New specialised school set to accept applicants

School of Science and Technology will open in 2010 with 200 students

BY JALELAH ABU BAKER

SINGAPORE’S fourth specialised independent school will begin accepting applications in May. The school will be run at a temporary site along Clementi Avenue 6 when it opens next year.

The School of Science and Technology (SST) will take in 200 students via the Direct School Admissions scheme, which will run until August. It will hold an open house at the former Clementi North Primary School along Clement Avenue 6 on May 23 and 25 for interested students and parents.

Students admitted to it will undergo a four-year programme leading to the O-levels. They will each take up to two applied subjects on top of seven to eight regular O-level subjects.

The applied subjects are: science, design studies, fundamentals of electronic, environmental science and technology, and biotechnology.

The SST will move to a permanent site at the junction of Clementi Road and Commonwealth Avenue West in January 2012.

The school aims to nurture students with inventive minds and entrepreneurial skills. Its principal, Mr Chua Chor Haat, 42, the former head of Ngee Ann Secondary School, said: “We are looking at students who have the academic ability to cope with a rigorous curriculum, and also those who have the inclination and aptitude for applied learning.”

Students will be chosen based on their achievements or performance in camps, not their results in the Primary School Leaving Examination.

To allow closer interaction with teachers, class sizes will be small: between 20 and 25 students each.

The school’s board, comprising leading entrepreneurs, technopreneurs and academics, reflects its focus.

It is led by Nanyang Technological University president Su Guanng, and includes Mr Indrijit Singh, chief executive officer (CEO) of Infiniti Solutions, an established company in Singapore’s semiconductor industry; and Mr Tang Kin Fei, Sembcorp Industries’ group president and CEO.

Said Mr Singh: “We have industry and working experience. So the role of the board is to inject ideas that will be trans-