

DUNMAN HIGH SCHOOL
2023 e-OPEN HOUSE & DSA EXERCISE
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL Q & A

1. When is the DHS e-Open House?

The **Open House microsite** will be available online from **20 May (Sat) to 31 May (Wed)**.

2. Can the student apply to join DHS even if he/she did not offer Higher Chinese in his/her primary school?

Yes, the student may apply for admission even if he/she did not offer Higher Chinese (HCL) in his/her primary school. However, he/she is required to offer CL as the Mother Tongue subject. Once he/she is posted to DHS, he/she would need to offer HCL from Sec 1 onwards. (Please refer to Q3 below).

3. Must I take up Higher Chinese Language (HCL) if I am posted to DHS?

DHS is a SAP school and SAP schools nurture students to be proficient in both English Language (EL) and Chinese Language (CL) and to have a good understanding and appreciation of Chinese Culture. Students posted to our school are required to offer HCL.

4. Are the Year 1 students who are admitted via DSA, grouped in the same class? Meaning, DSA and those who are admitted via PSLE T-score will be placed in separate classes?

All students, whether admitted through DSA or PSLE Posting Exercise, will be randomly placed in various classes. The only exceptions are those students on our SBGE (School-Based Gifted Education) programme.

5. How much do I have to pay in school fees per month?

	MOE school fee, miscellaneous fee & autonomous school fee
Singapore citizens	\$28
Permanent residents	\$500
International students (Asean)	\$900
International students	\$1750

DSA Q & A

6. What are the DSA Talent Areas for this year DSA Exercise?

There are six talent areas for the DSA 2023 and they are:

- Bilingualism
- Music Elective Programme
- Performing Arts (Chinese Orchestra, Choir, String Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Chinese Dance & International Dance)
- Sports (Badminton, Basketball, Sailing, Softball (for girls only), Table Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Wushu)
- Leadership (Girl Guides, NPCC, Scouts, SJB)
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Aesthetics, Mathematics)

7. If a student is successful in the DSA application, what will the student still need to obtain for PSLE Achievement Level (AL)?

If a student is successful in the DSA application and given a Confirmed Offer, he/she is guaranteed a place in the school provided that he/she accepts the offer and qualifies for the Express course based on his/her PSLE results. The minimum AL score to qualify for the Express course is 22.

8. Would Dunman High School consider the academic results of DSA applicants during selection?

We need to ensure a certain level of academic achievement in primary school as it serves as an indicator of how well the students are able to cope with the academic rigour of an IP school. However, we do not have a fixed mark for this criterion as we consider each applicant *holistically*, including their achievement in their talent area and personal qualities.

9. How do I submit my DSA application?

From 2019, application for DSA-Sec can only be submitted through the on-line DSA-Sec portal (www.moe.gov.sg/dsa-sec). The application is free of charge and will be opened from 4 May 2023 (11 a.m.) – 31 May 2023 (3 p.m.). You would need a Singpass login of one of the parents to access the portal.

10. How does a student from a non-mainstream primary school apply for the DSA-SEC.

For a student from a non-mainstream primary school, the application is made up of 2 parts: (1) Getting a registration number and (2) Accessing the DSA-Sec portal with the given registration number. Please refer to the online DSA-Sec Portal (www.moe.gov.sg/dsa-sec).

11. How many choices can I exercise in the application?

An applicant can indicate up to three (3) choices. Each choice consists of a secondary school and a talent area offered by that secondary school. Maximum choices for each DSA-Sec school: Of the three choices, an applicant may use a maximum of two choices to apply to the same school, for two different talent areas of that school.

12. When is the closing date for the 2023 DSA Ex?

The centralised application is opened from 4 May 2023 (11 a.m.) – 31 May 2023 (3 p.m.).

13. When will the trials for the CCAs be conducted?

June to August 2023

14. What is the quota for DSA intake this year? What about the breakdown of DSA intake based on the academic and non-academic domains?

Based on past years' record, IP schools take in about 30% of each cohort through the DSA. We do not have a pre-determined percentage of successful DSA applicants for academic and non-academic domains.

15. Is leadership experience (for example, prefectorial board) in the primary school a criteria for DSA selection?

Leadership experience would be a key criteria for selection of applicants for Leadership Talent Area. While it is not a key selection criteria for *other* DSA Talent Areas, it would also be considered during our selection process.

