



NPSI SINGAPORE

COLLEGE BULLETIN



***“Success depends
upon previous
preparation.”***

-Confucius

Dear Students,

This week's College Bulletin is a timely reminder of the importance of preparation. Whether preparing for admissions tests, researching universities or considering future pathways, the choices and habits you develop now can open opportunities later.

Preparation is not simply about examinations. It is about developing curiosity, critical thinking, problem-solving and reading beyond the curriculum, and making the most of opportunities such as the recent visit from Boston University.

Start early, remain curious and make the most of the opportunities around you.

***Mr Andrew Wyeth
Head of School***



From the Desk of the College Counselling Team

Last issue, we explored the UCAT, an important admissions test for students applying to Medicine and Dentistry programmes in the UK. This issue, we would like to highlight three other admissions assessments that are becoming increasingly important for students applying to competitive courses in Mathematics, Economics, Computer Science, Engineering, and the Sciences: the TMUA, ESAT, and TARA. Understanding these tests and their registration timelines can help students plan their university applications more effectively.



TMUA (Test of Mathematics for University Admission)

- Required or recommended for selected Mathematics, Economics, Computer Science, Statistics, Data Science, and related courses.
- Used by universities such as Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial College London, LSE, UCL, Warwick, and Durham (requirements vary by course).
- Assesses:
 - Mathematical thinking
 - Problem-solving ability
 - Logical and analytical reasoning.

Students should check individual university course pages to confirm whether the TMUA is compulsory, recommended, or not required.



ESAT (Engineering and Science Admissions Test)

- Required for selected courses at Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial College London, and UCL.
- Commonly needed for programmes in:
 - Engineering
 - Physics
 - Natural Sciences
 - Biomedical Sciences
 - Chemical Engineering
 - Veterinary Medicine
- Assesses knowledge and aptitude in:
 - Mathematics
 - Physics
 - Chemistry
 - Biology
- Students take a combination of modules based on their chosen course requirements.
- Mathematics 1 is compulsory for all candidates, with additional modules specified by the university/course.

Students should check individual course requirements carefully, as the required ESAT modules vary by university and programme.





TARA (Test of Academic Reasoning for Admissions)

- Required for selected courses at Oxford and UCL.
- Commonly needed for programmes in:
 - Economics & Management
 - PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)
 - Human Sciences
 - Experimental Psychology
 - Computer Science
 - Mechanical Engineering
 - Robotics & Artificial Intelligence
- Assesses in:
 - Critical Thinking
 - Problem-Solving
 - Academic Writing
- Focuses on reasoning, analysis, and argumentation skills rather than subject-specific knowledge.
- Consists of:
 - Critical Thinking section
 - Problem-Solving section
 - Written Task (essay response)

Students should verify individual course requirements, as only selected programmes at Oxford and UCL currently require the TARA.

Test	Registration Deadline	Test Dates	Results Release
UCAT	Registration closed (19 Sept 26)	7 July - 25 Sept 2026	Typically available within 24-48 hours of sitting the test; scores are sent directly to universities.
TMUA / ESAT / TARA	28 Sept 26	12 - 16 Oct 2026	16 Nov 2026



Upcoming Overseas Education Fairs in Singapore

Students exploring overseas study opportunities may wish to attend the upcoming Dream Big Overseas University Fair (26 September) at Marina Bay Sands and the World University Expo @ Suntec (3 October). These events provide opportunities to meet university representatives, learn about admissions requirements and scholarships, and explore programmes across the UK, Australia, USA, Canada, Ireland, and beyond.



