



Direct School Admission (DSA) Talk

**Parent Engagement Session
1 April 2026**



Adaptive Learner, Empathetic Leader and Future-Ready Citizen

Objectives

DSA Talk aims to:

1. Create awareness of the Direct School Admission (DSA) process to parents and students.
2. Equip parents and students with essential knowledge to navigate their DSA journey and make informed decisions about their DSA options.

Overview

1. DSA awareness talk by Year Head Upper Primary
2. DSA sharing by the School of Science & Technology, Singapore
3. DSA sharing experiences by BTPS Alumni
4. DSA application process by YH
5. Dialogue with parents of ex-P6 students on their experiences of DSA



DSA Awareness



Adaptive Learner, Empathetic Leader and Future-Ready Citizen

What is DSA-Sec?

- Since 2004, DSA-Sec allows P6 students to apply to some secondary schools before taking the PSLE.
- Students can apply based on their talent in **sports, arts, academic area, leadership, etc.**



What is DSA-Sec?

- If a student is admitted to a secondary school through DSA-Sec, they are **not** allowed to:
 - Submit school choices during the Secondary 1 (S1) posting process.
 - Transfer to another school. They **must** commit to their chosen school for the duration of the programme.



Who can apply for DSA-Sec?

P6 students can apply for DSA-Sec based on a wide-range of talents, including:

- Sports and games
- Visual, literary and performing arts
- Debate and public speaking
- Science, mathematics and engineering
- Languages and humanities
- Uniformed groups
- Leadership



How to apply?

- Students can apply through the DSA-Sec Portal. There are no application fees.
- If you are unable to apply online, approach your child's primary school for assistance.
- If **both** parents are unable to submit the application form personally at school, you have to nominate another adult to do so using a proxy form.



How to apply?

- You can indicate up to three choices during the application.
- For each choice, you will need to choose a secondary school and a talent area from that school.
- Of the three choices, a maximum of two choices can be used to apply to the same school (i.e., under two different talent areas). This is to cater for your child's multiple interests, and to encourage your child to consider different schools that can develop his/her strengths and interests.



How to apply?

- Make your choices carefully, and manage the time and effort required for your child to participate in the trials/auditions/interviews conducted by the school(s).
- If your child is interested in School of the Arts (SOTA) or Singapore Sports School (SSP), you should apply directly to the school based on the school's application timeline.

SOTA : 30 Mar to 8 May 2026

SSP : Feb to end May 2026





Sharing by BTSPS Alumni



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BTPS Alumni

1. Ella, DSA Literary Arts – String (Sec 1)
2. Alexandre, DSA Sports – Rugby (Sec 1)
3. Yeonsoo, DSA Academics – English (Sec 1)
4. Kiriell, DSA Performing Arts – Band (Sec 3)



**BUKIT TIMAH
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
STRIVE FOR THE BEST



SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' SCHOOL
Our precious past. Your treasured future.

Direct School Admission (DSA) Sharing

Ella
Graduate Year 2025



What I love to do

Being around people —----> Leadership role
Vice President for Prefectorial Board
Mentoring / Buddy Programme

Public Speaking —-----> Drama CCA
Story Telling COmpetition
PESA competitions

Music —-----> Piano, Violin, Viola, Choir
Perform for concerts

Outdoor activities —-----> Horse-riding, tennis, squash

My Direct School Admission Route

Applied for:

Leadership

Strings Ensemble

Music Elective Programme

(MEP)

Why I applied through the dsa route?

- quite strong academic results
- there is nothing to lose
- regardless, I wanted to go to those schools so this would give me another avenue to enter.

Why did I accept my DSA offer?

- I enjoy music and it is something I would pursue as my CCA even if I didn't get accepted
- Ask yourself, if there was no DSA route, would you still go to this school and will you still want to apply for the same CCA?

Preparation for the application:

My Portfolio:

- Spend some time to write it
- Due before June school holidays!!
- List everything
- Not just the things related to your talent area

Preparations (more specific for Music Talent Areas)

Submission of the Video

Each school has different requirements
some schools need 2 videos
Watch the time - some will limit you

I was preparing for my Viola exams, so I chose those exam pieces
Prepare and plan with your music teacher when to film the video
Instructions to upload video

Preparations (more specific for Music Talent Areas)

Preparation for the audition

- don't be too ambitious
- for the audition, there was also a mini one-to-one interview

Preparation for the interview

- read the school's website, find out their core values(try to demonstrate them)
- take initiative to speak up during the interview
- don't need to prepare, just speak from your heart

