

Two new HDB projects launched

THE Housing and Development Board (HDB) has launched two more projects – Telok Blangah Towers in Bukit Merah town and Punggol Lodge in Punggol town – under the Build-To-Order System.

A total of 916 new premium and standard flats, comprising studio apartments, 3-room and 4-room flats, are on offer.

At Telok Blangah Towers, an integrated development with 400 premium flats, the 90 studio apartments include elder-friendly features such

as grab bars and non-slip flooring.

The project is situated at the junction of Telok Blangah Street 31 and Telok Blangah Drive, near the Bukit Merah Town Centre and the planned MRT stations at Labrador Park and Telok Blangah.

Punggol Lodge, with 516 standard units, is in Punggol East along Punggol Road – near the Punggol MRT, schools and future town centre, as well as within walking distance of the Damai LRT station.

A 4-room premium flat at Telok

Blangah Towers is expected to cost between \$308,000 and \$402,000, while a similar-sized 4-room standard flat will cost \$190,000 to \$234,000, minus optional components.

For all flats at Telok Blangah Towers, an \$8,000 monthly household income ceiling applies. At Punggol Lodge, the usual ceiling of \$3,000 for 3-room flats and \$8,000 for 4-room flats applies.

An exhibition is now on at the Habitat Forum, HDB Hub. Interested applicants can also log on to www.hdb.gov.sg/esales. Applications close Nov 14.



BEYOND THEORY: Minister of State for Education Gan Kim Yong at Dunman Secondary, one of the eight schools offering applied subjects next year.

3-D animation goes to schools

Three new applied subjects will be open to students at eight schools

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HIS exams have just ended, but Secondary 2 student Richard Chan already has his eye on one subject he wants to take next year – one that will let him take a step closer to his dream of becoming an animated film producer.

Come next year, he hopes to be one of 20 students from Dunman Secondary to take 3-D animation as an O-level subject – one of the three new applied subjects that will be offered in eight secondary schools.

“I’ve always been interested in animated films, so I’m very interested to know how to bring all these images to life,” said the 14-year-old.

Other than 3-D animation, the new applied subjects include Introduction to Enterprise Development and Fundamentals of Electronics. They are in addition to the three applied subjects currently available at the O Levels: Design and Technology; Food and Nutrition; and Principles of Accounts.

The Ministry of Education is making available these applied subjects to cater to students keen on taking subjects with a more practical focus.

While the selection process has not begun, many students have expressed interest in the

new subjects, said the schools TODAY spoke to.

Twenty-five per cent of Dunman Secondary’s Sec 2 cohort – which number about 360 students – responded positively when asked if they were interested in studying 3-D animation at the O levels.

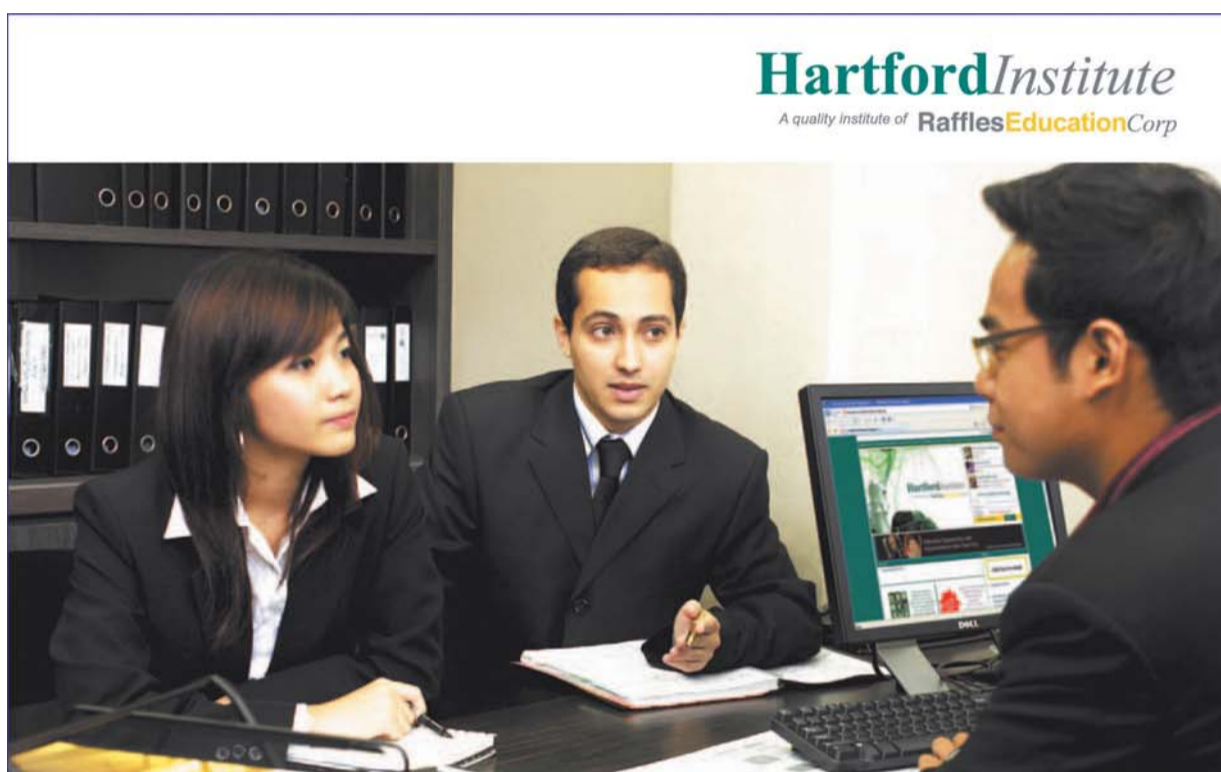
“If there are a lot of applications, we may conduct interviews to assess whether students are really interested and ready,” said principal Edelweis Neo.

Said Miss Lau Wan Sze, head of the Business and Enterprise Department at Outram Secondary, which will offer Introduction to Enterprise Development as a subject: “From what we see, students are really interested in taking something practical-based, because they want the hands-on experience.”

To be co-taught by partnering polytechnic lecturers, the applied subjects will be recognised for admission into junior colleges and polytechnics. Students may also get credit exemptions if they pursue a relevant course in the polytechnics.

The subjects will be offered to 20 students from each of the eight schools, and while the MOE hopes to increase student intake eventually, the numbers will be kept small initially.

Said Minister of State for Education Gan Kim Yong at the announcement of the three applied subjects yesterday: “I think we want to focus on these 160 students for the time being, so that we can gain more experience and refine the module as we go along.”



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