Click on the image for
Event Details & Registration

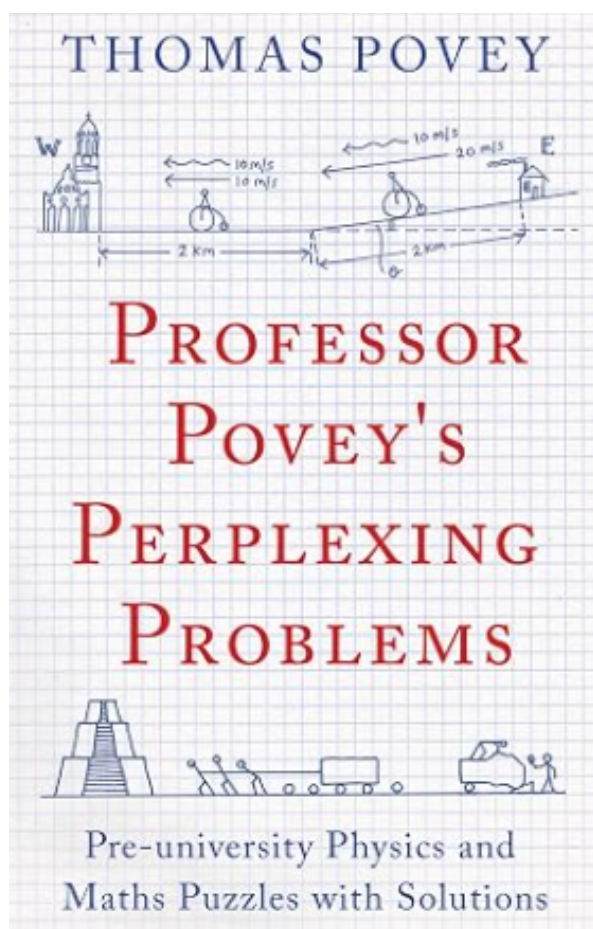


Click on the image for
Event Details & Registration



Student Read

While admissions tests require specific preparation, students should also focus on developing broader problem-solving, critical-thinking and analytical skills. Books such as Thinking, Fast and Slow, Professor Povey's Perplexing Problems, and Thinking as a Mathematician can help students cultivate the intellectual habits that universities look for beyond test scores.



Professor Povey's Perplexing Problems: Pre-University Physics and Maths Puzzles with Solutions

This engaging book presents a collection of challenging mathematics and physics puzzles designed to stretch students beyond the school curriculum. Through real-world scenarios and thought-provoking problems, it develops the analytical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills that are highly valued in admissions tests such as the ESAT and TMUA.

Students aspiring to study Engineering, Physics, Mathematics, or other STEM subjects at top universities will find it an enjoyable way to strengthen the deeper reasoning abilities needed for university admissions and interviews.



Event updates



On 31 August, **Mr. Liam McCartney**, the representative from **Boston University**, provided students with a firsthand perspective on university life, admission process academics, and opportunities at Boston University

On 14 Sept, representatives from **8 US universities** visited the school. Students benefited from direct interactions with university representatives, helping them make informed decisions.



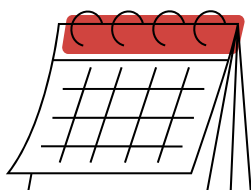
On 21 Sept, **Mr. Shen Hing** from **The University of British Columbia (UBC)** visited the school to share insights into academic programs, student life, admissions requirements, and campus opportunities.



Internal Deadlines / Dates to note

23 Sept 2026

Students applying to Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry, or Veterinary courses are reminded to submit their completed UCAS applications by 23 September 2026.



SAT - Test dates and registration deadlines

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration / Changes Deadline
Oct 3, 2026	Sept 18, 2026	Sept 22, 2026
Nov 7, 2026	Oct 23, 2026	Oct 27, 2026
Dec 5, 2026	Nov 20, 2026	Nov 24, 2026

Click [here](#) for more info on the dates.



From the Archives: Timeless University Prep Tips

Uni Prep Tips

Starting university is all about independence — and that includes taking care of yourself in ways you might not have considered. Learning basic sewing is one of those underrated but incredibly useful skills that can save you time, money, and stress. Whether it's fixing a loose button before a presentation, patching up a torn backpack, or adjusting your clothes for comfort, sewing empowers you to handle small problems on your own. It's a simple skill with a big impact — and a great way to build confidence as you step into uni life.

Learn Basic Sewing for Smart Self-Reliance

Knowing how to sew can help you:

- Repair clothes instead of replacing them (e.g., fixing a torn seam or loose button)
- Customize or upcycle thrifted or old clothes
- Save money on tailoring or alterations
- Create simple items like tote bags, pillowcases, or even curtains for your dorm



Start With These Basics

- Threading a needle and tying knots
- Sewing on buttons
- Fixing small tears or hems
- Using iron-on patches
- Hand-stitching vs. machine stitching



Cycle Your Way Through University Life! 🚲



Inspired by the cycling havens of the Netherlands and Belgium, make two-wheeled transport your go-to at university! Cycling isn't just a way to get to class—it's efficient, healthy, and budget-friendly. Embrace the freedom and sustainability of a cyclist's lifestyle, whether you're navigating campus or exploring the city.

Essentials for Your First Ride: 🚲

The Right Bike: Opt for a durable city or hybrid bike. Look for essential add-ons like a bell, lights, and a sturdy lock.

Safety First: Always wear a helmet! Be predictable on the road and use hand signals.

Maintenance Basics: Learn to pump tires and fix a flat. A small repair kit can be a lifesaver.

Secure Your Ride: Lock your bike to a fixed object using a reliable lock, securing both the frame and at least one wheel.

Be Aware: Pay attention to pedestrians and traffic. Never use your phone while cycling.

