



Supporting Our Teens in Choosing Post-Secondary Pathways

Our teens will soon be pursuing their next phase of learning. We may be wondering about the pathways available to them and how we can guide them on their options.

Get started [here](#) to learn about the post-secondary options available for our teens to pursue based on their interests and strengths.

Here are also **4 tips** for us as parents.



2. Hear our teens out

Ask them about their thoughts and feelings on their strengths, aspirations and choice of pathways. Make them feel heard.

If we observe some of their interests and strengths, validate it by asking them directly.

Discuss with them about how they would like to be supported. Assure them of our support.

Try these conversation starters

- **Which** subject(s) in school interest(s) you the most?
- **Which** lessons do you feel the most engaged in and **why**?
- **What** are some occupations or areas that interest you?
- **Why** are you keen on these?
- Is this an area you can see yourself contributing to in the future and **how**?

1. Take a step back from our own expectations

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

Offer advice but avoid pressuring them to qualify for a certain pathway based on our own expectations and experiences.



Consider these factors

- **Overall interest** in the course
- **Distance to travel** between home and school
- **Duration** of study
- **Future** work opportunities related to your teens' interests
- **Learning styles** (i.e. visual, auditory) and **Modes** (i.e. methods and environments – individual, group, online, experiential)
- **Cost** of the post-secondary option
- **Scholarship** opportunities

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

Sometimes, our teens may not be certain about what they want to do after secondary school. We ourselves may also be uncertain. Don't worry - there is support around.

Seek Support through these channels

- **Support Circles**
Encourage our teens to reach out to like-minded friends to motivate one another. Speak to seniors who have progressed to post-secondary levels to find out more.
- **Fellow Parents**
Reach out to our own social circle to connect with fellow parents at the same stage or other parents who have been through post-secondary pathways with their children to encourage and motivate one another. Attend parent seminars.
- **Education and Career Guidance (ECG)**
Encourage our teens to speak with their ECG counsellor in school and seek advice on post-secondary pathways.

4. Knowledge is power

Together with our teens, learn more about the various post-secondary options through the following resources.

- **For an overview** of MOE's pathways for students taking the O- and N-levels, **refer to pages 3 to 6.**
- **For Education and Career Guidance Resources** to support our teens, **[click here.](#)**
- **For the latest updates** on post-secondary education, **[click here.](#)**

Be open to the education and career pathways and discuss them with our teens.

Keep an eye out for Open House dates on the AIs, JC/CI, ITE and Polytechnics' social media or websites. Encourage our teens to attend them or attend some with them too!

A WORLD BEYOND SCHOOL

Check out MOE's '[A World Beyond School](#)' online series that bring to you industry experts, parents and youths who share about the world of work.

As we advise our teens, let's also value their thoughts and opinions so that they feel empowered and supported.

"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 knows how it will benefit her in future. It helped me feel confident - that's how she won me over."

- Parent of Year 3 Polytechnic Student



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