

Supporting your child's Education & Career Guidance (ECG) Journey

POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS AND SUBJECT COMBINATIONS



By Ms Belinda Teo
ECG COUNSELLOR

— Overview of today's sharing



Key considerations in choosing subject combination using the ECG frame



Tips and resources for parents to support your child's ECG journey

Common questions from students

Should I choose subjects that I like or I am good at?

What are the subjects required to achieve my career aspirations?

How do I choose when I do not know my career aspirations yet?



Which educational pathway is better for me?

3 ECG Questions

1) DISCOVERING PURPOSE (WHO AM I?)

The more you know about yourself, the better your decisions will be

2) EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES (WHERE DO I WANT TO GO?)

Explore the many education and career opportunities open to you

3) STAYING RELEVANT (HOW DO I GET THERE?)

You can continue to develop yourself by staying adaptable and resilient



Who Am I? (Discovering Purpose)

- What are some things/issues they feel strongly about or care about?
- What activities and subjects do they enjoy more or enjoy less, and why?
- What strengths and skills do they enjoy using or wish to develop further?
- What are the important things they look for in a career?

Reflect on student development experiences:

- CCA
- Camps
- Competitions
- VIA
- Learning Journeys



The more you know about yourself, the better your decisions will be

CHOOSING SUBJECTS FOR SECONDARY 3: “PUT INTEREST BEFORE POPULARITY”

Mdm Lee Lin Yee, Divisional Director at MOE’s Educational Technology Division, ex-Head of MOE Sciences Branch

Pursuing a course or subject combination because of its perceived clout may also backfire. “These ideas of prestige do not mean much if a student has no fancy for those subjects,” Mdm Lee stresses; students are better off picking subjects that align with their interests – they are more likely to succeed not just in those subjects and courses, but also in their careers thereafter.

“We have designed the curriculum such that students who offer Combined Science can still move on to take H2 Science at the A-Levels.” Students need to offer three H2 subjects and one H1 subject at the A-Level exams to advance to university (H1 subjects have about half the content of H2 subjects).

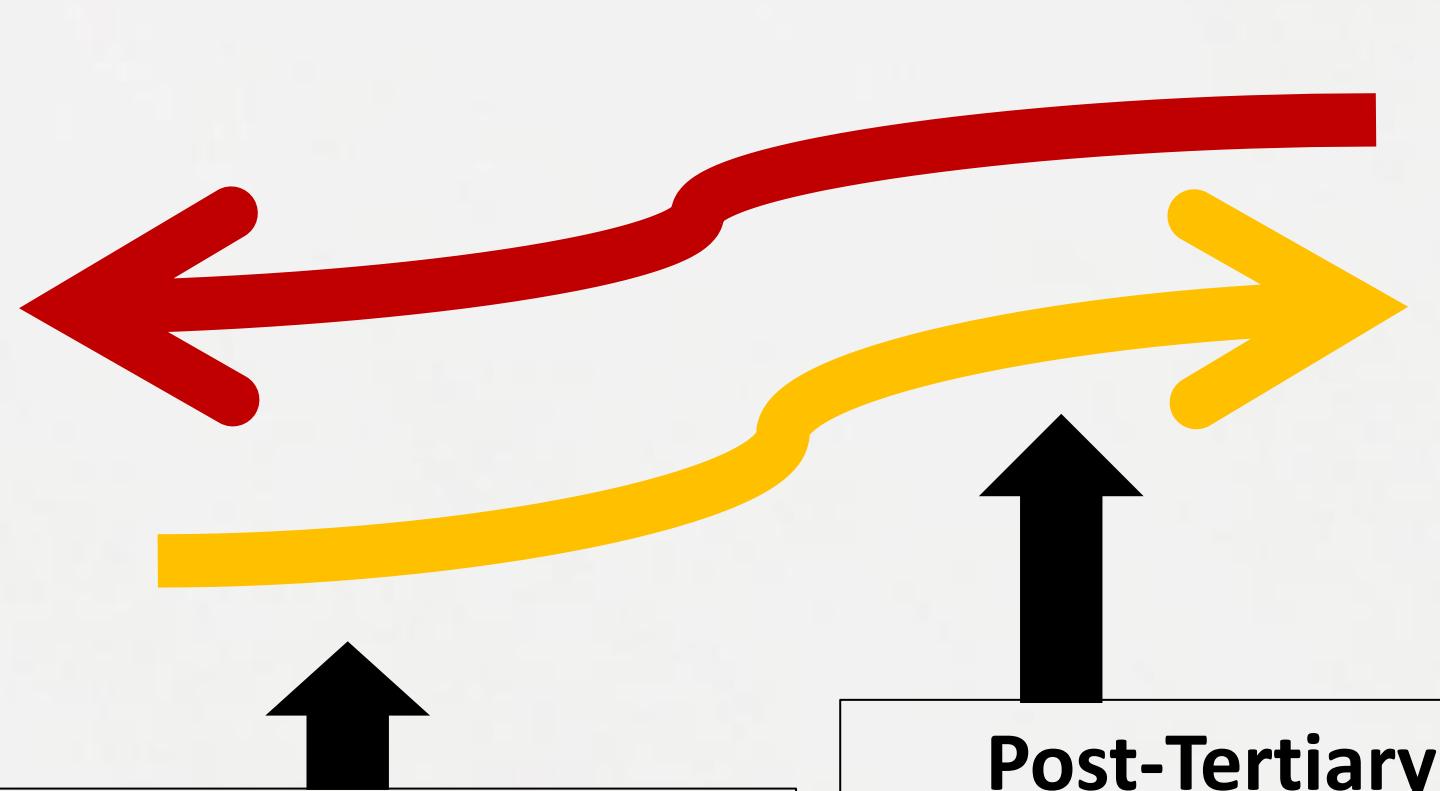
If students have certain careers in mind, they may browse polytechnic and university websites and look for the course criteria: Not many polytechnic courses insist on a particular Pure Science subject for admission either, she advises.