16. For DSA (CCA), must I commit to the same CCA for 6 years? Can I have 2 or more CCAs?

For students who have accepted DSA (CCA) offers, commitment to the CCA is for 4 years. At the end of Sec 4, all students, regardless of whether they were admitted via DSA or their PSLE results, will get to decide if they want to stay in their current CCA or change to a new one.

While we do have a few CCAs designated as 2nd CCA such as Debates and Library, participation in a second CCA is not compulsory and should only be considered if the student can cope. This will depend on the schedule of the student's Main CCA and personal commitments e.g. taking a 3rd Lang or MEP, private piano lessons and tuition etc. Most CCAs train at least twice a week and lessons end at 320 p.m. on some days. We hope that students will take some time to rest and not over-commit to 2 CCAs.

17. When will the applicants be notified of the outcome of the DSA application?

Letters informing applicants on the outcome will be issued by **11 September 2023**.

18. If I have more than one DSA offers, when must I decide which to accept?

If you have a Confirmed Offer (CO) or a Wait List (WL) offer, you will receive notification on the School Preference Submission in Oct 2023. You can submit up to three school choices, in order of preference, online or at the primary school. To gain admission to DHS, you still need to attain PSLE results that qualify for the Express course.

19. What is the detail about the DSA-SEC selection criteria and procedure? How can my child prepare for the DSA-SEC application?

Dunman High School offers DSA-Sec Talent Areas in both the academic and co-curricular domains. Our selection criteria and process may vary from year to year. To give you an idea of what the criteria and process look like for the current year, you may visit our DSA-Sec website.

DSA-Sec is an alternative way of seeking admission at a secondary school. To be successful for DSA-Sec, your child should have talent or achievements in a Talent Area which schools offer DSA in, such as a sport, the performing arts, or a specific academic subject, such as Mathematics or Sciences. In addition, your child should be passionate about and committed to developing her strengths in that area.

You could visit MOE DSA-Sec website (www.moe.gov.sg/dsa-sec) to find out the Talent Areas offered by each school and shortlist a few whose programmes match the interest and talents of your child.

20. Can I apply for DSA (Leadership) if I have no UG experience in Primary school?

Students with no UG background may apply for DSA (Leadership) as long as they have had some leadership experience in their primary school. However, students who have been admitted via DSA (Leadership) will be required to commit to a UG of their choice (Girl Guides, NPCC, St. John or Scouts) for 4 years.

21. Are all your sports teams made up of students admitted via DSA?

No. In fact, there is a concerted effort to ensure that teams are not only made up of students admitted via DSA. All students admitted to DHS via their PSLE scores will have the opportunity to partake in a Sports Trial. This means that we do offer students a place in sports even if they have no experience in the sport. We select students based on their aptitude towards the sports and their potential to be developed.

22. There are research programmes, competitions and overseas learning journeys for STEAM TD and working with the universities; is it guaranteed that DSA (STEAM) students will participate in them?

When shortlisting future Dunmanians/your child into our STEAM programmes, we take into consideration their passion and readiness during the DSA (STEAM) selection. Upon entering the STEAM Academy, teachers will work closely with future Dunmanians/your child to nurture and mentor them, and this is part of our school's process of nurturing STEAM talents, providing them support in continuous participation in research programmes, competitions and overseas learning journeys. While the exposure overall is guaranteed, participation in specific opportunities be it local or overseas, will again depend on the level of interest, work and learning attitude as well as readiness displayed. We will also look at the specialisations that the STEAM talents have as they progress.

23. Why is it that students who join DSA (STEAM) must be good in both Mathematics and Science when they apply?

Our DSA (STEAM) talents will be inducted or enrolled in the STEAM Academy @DHS. As shared, what makes our STEAM Academy stand out is the inter-disciplinary approach we take to developing our STEAM talents. The STEAM Academy provides not only avenues on Math and Science Olympiads and competitions but also provides interdisciplinary avenues in programmes such as YDSP and NRP. Increasingly, many research projects and competition focuses require interdisciplinary understanding to have the edge and to excel. Many Dunmanians are participating in research programmes as well as engineering and innovation challenges that require them to have strong foundations in Math and Science so as to apply them into authentic situations in areas such as environmental engineering. Hence, both Mathematics and Science forms the fundamentals of interdisciplinary STEAM understanding and students good in both will benefit much from our STEAM Academy.

24. My child is keen to apply for DSA (STEAM) Info-comm and Robotics. I am interested to find out more about what Info-comm and Robotics talent development opportunities. And how would you develop my child in these fields?

