

# PARENT KIT



Ministry of Education  
SINGAPORE

## Supporting Your Teen in Exploring Post-Secondary Pathways

Your teen will be pursuing their next phase of learning soon. You may be wondering about the various pathways available and how big a role you should play in helping them decide on their options.

Here is a ***summary of the post-secondary options available*** and **4 tips below** on how you and your teen could explore them together.



### 1. Take a step back from your own expectations

Every teen is unique, including your own. Encourage them to think through their options by recognising their own strengths, interests and learning styles.

Do offer advice but avoid pressuring your teen to qualify for a certain pathway based on your own expectations and experiences.

### 2. Encourage your teen to have a voice

Ask your teen about their thoughts and feelings in this matter. Let them feel heard.

Discuss their aspirations and how you could support them. Make yourself available for them to share their feelings, and assure them that you are there for them.



#### Try these conversation starters

- **Which** subject(s) in school interest(s) you the most?
- **How** do you learn best in school?
- **What** are some of the occupations that interest you? **Why** did you choose these occupations?
- **How** would you want to make a difference in our community?

#### Consider these factors

- **Overall interest/passion** in the course
- **Scholarship** opportunities
- **Cost** of post-secondary option
- **Distance** travelled between home and school
- **Duration** of study
- **Future** work opportunities

### 3. It's okay to be uncertain (this applies to parents too)

Acknowledge that your teen may be facing pressure to do well to get to a particular course. You may be unsure yourself which path your teen should take.

#### Seek support through these channels

- **Support circles**  
Encourage your teen to reach out to like-minded friends to motivate each other
- **Fellow parents**  
You can reach out to your own social circles who have common concerns and attend parent seminars
- **Education Career Guidance (ECG)**  
Encourage your teen to speak with an ECG counsellor at school for post-secondary advice

### 4. Knowledge is power

You can learn more about the various post-secondary options together through the following resources.

- **For a flowchart** of MOE's multiple pathways, [click here](#)
- **For tips and advice** on how you can support your teen as they discover and pursue their post-secondary pathways, [click here](#)
- **For key enhancements** being made to Polytechnic and ITE education, [click here](#)

Stay open to the possible education and career pathways that are available and discuss these pathways with your teen.

Keep an eye out on Open House dates and encourage your teen to attend them to experience the school first-hand. You can even attend Open Houses together with them!



**As you advise your teen, value their thoughts and opinions so that they feel empowered and supported by you.**

*"I tried my best to **respect** my daughter's choice of polytechnic course by **being supportive**. She showed me that she **did her research** about the course and how it will **benefit her in future**. It helped me **feel confident** – **that's how she won me over.**"*

*– Parent of Year 2 Polytechnic student*

### How else can you support your teen on their post-secondary decision?

Join us at the following sessions specially organised for parents.

#### **MOE's Post-Secondary Transition Seminar – Tuesday 24 May, 8-9pm**

Hear from an ECG counsellor, a parent, and youths as they share and answer your questions on the various options and key considerations when choosing a post-secondary pathway with your teen.

#### **A Future Beyond Grades – Wednesday 25 May, 8pm**

Tune in to participate in a conversation with Minister of State, Ms Sun Xueling, and a panel of individuals whose grades in school did not define their successful careers. Hear their perspectives on how we can support our children in pursuing their own success.



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