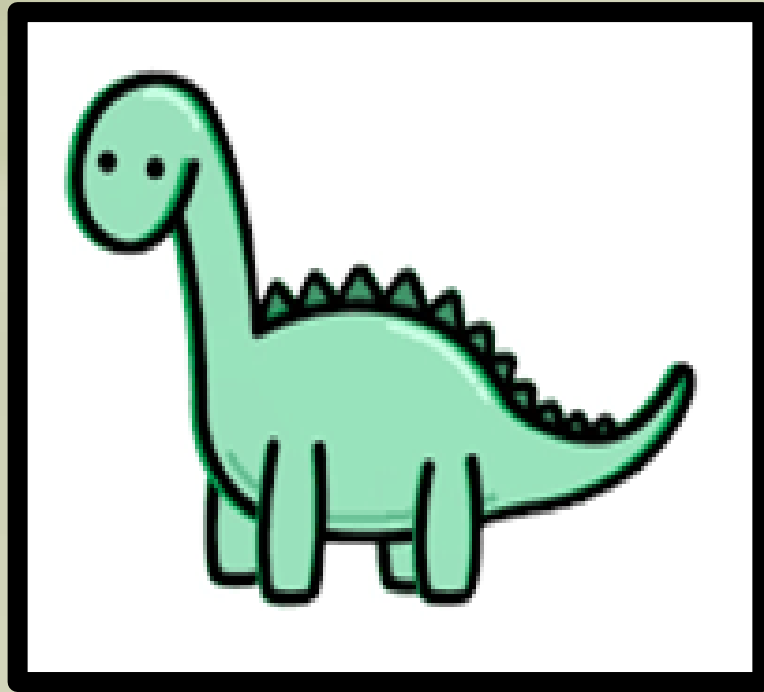
Some challenges...

- friends that applied for same school but other area got accepted for audition before I did
- in the middle of PSLE preparation

some tips...

- focus on PSLE, don't let dsa affect you
- if you know you are not as strong in academics, try dsa
- choose a less popular talent area to apply for
- have realistic expectations
- during open houses, speak to the teacher -in-charge of the cca
- consider your overall grades so far and how you think you did for psle

Thank you & Good Luck!



DSA

Rugby to ACS(I)

Alexandre

Introduction

- DSA Applicant –Rugby to ACS (I)
- Passionate rugby player
- Applied through the Direct School Admission (DSA)route for rugby
- Represented Singapore in rugby competitions



Why I applied through DSA

- Rugby has always been one of my biggest passions
- The DSA route is a rare opportunity to pursue both academics and sport
- I wanted to continue developing my rugby skills in a strong school rugby environment
- Motivated by the opportunities and rugby culture in the school

How I prepared

- Trainings increased from 2 times a week in primary school to 6 times per week
- Added 2 weekly gym sessions to improve strength and fitness but unfortunately am out for long time.
- Constant feedback from amazing BTPS coaches to make me better

How I prepared (Administrative)

- My parents supported me significantly with the administrative requirements for my DSA applications.
- Together, we organised and prepared all necessary documents for submission.
- We compiled a portfolio highlighting my achievements, experiences , and rugby journey.
- This helped present a clear and complete picture of my strengths to the schools.

Challenges and how I overcame them

- Managing school work with intense rugby training
- Learning discipline and resilience through tough training sessions

Personal challenge

- Applied to ACS with my best friend paul, whom I have played rugby with for six years
- I was accepted to ACS while he went to Saint Andrews school

What I gained through the DSA journey

- Met many new teammates who became close friends
- Built strong binds within the school rugby team
- Had opportunities to compete at a higher level
- Represented Singapore and competed internationally in Hong Kong in 2025



English DSA Sharing

BY YEONSOO

Short Introduction of Myself

I transferred to BTPS in Primary Four (2023) .
I graduated from BTPS in the year 2025 and I am
now in MGS (Methodist Girls' School).
I got into the MGS IP track with the English
Language DSA!

ENGLISH DSA

English DSA is a DSA option for students who have a strong command of the English language, and have a passion for reading and writing .

It is offered at Secondary schools such as:

- > Methodist Girls School (Secondary)
- > Raffles Girls School (Secondary)
- > Singapore Chinese Girls School
- > Temasek Junior College (Secondary)

WHY I CHOSE TO APPLY USING THE DSA ROUTE

1. I have a passion for Language Arts, journaling, reading, and I have had consistent grades for English for the past 6 years in primary school.
2. I was okay with the commitment to the DSA area for 4 years!
3. I was unsure of whether I could get into MGS with my PSLE score.

HOW I PREPARED FOR MY DSA APPLICATION

1. Checked the MGS school website at least once every 2 weeks
2. Visited the MGS open house (3 times, in fact!)
3. Looked up more details about English DSA and other possible DSA options on the school website
4. When I found out I was shortlisted for the interview, I asked my father for help. He used ChatGPT to generate possible interview questions and asked me around 3 every day until the day of the interview itself.

CHALLENGES I FACED

1. Preparing for the interview!
2. The interview itself — quite a stressful environment
3. The wait for the confirmation was very slow and very scary, but I tried not to let anything related to DSA matters impact my studies much

MY EXPERIENCE AT THE INTERVIEWS

- Interview questions
- Group activity
- Reflection
- Formal atmosphere — neat hairstyles (hair gel is advised)



My DSA Story



Kiriel

Clementi Town Secondary School



Introduction

- Graduated from BTPS in 2023.
- Joined the Band (BTPS Brass Symphonia) since Primary 1.
- BTPS Brass Symphonia shaped me as a musician and as an individual.
- The experiences instilled discipline in me, gave me opportunities to develop the values of teamwork, perseverance and commitment.
- I developed the passion in learning music, joined the Singapore National Youth Orchestra (SNYO) in Primary 4 and there was no second thought about choosing the DSA route into Clementi Town Secondary School.



