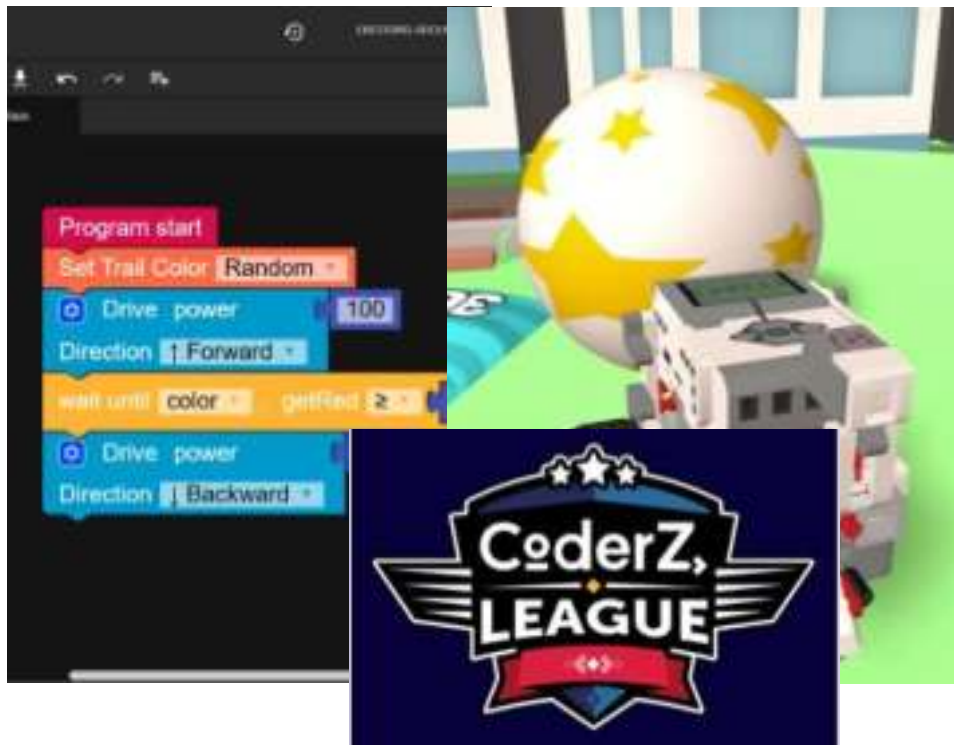


Internal Competition(s)





External competition(s)





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



Non-academic contributions



Sunshine Friday at Teck Ghee

Christmas with Econ Healthcare

GlyphCommunity holiday camp

Portfolio tips

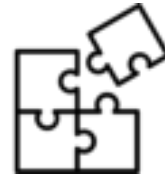
It is important to show the school that your child have the relevant skills in the domain(s) they are interested in.



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

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




Examples



miniLiew


A geeky dad blog about his gadgets, his sons and family, his opinions, and lots of fun stuffs.

[Home](#) [About](#)




FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Malaysian (Singapore PR) Renew Passport in UTC Johor




FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Golf – My Eagle Attempt




JANUARY 2, 2023

Jay Can Cook – Sous Vide The Beef Rump & The Tobiko Angel Hair




Search ...



Blog Stats

- 384,755 hits



My Recent MiniLiew Posts

- [Malaysian \(Singapore PR\) Renew Passport in UTC Johor](#) February 27, 2023



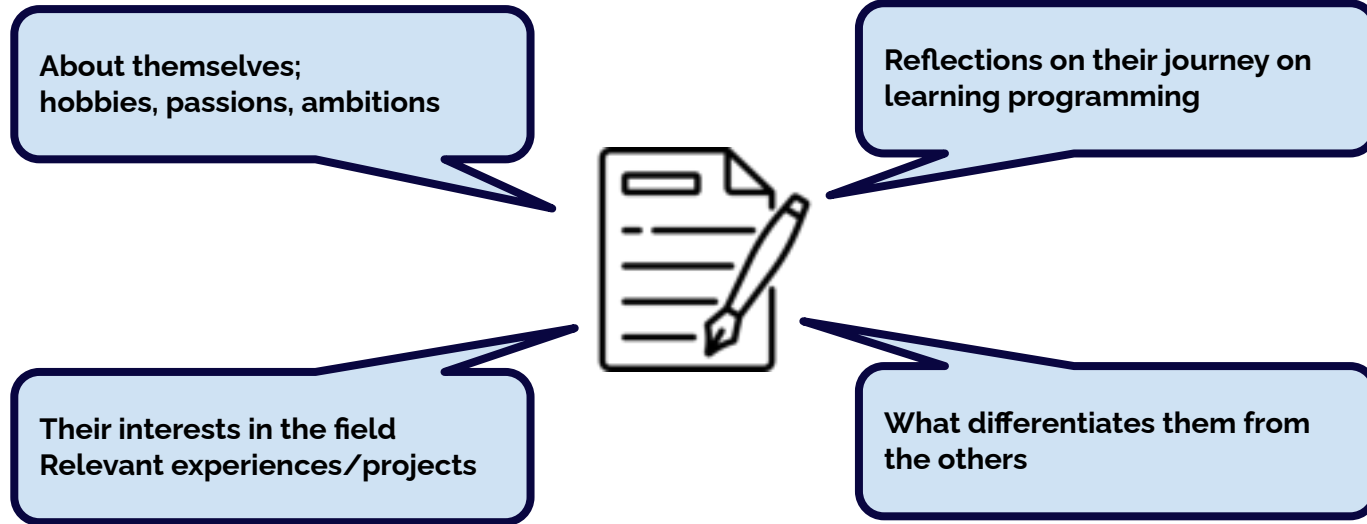
SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

Gadget – 52Pi New Ice Tower Cooler for Raspberry Pi 4



Write-ups

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





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.

