



22 Jan 2025

## Infosheet on Blended and Home-Based Learning

*“Blended learning is not an optional, “good-to-have”. Blended learning is an opportunity we need to seize to teach our people to adapt flexibly amidst uncertainties.”*

*-Education Minister Chan Chun Sing*

Dear Parents / Guardians,

### Blended Learning in Bowen

COVID-19 and the experience gained from Full Home-Based Learning (FHBL) revealed the powerful potential of Home-Based Learning (HBL) in developing self-directedness and learning agility in our students.

In 2021, MOE announced that Blended Learning (BL) would be a key feature of the schooling experience. It represents an evolution of our education system by reimagining what learning can look like by harnessing the best of both in-school and home-based activities. Beyond providing more opportunities for students to learn at their own pace and empowering them to take charge of their learning, there is also an emphasis on student-initiated learning to allow students to pursue their interests and learn outside the curriculum.

Under BL, HBL days are now integrated into the curriculum on a regular basis throughout the school year to complement teaching and learning in school. This has allowed our teachers to innovate curriculum, pedagogy and assessment for a more seamless blending of different learning modes. For example, on a HBL day, students learn a new concept by watching an instructional video and apply this new conceptual knowledge through problem-solving via activities on the Student Learning Space (SLS). When they return to school, they discuss their approach to problem-solving with their teachers and peers to deepen their understanding.

### 2025 HBL Dates

In line with the spirit of BL, the school will continue to have regular HBL days throughout the school year, starting from **31 Jan 2025**. Please refer to the table below for the list of HBL dates in 2025.

Term	Levels	Week/Day
1	S1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>W4 Fri 31 Jan</li><li>W7 Wed 19 Feb</li><li>W9 Wed 5 Mar</li></ul>
2	S1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>W2 Wed 2 Apr</li><li>W4 Wed 16 Apr</li><li>W6 Wed 30 Apr</li><li>W8 Wed 14 May</li></ul>

Term	Levels	Week/Day
3	S1/2/4/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>W1 Wed 2 Jul (Not applicable to Sec 3 students who will be away for Outdoor and Adventure Camp)</li> </ul>
	S1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>W3 Tue 15 Jul to Thu 17 Jul</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: The GCE 'N' and 'O' Level Oral Examinations will take place over three full days. Secondary schools will conduct <b>HBL for all levels.</b></i></p>
4	S1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>W5 Wed 15 Oct</li> </ul>

### Learning on HBL days: Curriculum Coverage

At the start of each HBL day, **students are to log on to SLS by 8 a.m. to check-in** and to read the **instructions from their subject teachers**. Prior to HBL, subject teachers would have briefed their students on the expectations during HBL. In general, students are recommended to spend about 5 hours each day learning the subjects. They will also have about 1 hour on student-initiated learning in Semester 1.

The spread of subjects across HBL days will be as follows:

Subjects	Duration
EL	45 mins
MTL	45 mins
Mathematics / A Mathematics	45 mins
1 selected Science	45 mins
1 selected Humanities	45 mins
(For students offering subjects at G3/Express level) 1 additional subject based on subject combination	45 mins
Student-Initiated Learning (BowenEXPLORE!) – Sem 1 only	1 hr
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 hr 30 mins</b>

The selected science and humanities subject will differ based on classes, and teachers will inform students accordingly.

Some examples of learning activities designed for curriculum coverage include:

- Completing an online lesson on SLS
- Completing an online interactive quiz to consolidate learning from previous lessons
- Completing a written summary or mindmap on concepts learnt to consolidate learning
- Reading an article or watching a video related to the topic currently being taught in class, and then taking part in an online discussion
- Conducting research on a topic and sharing ideas via an online sharing platform

All HBL activities (both online / offline) are designed to be completed at home independently. **Students are not required to leave their homes to access outside facilities or to meet with their friends for group work.** They are expected to submit any assigned tasks (e.g., SLS or hardcopy assignments) to their teachers for feedback and evaluation.