Where do I want to go? (Exploring Opportunities)

There are many multiple pathways to achieve your aspirations and diverse opportunities to explore and learn throughout life.



Secondary 2
Selection of
Subject Combination



Secondary 4
Choice of JC/MI,
Polytechnic, art
institutions or ITE

Post-Tertiary
Further education
or the world of
work



Adulthood
Career Aspiration

Overview of Post-Sec Pathways

	INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION	ARTS INSTITUTION	POLYTECHNIC	JC / MI				
STUDENTS TAKING AT LEAST	3-YR HIGHER NITEC	2-YR HIGHER NITEC	NAFA FOUNDATION PROGRAMME	ARTS INSTITUTIONS	POLY FOUNDATION PROGRAMME	POLY YEAR 1	MILLENNIA INSTITUTE	JUNIOR COLLEGE
5 G3 SUBJECTS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4 G3 SUBJECTS + 1 G2 SUBJECT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
5 G2 SUBJECTS	✓	✓	✓		✓			
4 G1 SUBJECTS	✓	✓*						

*Students who offer 4 G1 subjects will join Yr 1 of Higher Nitec, they may be offered accelerated pathway if they meet academic requirements during their year 1 sem 1 exam.

Scan to find out more above the eligibility criteria of the various pathways.
<https://go.gov.sg/pathways-nov2025>



More on the Post-Secondary Education Institutions

ARTS INSTITUTION

POLYTECHNIC

INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

JC / MI / IB SCHOOLS

Hands-on and practice-based learning experience in various fields of study

Prepares students for the A-Level examinations or the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma

Graduate with diploma and join world of work or further studies at University

Graduate with Higher Nitec and join world of work or pursue ITE / Poly Diploma

Upon graduation, progress to university

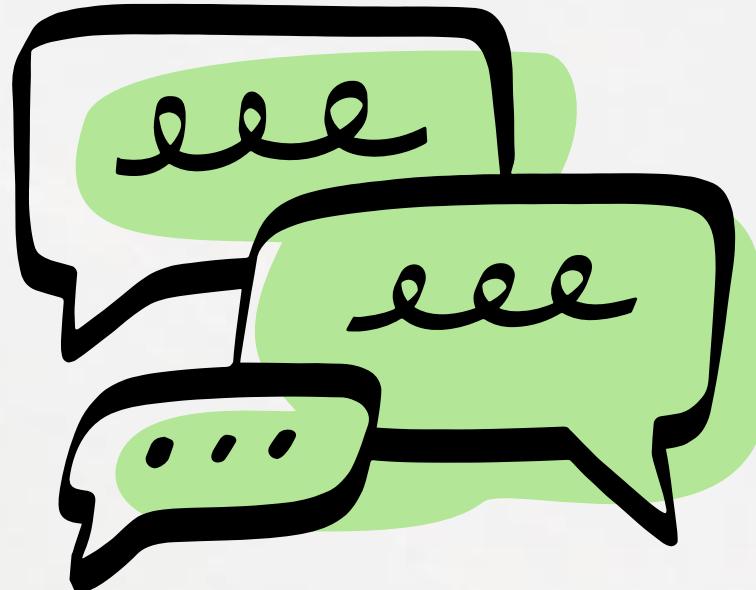
—

How do I get there?

