

Direct School Admission – Secondary Exercise (DSA-Sec)

Boon Lay Secondary School places a great emphasis in ensuring that we develop our students holistically. BLSS's vision is to be an extended family to our students and the CCA is the individual student's family unit. Our CCAs provide many opportunities for the students to develop their passion and interests and give them support to forge strong bonds with peers and teachers and a sense of identity and belonging.

A. Criteria for 2022 Direct School Admission to Secondary 1 in 2023

We will be pleased to accept Primary 6 students who possess strengths in the following **FOUR** areas:

- Applied Learning Programme (ALP)
- Learning for Life Programme (LLP) Performing Arts
- Learning for Life Programme (LLP) Visual Arts
- Learning for Life Programme (LLP) Badminton

Applied Learning Programme (ALP)

Material Science

In ALP lessons, our students handle and work with smart materials to explore how the properties of materials change according to environmental stimuli. These include:

- i) Shape Memory Alloys, which can revert to their original shape when exposed to sufficient heat,
- ii) chromic materials that change their colour when they are in contact with water, ultraviolet light, heat or electricity, and
- iii) peltier tiles that can convert thermal energy into electricity.

Students engage in reverse engineering of everyday household items to learn about their working principles, design considerations and choice of materials. They also undergo lessons in Computer-Aided Drawing (CAD) and programming of microcontrollers (Microbits) to create 3D artefacts, and digital sensors that can improve their lives and the environments that they interact.

The lessons are designed and infused using the concept of Design Thinking. This is a design and exploratory framework, which emphasizes the importance of empathy towards the intended user. Design Thinking helps students understand the user and their needs better, allowing them to create better products and achieve better outcomes.

The Materials Science Studio is the primary venue for our ALP. The room is fitted with writable surfaces all around to promote discussions and collaborations. The two 3D printers and laser cutter allow students to create tangible prototypes of their ideas without the need for heavy machinery.

Interested applicants should demonstrate aptitude and/or express interest in science-related fields.

OR

Learning for Life Programme (LLP)

Performing Arts

English Drama (*Musical Theatre*)

The BLS Musical Theatre Club combines songs, spoken dialogue, and dance in their performance with acting as the basis to bring a story to its audience. Every performance is a blend of words, music, movement and technical aspects of theatre as an integrated whole.

The BLS Musical Theatre Club aims to develop in its members an appreciation for **drama, music and movement**. All members in the Club are given opportunities and trained in various aspects of performance theatre. The various performance opportunities through school exchanges, competitions and internal as well as external public performances enable students to showcase their talents and explore their passion for the performing arts.

The Club's recent achievements include achievements at the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts Presentation as outlined below. In addition, the club also provides members with the opportunity to achieve excellence in the field. For example, our members received a high distinction in the Trinity College Musical Theatre Exams in 2019.

SYF Arts Presentation 2017:
[Certificate of Distinction]

SYF Arts Presentation 2019:
[Certificate of Accomplishment]

Trinity College Musical Theatre Exams 2019:
[Certificate of Distinction]

SYF Arts Presentation 2021:
[Certificate of Accomplishment]

Interested applicants

- *should demonstrate outstanding talent in the area of aesthetics as well as keen interest and passion for the visual arts; and*
- *are able to show involvement/achievement in related CCAs or other competitions in the related areas.*

Learning for Life Programme (LLP)

Performing Arts
Choir

The BLS Choir is a mixed youth choir under the baton of a skilled and talented conductor. The choir presents the talented voices of BLS at major school events and public showcases. It performs an extensive repertoire, ranging from Choral Classics to light jazz pieces, and contemporary pop music.

In recent years, the choir has risen to greater heights, upholding the standard of choral excellence. The choir has consistently clinched the Certificate of Distinction for the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts Presentation since 2013. They also received a Certificate of Distinction for the ABRSM Choral Singing Exams in 2019.

The BLS Choir aims to develop a sense of appreciation for the traditions of choral music, while nurturing and cultivating a passion for singing in its members. Through the various school exchanges, internal and external choir performances and competitions, the BLS Choir also hopes to inculcate the right values and desirable social attitudes in all its members.

**SYF Arts Presentation 2017:
[Certificate of Distinction]**

**SYF Arts Presentation 2019:
[Certificate of Distinction]**

**Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation 2021:
Non-Judging Category**

Interested applicants

- *should demonstrate outstanding talent in the area of aesthetics as well as keen interest and passion for the visual arts; and*
- *are able to show involvement/achievement in related CCAs or other competitions in the related areas.*

Learning for Life Programme (LLP)

Performing Arts

Modern Dance (Contemporary Dance)

BLS Contemporary Dance Club prides itself on producing collective magic on stage from individual strengths. It inculcates the values of discipline and respect as well as creativity and expression through dance. The club exposes the dancers to various genres and a wide spectrum of styles.