Please note that the following HBL days will operate on a different schedule to that communicated above:

- **T1W4 Fri 31 Jan: HBL subjects will follow students' normal Friday timetable**

- **T3W3 Tue 15 Jul to Thu 17 Jul: A customised 3-day HBL schedule will be shared a later date**

It is important to note that:

- After the HBL days, teachers will survey students' learning and only recap key points / areas where students encounter challenges. However, they will not reteach as that would defeat the purpose of HBL.
- Students are recommended to exercise self-directedness and active learning for HBL Days *i.e. actively making sense of the material, as opposed to listening passively*. This is an important life skill that students should develop during secondary school.

### Learning on HBL days: BowenEXPLORE! (Student-Initiated Learning)

As part of HBL days, "BowenEXPLORE!" is where dedicated time and space is provided for students to explore their interests and learn beyond the curriculum. In BowenEXPLORE!, students will be guided to identify their interests and passions and do a project within the four broad domains of **Heart, Body, Mind and Soul**.



During each HBL day, students will spend about 1 hour at home working on their chosen BowenEXPLORE! topic and corresponding deliverables (students should not leave the house to do their BowenEXPLORE! project) (see FAQs). At the end of the project, they will be guided to reflect on their overall learning and to share and celebrate their learning with each other.

If you would like more information about Blended Learning in Bowen or BowenEXPLORE!, your teen can direct you to our BowenEXPLORE! Website (accessible only through Bowen Student Google Account). Teachers would have briefed the students, so your teen should be able to share with you more details should you have any questions. BowenEXPLORE! moreover presents an opportunity for parents/guardians to converse with their teen about his/her interests, encourage him/her to try something new, as well as for you to show interest in what he/she is doing.

### How you can support your teens in Blended Learning

As one of the key objectives of BL is to develop self-directedness in our students and help them take ownership of their own learning, do let your teen work on their HBL lessons and BowenEXPLORE! project independently.

Parents do play an important role in supporting your teen through Blended Learning, so here are some tips on how you can nurture your teen to be:

- **A self-directed learner who learns at his/her own pace and exercises self-management in learning:** You could get your teen to plan and draw up a timetable of activities for the HBL day; this timetable should include rest time. By getting your teen to list down his/her targets for each activity, the HBL day becomes more directed and purposeful.

- **An independent learner who can adapt to different ways of learning:** Do let your teen get ready for his/her HBL lessons on his/her own (e.g., having their login details to online learning portals, keeping track of the materials they need, creating a conducive area for learning, etc.).
- **A passionate learner who often goes beyond the textbook to explore the world and derives a sense of fulfilment and deeper learning in the process:** As your teen starts to work on his/her BowenEXPLORE! project, do encourage him/her to explore a strength or area of interest. Let your teen dream big, but guide him/her to start with smaller steps by breaking down what he/she hopes to achieve into feasible and manageable tasks. (E.g. if your teen wants to learn how to play the guitar, he/she can start by practising the chords on a piece of paper with the fret and fingerboard drawn out.)
- **An intrinsically motivated learner who is able to facilitate his/her own learning:** Do let your teen have a say on what he/she wants to do as part of their learning; you can also provide guidance when necessary but do give them the space to discover new things and let him/her take charge. Let him/her try these activities on his/her own and guide him/her to independently seek help from various networks of support (e.g., classmates, the Internet, SLS MOE library) instead of relying on you for help.
- **A digital native who is able to leverage digital and physical tools for learning and knows how to apply knowledge of Cyber Wellness to protect himself/herself when navigating the digital space:** Do manage your teen's screen time and help to reiterate to your teen the importance of online etiquette (e.g., how to discern fake news, how to be polite and what to post online, etc.) and how to stay safe online (e.g., do not chat with strangers, do not share personal information like your address, etc.).
- **A lifelong learner that is equipped with the right mindset and motivation to pursue learning beyond secondary school:** As your teen is in his/her graduating year in school, his/her BowenEXPLORE! Project offers an opportunity to reinforce the importance of lifelong learning, and how learning does not cease even after he/she completes their education in Bowen Secondary School. A passion for learning beyond formalized education will stand them in good stead throughout their lifetime.

