

An article in The Straits Times, 11 March 2005 on Stansfield, with mention of Informatics. Stansfield will be offering O-Level courses to foreign students from next year, joining rival Informatics....

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Stansfield to offer O levels to foreign students

Private education provider to spend \$3.2 million to establish school

By Chua Kong Ho

PRIVATE tertiary education provider Stansfield Group is making a foray into secondary education to meet increasing demand from the region.

From next year, it will join rival **Informatics** to offer O-level courses to foreign students, on top of its A-level programme, spending more than \$3.2 million over three years to establish the school.

THE SET-UP

- Stansfield intends to start by recruiting 200 students this year from China, India, Indonesia and Vietnam for both its lower and upper secondary school classes, as well as its A-level programme.
- It will spend more than \$3.2 million over three years to establish the school.
- Students will be given a six-month course in foundation English and start school next year, when Stansfield hopes they will be joined by 300 others.
- The secondary programme will be offered by St James English School, which will take over the former Hai Sing Catholic School premises in Upper Serangoon Road.
- Fees at Stansfield will be \$6,000 a year.

Until this year, only two private schools here catered to youngsters from the region studying for their O and A levels: San Yu Adventist and St Francis Methodist.

Stansfield intends to start by recruiting 200 students this year from China, India, Indonesia and Vietnam for its secondary school classes, as well as its A-level programme.

After a six-month course in foundation English, students will start school next year, when Stansfield hopes they will be joined by 300 others.

The group now offers only diploma and degree courses at its Stansfield College and Singapore Institute of Commerce. It also runs a graduate school and St James English School, which offers English language and accounting diploma courses.

St James will offer the secondary school programme at the former Hai Sing Catholic School premises in Upper Serangoon Road. It is now renovating the place at a cost of \$2 million. However, Stansfield will keep the school's current premises in Serangoon Central and continue to use them for language courses.

Its vice-president, Dr Michael Cope, said: 'More parents in the region, especially those in China, want to send their children to Singapore to study at a younger age. The hope is they will take our O-level courses and stay with us through our higher diploma and degree programmes.'

Stansfield plans to charge fees of \$6,000 a year. Its rival Informatics, which takes in youngsters from Secondary 3 upwards, charges \$11,500. Its classes started in January with 30 students, and it expects another 150 this month.

Anglo-Chinese School and Hwa Chong Institution are also tapping the foreign education market, and they opened their international schools this year.

The 140 students at ACS (International) sit for the International Baccalaureate diploma, while the 85 at Hwa Chong International prepare for A levels.

Asked about the increasing competition for young foreign students, Dr Cope said: 'The market's big enough for all, though I expect competition to get tougher.'

St James English School will offer accounting, business studies, Chinese language, commerce, computing studies, economics, mathematics and sociology.

It will also have co-curricular activities, like table tennis, badminton, and Chinese language and computer clubs.