The dance club is a popular CCA which hones raw talents and believes not just in mechanical aspects of dance technique, but on imaginative play and natural movement. Members are a close knit team and have forged strong bonds with one another.

The club also believes in giving back to the community. Their partnership with St. Andrew's Autism School ensures that dancers remain grounded with the belief of enriching their lives through helping others and providing joy to others through dance.

SYF Arts Presentation 2017:
[Certificate of Accomplishment]

SYF Arts Presentation 2019:
[Certificate of Accomplishment]

SYF Arts Presentation 2021:
[Certificate of Accomplishment]

Interested applicants

- *should demonstrate outstanding talent in the area of aesthetics as well as keen interest and passion for the visual arts; and*
- *are able to present involvement/achievement in related CCAs or other competitions in the related areas.*

Learning for Life Programme (LLP)

Performing Arts

Concert Band

The BLS Concert Band believes in cultivating a common appreciation for music and music-making among members. Under the baton of a team of very capable conductors, it has been making steady progress.

Apart from the annual school events such as Aspire and Achieve Day and the National Day Parade, the band also performed in the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts Presentations in 2017 and 2019, the International Band Festival 2018, the World Down Syndrome Day in 2018 and 2019.

Besides working towards developing members into competent musicians, the CCA also seeks to bring out the best in members character-wise, as they pursue their passions and work towards their aspirations.

SYF Arts Presentation 2017:
[Certificate of Accomplishment]

SYF Arts Presentation 2019:
[Certificate of Accomplishment]

SYF Arts Presentation 2021:
[Certificate of Accomplishment]

Interested applicants

- *should demonstrate outstanding talent in the area of aesthetics as well as keen interest and passion for the visual arts; and*
- *are able to show involvement/achievement in related CCAs or other competitions in the related areas.*

Learning for Life Programme (LLP)

Performing Arts

Chinese Orchestra

BLS Chinese Orchestra comprises 5 sectional categories, which includes pluck-string, string, cello bass, wind wood and percussion. Apart from annual school-based events like the Chinese New Year Concert, Aspire and Achieve Day and the W3 Cluster Mother Tongue Fiesta, the orchestra also stages external performances.

The club has done well in developing a sense of appreciation for classical Chinese music while remaining relevant to an evolving audience. Besides classical Chinese songs, the club also trains and plays popular songs including modern pop songs to appeal to a changing profile of students and audience.

The group obtained the Certificate of Accomplishment in 2017 and the Certificate of Distinction in 2019 for the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts Presentations. The members are proud of the progress made and are confident of sustaining the high levels of achievement in the coming years.

SYF Arts Presentation 2017:
[Certificate of Accomplishment]

SYF Arts Presentation 2019:
[Certificate of Distinction]

SYF Arts Presentation 2021:
[Certificate of Distinction]

Interested applicants

- *should demonstrate outstanding talent in the area of aesthetics as well as keen interest and passion for the visual arts; and*
- *are able to show involvement/achievement in related CCAs or other competitions in the related areas.*

Learning for Life Programme (LLP)

Performing Arts

Malay Dance

The BLS Malay Dance Club aims to provide students with a platform to develop students into confident and competent dancers. It has successfully combined an appreciation for culture and traditional folk dance movements while at the same time appealing to a younger audience to take up the art form. It has done this through combining pugilistic elements such as Silat into the dance to achieve interesting results.

Dancers are given opportunities to perform and compete in various showcases such as the Esplanade MUARA festival and the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts Presentation. The CCA welcomes both inexperienced and experienced dancers from all races so that students have opportunities to appreciate and embrace differences while discovering their passion and talents in dance and movement.

SYF Arts Presentation 2017:
[Certificate of Accomplishment]

SYF Arts Presentation 2019:
[Certificate of Distinction]

SYF Arts Presentation 2021:
[Certificate of Distinction]

Interested applicants

- *should demonstrate outstanding talent in the area of aesthetics as well as keen interest and passion for the visual arts; and*
- *are able to show involvement/achievement in related CCAs or other competitions in the related areas.*

Learning for Life Programme (LLP)

Visual Arts

Boon Lay Secondary School offers Art at the lower and upper secondary levels. Students get to engage in various aspects of Art education through learning the basic elements of art, principles of design, exploration of different skills and media and art theories.