### Conclusion: Learning for Life

Through the BL experience in Bowen, we aim for students to **enjoy HBL days** as these give our students time and space to learn to be more self-directed as well as focus on discovery – important aspects of Learning for Life. In addition, we aim for students to ultimately be able to use their upper secondary BowenEXPLORE! projects in Direct School Admission (DSA) / Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) applications to post-secondary institutions in future.

Students have been briefed about BL and BowenEXPLORE! by their Form Teachers, so let us give them our trust that as self-directed learners, they will take ownership over what they need to / can do. Should you have any queries, please contact your teen's Form Teachers at their usual contact emails / phone numbers. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Loh Chih Hui  
Principal

## FAQs

### 1. How should the students organise their learning on their HBL days?

- **Students can organise the 4 hours flexibly**, as most / all learning activities can be done independently by the students (i.e., they will not involve video-conferencing). E.g., they can do 2 hours of study, take a break and do BowenEXPLORE! (~ 1 hour), then do the other 2 hours during another part of the day. This flexibility is to cater to students' interests and needs, and to help them to learn time-management skills.

### 2. What about homework?

- **IMPORTANT**
  - **The 4 hours of curriculum time are meant for students to go through the learning activities, e.g., watch video / read slides / read worksheet.**
  - **Homework is to be done outside the 4 hours of curriculum learning time.**
- If homework is assigned in addition to the learning activities on HBL day itself, the students can do the homework after the 4 hours of learning activities are over.
- If teachers gave homework on the day before HBL day, students can finish the homework before HBL day, or they can do the homework before or after the 4 hours of learning activities given for HBL day.

### 3. Will my child need the computer? How much screen time will the students have during a HBL day?

- Teachers will plan roughly half the learning activities where students may have to use computers to access the learning online, while the other half will involve 'offline learning', i.e., worksheets or textbooks or assignments.
- The 'screen time' may vary from HBL day to HBL day. Teachers are mindful that overuse of computer may lead to vision fatigue; teachers are also mindful that some students may need to share digital devices with other household members.
- Students already have their own PLDs. Please ask your child / ward to approach the FTs if there is difficulty in accessing a PLD for HBL Day.
- Please ask your child/ward to approach their FTs by **Friday, 24 Jan**, if they do not have a PLD or PLD-equivalent device (e.g., a computer, tablet etc.) for use during HBL. In such an event, the school will try to support the student's learning, and he/she may be asked to return to school on the HBL day to carry out lesson activities.

### 4. Will there be CCA or other enrichment activities on HBL days?

- There will be no CCA activities on HBL days. The important exception: if there are National School Games (NSG) matches or Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) judging activities, affected students may be asked to attend the NSG matches or SYF judging activities.
- There will not be any enrichment activities conducted on HBL Days.

### 5. If my teen wants to leave the house to do groupwork with his friends / to do his BowenEXPLORE! project outside the house, can he do so?

- HBL day is a school day, just like other school days, except that the student is at home. Students are expected to be fully committed to the learning activities on HBL day.
- Generally, subject learning activities will be individual work, and can be done independently. For learning activities that involve groupwork, students will work collaboratively online, e.g. design a presentation on a shared document online. They will not be required to meet up face to face.
- For BowenEXPLORE!,
  - Lower Secondary students are **NOT allowed** to conduct BowenEXPLORE! activities outside of home. They have been told to do all BowenEXPLORE! activities at home.

- Upper Secondary students are to conduct BowenEXPLORE! activities at home as well. If there are very good reasons for wanting to undertake BowenEXPLORE! activities outside of home, and you support their request to do this, please ask them to 1) get in-principle approval from their FT first, 2) get the Parent Consent Form from the FT. Then please sign and get your teen to return it to the FT.
- Outside of the time taken for learning activities and for BowenEXPLORE!, your normal 'house rules' apply. Your teen should ask your permission if he wants to leave the house.

**6. If the students encounter questions during their lesson time / with BowenEXPLORE!, who should they approach?**

- If the questions are about subject learning, approach subject teachers
- If the questions are about BowenEXPLORE!, approach Form Teachers.
- All teachers' emails are on the Bowen internet website at <https://bowensec.moe.edu.sg/>