Our future Dunmanians from DSA (STEAM) Info-comm and Robotics will be members of the Info-comm and Robotics Club respectively. They will be inducted/enrolled in the STEAM Academy @DHS too. What makes our STEAM Academy stand out is the inter-disciplinary approach we take to developing our STEAM talents. Our intention is to allow future Dunmanians to discover and develop their interests and build multiple skills sets in the different STEAM areas so as to be more ready to take on complex problem-solving in higher education and/or in their careers.

In the first year upon entering secondary level, future Dunmanians in the STEAM Academy will read exposure modules in all four pillars of STEAM – Sciences, Technology (Robotics & Info-comm), Engineering (MakerEd & Design Thinking) and Mathematics while keeping their focus and edge in their respective fields of excellence and passion. From the second year, they will focus on their respective fields of excellence and passion, such as Info-comm and Robotics. Partnerships are established with research agencies such as the Defence Science and Technology Agency to provide customised programmes for students who are passionate in the areas of Info-comm and Robotics.

Both Info-comm and robotics talents will be given the training and opportunity to take part in numerous competitions. Training in the Info-comm activities are carried out by IMDA, our own in-house computing teachers as well as by agencies such as DSTA/DSO on an ad-hoc basis. Participation and achievements in competitions such as Google Code-In and Splash Awards will further enhance and validate the training program. Students who show talent in particular areas, app making, coding will be given more challenging tasks and sent for competitions such as National Olympiad in Informatics.

For Robotics Club, training is scaled up across the years. Training is conducted not only as theory lessons but combines a practical element to it. At the lower secondary levels, students will be assigned to competition teams with senior members of the robotics club. These seniors will then mentor their team members in the art and science of building and programming the robots on top of existing training programs. Competitions that the robotics club takes part in are First Lego League, National Robotics Challenge as well as Singapore Amazing Flying Machine Challenge. In recent years, DHS robotics club has done well in SAFMC, garnering top awards consistently. This reflects the achievements of our six-year STEAM Academy.

25. Will Dunman High be able to ensure my child reaches his/her full potential if he/she are accepted for DSA (STEAM)?

With a six-year integrated programme offered, future Dunmanians will be able to ride on the spiral progression of our STEAM Academy. We start the build-up of foundational skills in the lower secondary years and progress towards self-directed learning in the areas of their passion and excellence for STEAM. Future Dunmanians will have the opportunity to participate in the existing Mathematics and Science Olympiads, and we provide enrichment lessons for the Olympiads to provide Dunmanians with exposure in complex problem-solving in STEAM. There are also a wide selection of STEAM programmes and competitions to choose from, catering to different interests and aptitudes.

At the secondary school level, the choices of STEAM Academy avenues for our DSA (STEAM) students include the Science Mentorship Programme (SMP), Innovation Programme (IvP), Mathematics Research Programme, Research@Young Defence Scientists Programme (YDSP), Engineering Innovation Challenge (EIC), hackathon events, Google Code-In or Splash Awards, Maker Education modules etc. Apart from supporting future Dunmanians in the National competitions, Dunman High School has formed international partnerships with Zhejiang University-University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Institute (ZJUI), the Kang Qiao Bilingual School in Taiwan, and the National Taiwan University to organise immersion programmes on a yearly basis to keep abreast on STEAM developments overseas.

At the Junior College level, choices include Nanyang Research Programme (NRP) and Science Research Programme (SRP), etc. Student participants showcase their research work, when selected, at platforms such as the ASTAR East Zone Science Fair, Singapore Mathematics Project Festival, Singapore Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF), or International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). Partnerships are established with institutes of higher learning and research as such SUTD, ASTAR, DSTA, and DSO. SUTD Research Mentorship Programme (RMP), ASTAR Institute of Materials Research Engineering (IMRE), ASTAR Nano-Bio Lab (NBL), NUS Nano-Materials Research Lab, DSTA, DSO Labs to give Dunmanians first-class opportunities for exposure and growth.

26. Could you provide more information about how your STEAM Academy works? And if my child is only interested in Robotics, does it mean he/she will be forced to do other STEAM components? If so, why would this be good if you mentioned about allowing them to pursue their passion?

What makes our STEAM Academy stands out is the inter-disciplinary approach we take to developing our STEAM talents. Our intention is to allow future Dunmanians to discover and develop their interests, and build multiple skills sets in the different STEAM areas so as to be more ready to take on complex problem solving after leaving Dunman High School.