Authentic learning opportunities for students include visits to art exhibitions, inter-department learning journeys, and collaboration with external partners on community Art programmes as well as art competitions.

Learning Outcomes:

- i. Impart Art as a technical practice, means of communication and way of thinking
- ii. Introduce Contemporary Art practices to broaden students' conception of Art
- iii. Integrate Art history (major works, artists, movements) for broad-based understanding
- iv. Develop basic technical capabilities to establish a reliable foundation of skills
- v. Expose students to various Art mediums for greater creative possibilities
- vi. Cultivate curiosity with problem-based projects for appreciation of the Arts and lifelong learning
- vii. Skills acquisition, processes and experiential learning over assessment-based learning and final product

Pre-requisites:

- a) Portfolio assessment
- b) 2-hour still life drawing assessment

Interested applicants

- *should demonstrate outstanding talent in the area of aesthetics as well as keen interest and passion for the visual arts; and*
- *are able to show present involvement/achievement in related CCAs or other competitions in the related areas.*

OR

Learning for Life Programme (LLP) Badminton

The BLS badminton team has always done well in the National School Games. In 2019, the team made it to the quarterfinal round of the B Division NSG West Zone Badminton Tournament.

Other achievements include reaching the quarterfinal round in the Wee Kim Wee Badminton Challenge 2018, organized by Arena Country Club. The BLS team clinched the 6th position in that competition.

The Badminton team hopes to build on its previous successes over the past ten years and will strive to continue to bring greater glory to the team and the school in the years to come. It hopes to do this by attracting players who are very dedicated and passionate in the sport as well as possess outstanding character on and off the court.

NSG West Zone Tournament 2019 [Quarter-final Round]

NSG West Zone Tournament 2022

Interested applicants

- *should demonstrate outstanding talent in the area of Badminton;*
- *should have played and achieved placings in relevant external competitions conducted by the zone, national or National Sports Association*

B. Application Information and DSA Process

Phase 1: Application (5 May 2022, 11am – 1 June 2022, 3pm)

Important Notes to Parent/Guardian and Student:

Parents and students are encouraged to choose schools wisely based on the student's aptitudes and strengths, bearing in mind the schools' academic and non-academic requirements, and the programmes available to develop the area of talent.

Students who are successfully admitted to the school via DSA are expected to honour their commitment to the school, and participate in the activities related to the talent they are selected for from year 1 – 4.

Please apply for DSA-Sec through the centralized DSA-Sec Portal. The DSA-Sec Portal can be accessed at <https://www.moe.gov.sg/admissions/direct-admissions/dsa-sec>. Below are the details of applying through the centralised DSA-Sec Portal.

a. **Application Period**

The application period is from **5 May 2022 to 1 June 2022**.

b. **Accessing the DSA Portal**

(i) **Applicants from MOE mainstream primary schools:** Parent may log in directly to DSA-Sec Portal. Only one parent's Singpass is required. Parents/ guardians who are unable to apply online can approach their child's primary school for assistance.

(ii) **Other applicants not studying in MOE mainstream primary schools:** Parent will need to apply for a Registration Number (RGxxxxxx) to access the DSA-Sec Portal. Schools may refer them to MOE website at:

c. **Choices**

An applicant can indicate up to three choices (maximum of two choices for the same school under two different talent areas).

d. **Information to provide**

To make the application easier, applicants will only need to provide

- (i) Valid email address and local mobile number;
- (ii) Applicants studying in mainstream primary schools will have their primary school information shared directly with the DSA-Sec schools that they apply to. It is optional to indicate non-school-based activities and achievements. Please note that P6 NAPFA results will not be available for DSA-Sec schools this year.

Phase 2: Selection (27 Jun 2022 – 12 Sep 2022)

Given the prevailing national posture, DSA-Sec schools will be conducting **in-person selection for all DSA talent areas for 2022 DSA-Sec**, with the prevailing safe management measures

(SMMs) in place to ensure the safety of students and staff. Shortlisted applicants will be notified of the approach of the DSA-Sec Selection by the school in due time. **Applicants will be given at least 2 weeks' notice prior to the selection dates.** However, do note that the dates given are subject to change. The school will inform the respective applicants of the change accordingly.

Phase 3: Results (12 September 2022)

All outcomes of the selection will be made available to the applicants **by 12 September 2022** via mail.

For further enquiries, please contact the following staff:

| NAME & DESIGNATION | CONTACT DETAILS |
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| MR KOH CHON KIAT <i>Vice-Principal, Academic</i> | Email: koh_chon_kiat@schools.gov.sg Contact: 67940161 Ext 102 |
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