What is the DSA area I have applied for?

Sports

Leadership

Performing Arts

STEM

Humanities





What motivated me?

Clementi Town Secondary School's culture, band culture, and performances that the band does on an annual basis.

My parents, conductors and tutors in BTPS Brass Symphonia encouraged me to apply for DSA.

Singapore National Youth Orchestra - being in the SNYO gave me the boost in confidence





Process

1

Create a detailed portfolio to showcase your child's experiences, achievements, and growth in the DSA domain they are applying for.

2

Apply for your desired school and once shortlisted, attend the first round of interview or trial.
**dependent on school*

3

Prepare for the second round of interview with the school's VPs and HOD CCA.
**dependent on school*



Problems and solutions


1

How to prepare for interview?

- Write down reasons for why you want to attend the school
- Research on the school: History and values..
- Attend the open house

2

How to prepare for the audition?

- Start preparing at least 3 months in advance.
 - Have a mentor to provide tips.
- 



DSA

Application Process



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Application Period

Application period has not been announced yet.

More details will be released by end-Apr 2026.

Application period is usually for 28 days and starts in early May.



Documents Required

- There is no need to submit additional hardcopy testimonials and documents via the DSA-Sec Portal.
- Your child's primary school information will be shared with the secondary schools.



Documents Required

Information that will be shared includes:

- P5 and P6 academic results
- P4 to P6 CCA
- P4 to P6 Values in Action (VIA) involvement
- School-based achievements / awards

e.g. Edusave awards, Junior Sports Academy, National School Games participation, etc.



Documents Required

- It is optional to include any non-school based activities and achievements related to your child's talent via the DSA-Sec Portal.
- DSA-Sec schools may ask for documentary proof of non-school based activities and achievements from shortlisted applicants, if necessary.



Selection Period

- Different schools have different selection process.
- If shortlisted, your child will have to attend interviews, auditions or trials conducted by DSA schools.
- Selected students will receive DSA-Sec offers directly from the secondary schools in September.
- Students to submit school preference in DSA-Sec Portal in end-Oct (5 days period)



What to do next?



Now - Before commencement of application period

- Visit DSA-Sec Portal for information on the DSA-Sec talent areas, application process and timeline (www.moe.gov.sg/dsa-sec)
- Go to SchoolFinder to explore schools based on their distance from home, locations, CCAs, subjects and programmes offered.



What to do next?

Now - Before commencement of application period

Alternative websites to explore secondary schools:

- MySkillsFuture website

(<https://www.myskillsfuture.gov.sg/content/student/en/primary.html>)



What to do next?

Now – Before commencement of application period

- Visit secondary schools' websites for information on DSA talent areas.
- Visit Open Houses to have a sense of the schools of interest as well as what the schools offer
- [For P6 students] Look out for the press release in early-May.
More details will also be made available on secondary schools' websites after the press release.



What to do next?

During application period

- Submit application in DSA-Sec Portal before the deadline.
- Only one parent is required to login using Singpass to apply.

End-Jun to Early-Sep

If shortlisted, prepare for trials/auditions/interviews.



What to do next?

Mid to End-Oct

- Students who received at least one DSA-Sec offer (including from SOTA) will receive email notification and SMS via Postman.gov.sg regarding the School Preference Submission.
- Parents are to submit up to three school preferences in DSA-Sec Portal.
- Amendments or withdrawals will not be allowed after the end of the School Preference Submission.



What to do next?

Mid to End-Oct

- Students may receive concurrent offers from DSA-Sec schools and Singapore Sports School (SSP).
- Students who wish to accept the SSP offer should **not** submit their DSA-Sec school preferences, otherwise, their offer from SSP **will be void**.



Tips for portfolio

Special Academic and
Creativity Achievements
& Awards

School CCAs and
External Competitions

Leadership & Special
Achievements

External Interest &
Involvement



Tips for interview

Smile and maintain eye contact is a MUST.

Greeting/Well-wishes before and after the interview will help in deepening the impression as well.

Dress smartly. It creates a good impression and increases your level of confidence as well. Make sure you look neat and tidy from top to toe.

Prepare stories about yourself that bring about certain qualities that you possess. Showcase how passionate you are about the talent area you are applying for.

Use your ability to create true stories about past experiences in your CCA, academic life or even personal life that had to do with overcoming challenges and achieving success.



Tips for group interview

Show that you can lead in a group task.

Present well with confidence.

Show Teamwork, Creativity, Problem-Solving Skills when the opportunity arises.

Have good interactive skills and listen to the viewpoints of others.

Be open-minded in accepting views contrary to your own.



Tips for Parents

Have a two-way conversation with your child on DSA and make a shared decision.

Consider your child's potential total AL score and the secondary school's cut-off point when applying for DSA.

Apply for DSA based on the strengths and talents of your child.

Support your child in his/her preparation for DSA trials/auditions/interviews.

Be open to options if the DSA application is unsuccessful.



Feedback

Please scan the QR code to provide feedback for today's session.



Thank You