In the first year upon entering / secondary level, future Dunmanians in the STEAM Academy will sit through exposure modules in all four pillars of STEAM – Sciences, Technology (Robotics & Info-comm), Engineering (MakerEd & Design Thinking) and Mathematics while keeping their focus and edge in their respective fields of excellence and passion. From the second year, they will focus on the respective fields of excellence and passion, such as Robotics.

In the first two years, your child will be exposed to other domains of STEAM. These are basic exposure workshops that will allow your child to have a holistic view of the entire spectrum of STEAM. During this period (or rather during the 4 years in JH DHS), he or she will still attend Robotics or infocomm club sessions and will thus "specialise" in that particular area. The exposure to the other STEAM domains may also seed or reveal other strengths and interests of your child which will be beneficial in the long run. Lastly, in this era, the areas of innovation are found at the intersection of traditional domains (e.g. remote surgery - AI, robotics, cybersecurity) hence, it would be beneficial for students to be exposed to interdisciplinary and lateral thinking.

27. If my child is interested in the Languages or Humanities or Aesthetics, what do you have for him/her?

We have a robust non-STEAM TDP. While we do not offer DSA for the Humanities or for specific languages, we do have DSA (Bilingualism) and DSA (MEP).

For Humanities, we offer GEP special programmes such as Humanities and Social Sciences Research Programme (HSSRP) and Moot Parliament Programme (MPP), in-house Humanities research programmes, as well as access to other Humanities events such as external Model United Nations (MUN) events and the NUS Geography Challenge. In Senior High (Junior College), students can look forward to taking up H3 Humanities Options, the NUS-MOE Humanities and Social Sciences Research (NUS-MOE HSSR) as well as participating in our very own Humanities academic CCA, the International Strategic Affairs Council (ISAC) where they organise local and/or international events such as the ASEAN Plus Summit.

For Languages, we offer multiple MOE special programmes such as the Bicultural Studies Programme (BSP-MOE) and the Chinese Language Elective Programme (CLEP) to aspiring bicultural talents who wish to grow their capacity to effectively interact with China as well as relate to the West, as well as GEP special programmes such as Creative Arts Programme (CAP) or external programmes such as Future Problem Solving Programme (FPSP) for Dunmanians who want to hone their creative writing skills in English. We also offer complementary CCAs such as Oratorical Society, Chinese Society and in-house TDP such as the Bicultural Studies Talent Development Programme and the Chinese Language Talent Development Programme (CLTDP), which focuses on Debate, Creative Writing, Public Speaking, and Translation in both Junior High (Secondary) and Senior High (Junior College).

28. There seems to be many more Science-related opportunities compared to Mathematics in the DHS website. Does it mean if my child who excels in Math will end up with more limited TD opportunities compared to another DSA (STEAM) student who excels in Science? Will he/she end up being penalised in the progression?

For future Dunmanians who are excelling in Math will not only be able to focus on the Olympiads and Math Research Programme, they will be introduced to exposure modules in secondary one through our STEAM Academy to help them link mathematical concepts to authentic situations in Science, Info-comm, etc. As the progress into Secondary two and three, they can join programmes, e.g. the Science Mentorship Program, and submit their work under the Mathematics Category.

Just as we should not compare strengths or results of different students, it is also not helpful to compare the different strands of TDs in the STEAM domains because the TD areas are unique and the opportunities serve different purposes and have different advantages. We have seen bright talents in Mathematics mature and blossom in their chosen field of specialisation throughout these years in DHS. This is not by chance. In the event that your child is truly exceptional, we do have partners and partnerships with IHLs (NUS/SUTD) who would be more than willing to nurture such young budding talents.

29. I have read/heard about DHS offering Subject Based Gifted Education (SBGE). Regarding the SBGE, may I know how different it is from the mainstream curriculum?

Both former GEP students as well as students who have been identified as high ability will be placed in the same SBGE classes for Secondary 1 and 2. Their learning experiences are differentiated in terms of curriculum content, teaching and learning processes and environment as well as the performance tasks and products crafted/assessed. By Secondary 3, in view of the flexibility in choice of subject combination, the SBGE students will not remain in their original classes. However, the instruction will be differentiated for them by the subjects they take. We do bear in mind that being an integrated programme, the DHP curriculum is already pitched at a level that is over and beyond the 'O' Levels. Hence, the instruction for the SBGE students is

mainly differentiated by the depth of the curriculum as well as the pedagogies that are most suited for their learning.