Consider the *practicalities*:

- What is the criteria for your child's desired subject combination?
- With the subject combination in mind, how will the overall workload be like?
- How can your child work towards his/her goal?

How can you support your child?



Have a two-way conversation with your child

Listen and find out the “whys” behind your child’s preferences.

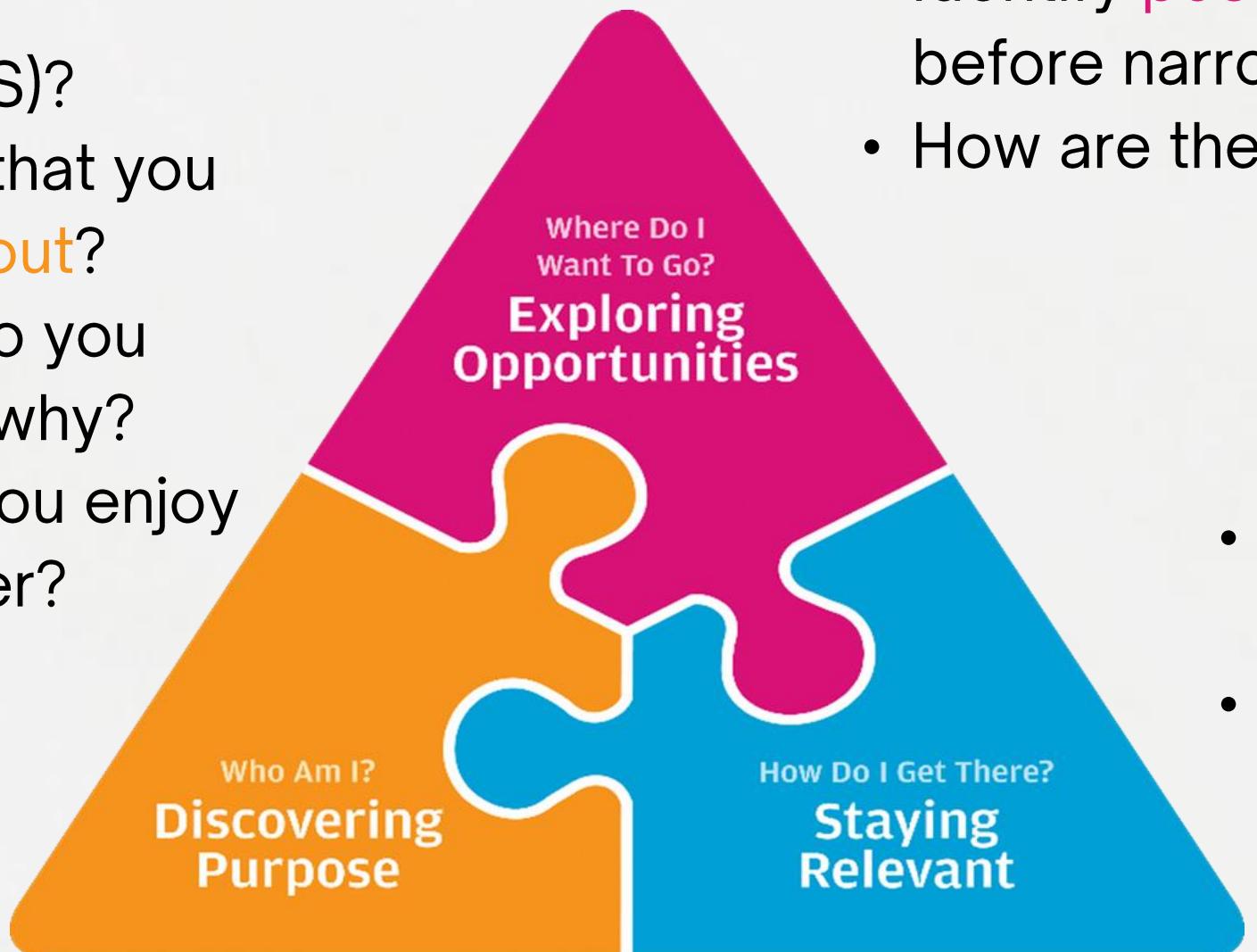
Understand child’s **values**, **interests**, **personality**, **strengths**, **aspirations**

Encourage child to explore opportunities, remain open-minded and adaptable.

