



Where theories and innovation come alive

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STUDENTS will learn about mathematics by working out which mobile phone plan is the most economical choice for their usage patterns.

Or, they will find out what logic and programming concepts go into creating their favourite computer games.

They will also see textbook theories come alive on regular visits to research laboratories in partner schools.

This is what principal Chua Chor Huan envisions when the School of Science and Technology Singapore (SST) opens its doors next year.

The latest Specialised Independent School to open after the NUS High School of Mathematics and Science, the Singapore Sports School, and the School of the Arts, SST will focus on applied learning and innovation, said Mr Chua.

To that end, SST signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Ngee Ann Polytechnic yesterday.

The polytechnic will help design five Applied Subjects to be taken at O-levels, such as Design Studies and Biotechnology. Students will take seven to eight regular O-Level subjects, and one or two Applied Subjects.

NTU president Se Gwanng, who also chairs SST's Board of Directors, said NTU's partnership with the Dying Marlon Kaufman Foundation — which advances entrepreneurship — would provide enterprise opportunities to students.

And this would not be limited to opening talks. "That is just teaching them the basics of money," said Dr Se. "Entrepreneurship is about innovation, wanting to use whatever you have learnt in a different way, wanting to solve mankind's big problems, not so much about wanting to make \$1 billion."

Some 200 students will be accepted through the Direct School Admission exercise, to be held between May and August.

Students will be tested to see if they can handle the rigours of an applied learning environment, and the school will also look at their inclination towards the sciences, through participation in related co-curricular activities and teachers' recommendations, for instance.

"We will also be organising a fun selection camp and expose students to the context [of applied learning]," said Mr Chua. "It's about whether they are suited to learn in a particular way."



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SST's open house will be held on May 23 and 25.