Testimonials

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

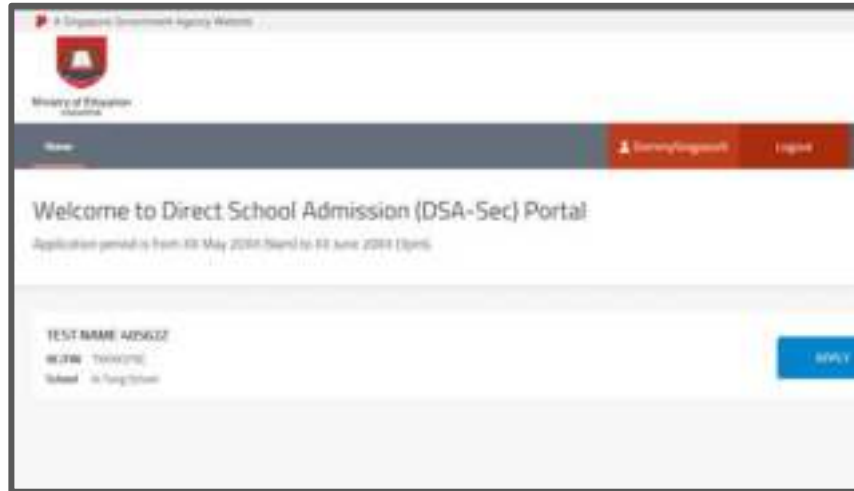
These testimonials can come from the student's school and/or from us.

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



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.

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	
BCFIN	

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)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference

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

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 T000375C | 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.

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	
BCFIN	

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)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> 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)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> O-Level Programme <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference
		<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programme <input type="checkbox"/> 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



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 in school uniform. They should report to the school's general office, and will be directed to the respective venue.

Selection tests, auditions and trials details usually fall two weeks off July exact details to be confirmed:

Subject Area	Date (Day)	Time	Venue
Coding	30 Jun (Thu)	3:30 to 4:30pm	Computer Lab 1
	03 Jul (Tue)	5:30 to 6:30pm	SWF 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



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



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

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

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.

Selection outcomes

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

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

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

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.

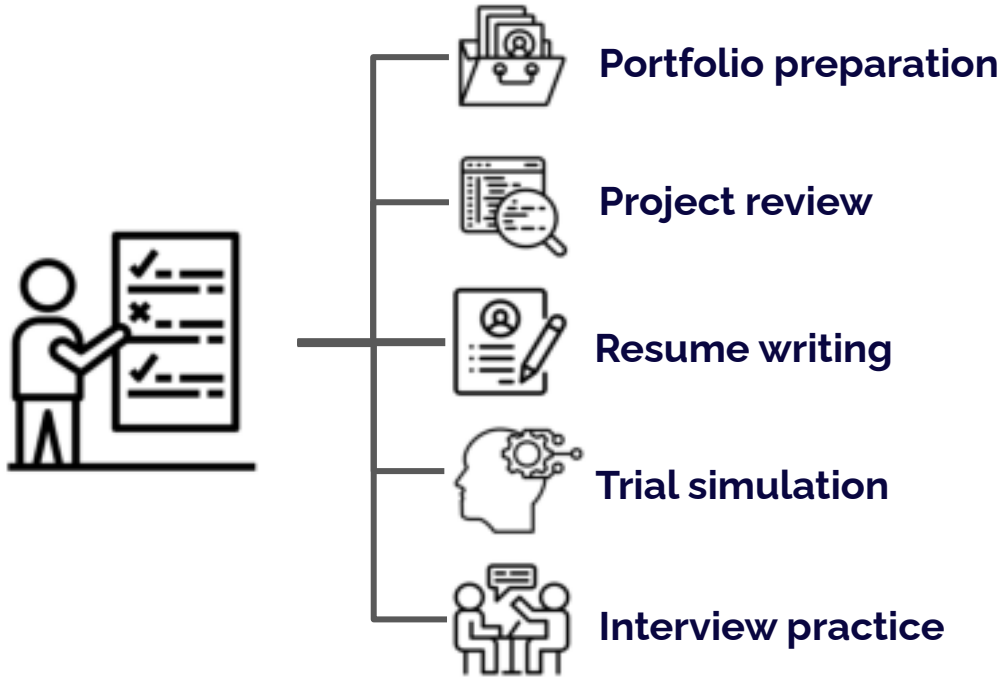
1. What is the minimum AL score for entry into MSHS via DSA?

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.

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.**

Personalised DSA consultations



Hourly rates:

Members - \$80

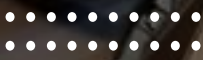
Non-Members - \$100

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.



QnA