Conversation Points

Who am I?

- What are my **values, interests, personality and strengths (VIPS)**?
- What are some things/issues that you **feel strongly about or care about**?
- What **activities and subjects** do you enjoy more or enjoy less, and why?
- What **strengths and skills** do you enjoy using or wish to develop further?



Education & Career Guidance

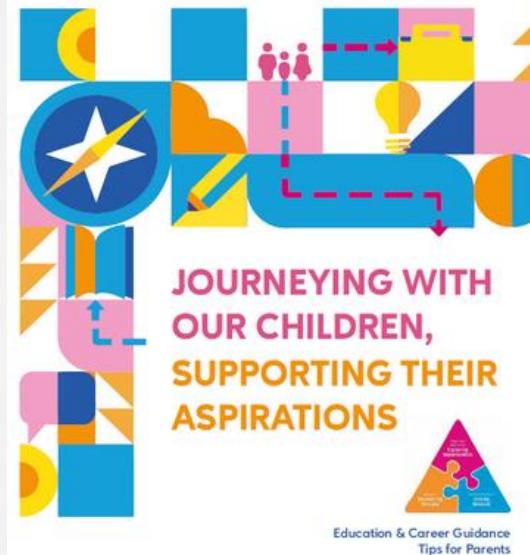
Where do I want to go?

- What are my **aspirations**?
- Identify **possible courses/careers** before narrowing down options
- How are they **aligned to my VIPS**?

How do I get there?

- What **goals** can I set to achieve my first choice?
- What if I can't get my first choice? What are my **Plan B and C**?

Useful Resources



This parent resource contains tips and advice on ECG and suggests how parents can support their children throughout their key education stages.

<https://go.gov.sg/tips-for-parents>



Leverage the Education Guide and profiling tools in the MySkillsFuture portal to help your children plan their next step forward after their secondary education.

<https://go.gov.sg/mysfsec>



DISCOVER on my way

Explore Worlds Explore Industries Day in the Life

Figure out what to study or future career goals with On My Way

Learn about the different jobs and industries, connect with schooling seniors and industry professionals and get a taster of various job roles.

[Get started →](#)

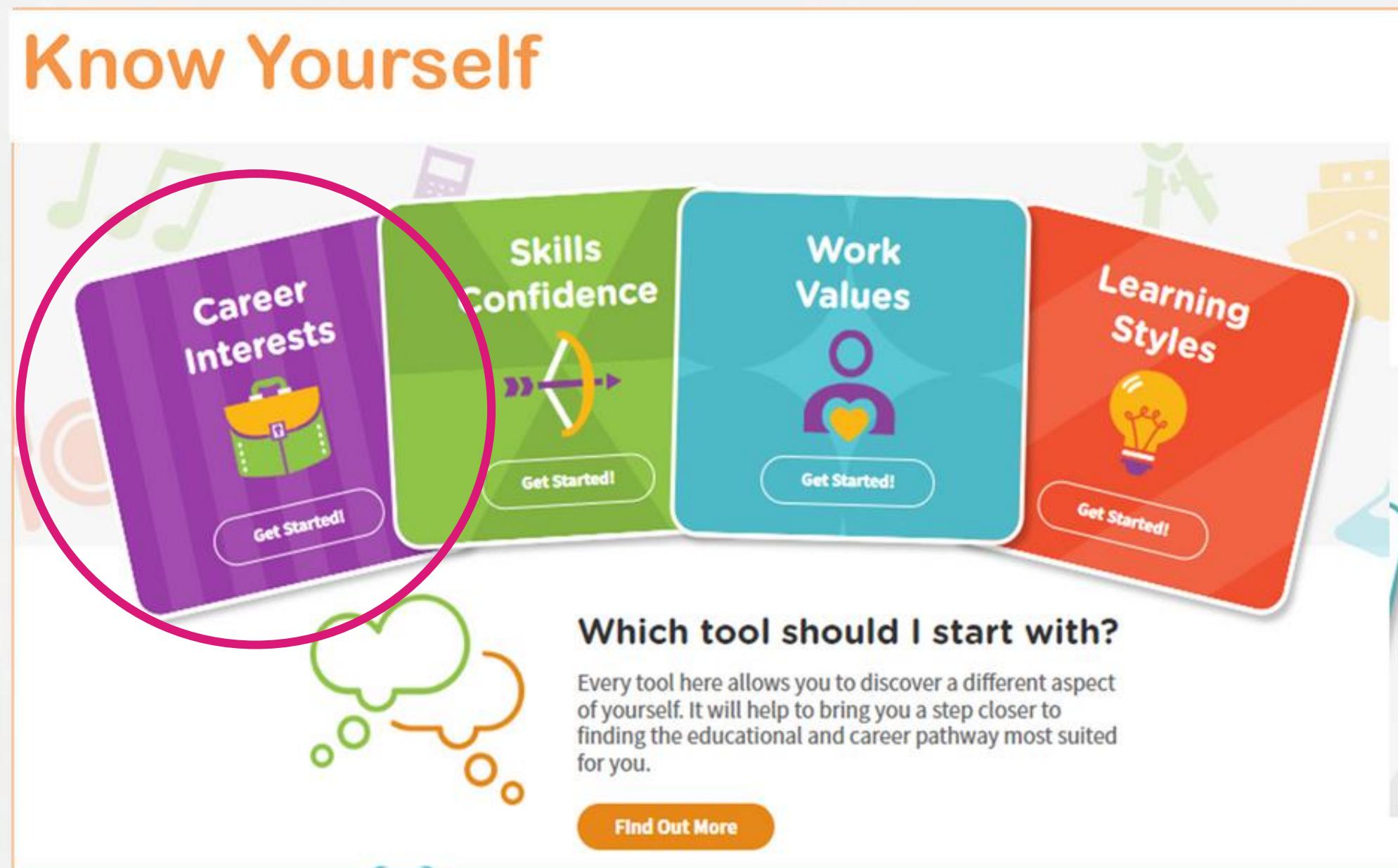
Learn more about the different jobs and industries. <https://discover.nyc.gov.sg/>



Useful Resources

MYSKILLSFUTURE STUDENT PORTAL – Tools to understand your personality, strengths and work values

Know Yourself



The screenshot shows the 'Know Yourself' section of the portal. It features four cards with rounded corners, each representing a tool to understand oneself:

- Career Interests** (Purple card): Shows a briefcase icon and a 'Get Started!' button.
- Skills Confidence** (Green card): Shows a person icon with a circular arrow and a 'Get Started!' button.
- Work Values** (Teal card): Shows a person icon with a heart and a lightbulb icon, and a 'Get Started!' button.
- Learning Styles** (Red card): Shows a lightbulb icon and a 'Get Started!' button.

Below these cards is a section titled **Which tool should I start with?** with the following text:

Every tool here allows you to discover a different aspect of yourself. It will help to bring you a step closer to finding the educational and career pathway most suited for you.

[Find Out More](#)



go.gov.sg/mysfsec

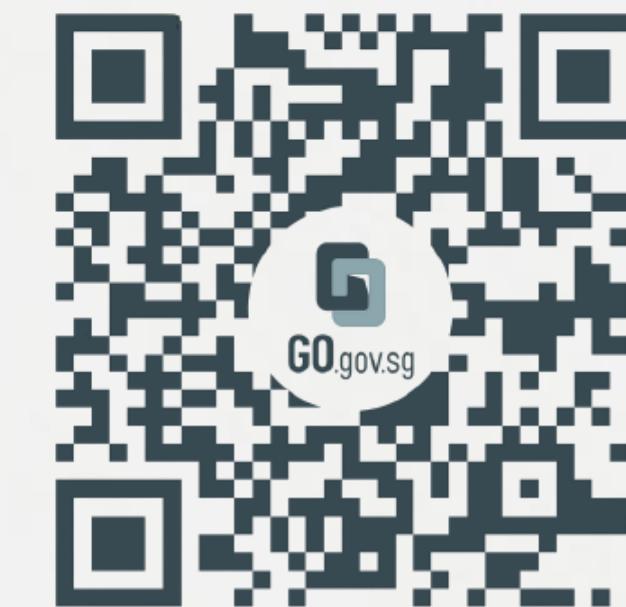
More information about changes in the education landscape

Full-Subject Based Banding Microsite



<https://go.gov.sg/fullsbb-website>

EDTALKS - What you need to know about Full SBB



<https://go.gov.sg/edtalksfssbb>

Book a consultation with ECG Counsellor

Ms Belinda Teo

When: Wednesday & Thursday, 8:00am – 5:00pm

Where: Level 2, Guidance@Fairfield

Scan QR code to book appointment or go to

<https://go.gov.sg/book-ecg-fmss>

