



# Gretal passes her O Level English!

By Bhavani Jeganathan  
Senior Educational Therapist and  
Specialist Teacher  
DAS International

*Gretal Seet Jia Xuan attended Specialist Tutoring for 4 months with DAS International. Gretal was a Secondary Four student at Admiralty Secondary School (Express Stream). She came to Specialist Tutoring for support with her composition writing, help with phonological decoding, passage-reading accuracy and reading comprehension.*

Gretal is a pleasant and polite student. Although Gretal was able to engage in daily conversations, she found it challenging at times to express her thoughts during conversations. She would constantly mention about how difficult it is to get the right word out and preferred to write her thoughts instead. Gretal and I had lovely chats over how she could better manage her stress at school and how to control her emotions and how she felt about her failures and that they can be viewed positively as learning experiences.

I incorporated spelling drills, oral conversations based on selected topics, essay writing (expository) and reading comprehension passages in the sessions. We did many reading comprehension passages and had lots of verbal conversations surrounding the topic to prepare her for the upcoming O level Oral Paper. Gretal is a hardworking and self-disciplined student. She would read the topics ahead of the session to ensure she had relevant knowledge. Gretal shared her interest in pursuing Zoology and was always an independent learner.

Gretal attained a B3 for her O level English when initially she used to obtain C6. I am heartened to see that Gretal's efforts paid off and she did very well her for O level exams. Good Job Gretal!

*I was only officially diagnosed with dyslexia when I was in Secondary 4. This means that I take a longer time to understand and learn a concept. Plus my carelessness and my complacency during my exams also lead to me not doing well in my studies and caused me to lose hope especially in my favourite subject, Science. However, when I was promoted to Secondary 4 I knew I had to do better so that I will have more paths to take for my tertiary education. With the help of my teachers and my DAS teacher, Teacher Bhavani. Teacher Bhavani taught me how to annotate the questions properly which although mainly used in English comprehension but I found it to be useful in all of my subjects. She also taught me to read the questions first then the passage so that I can look out for the answers while reading. This really helped to prevent carelessness errors. I am really thankful for her! Overall for me trying your best and consistently working both hard and smart, applying what you learnt for study skills helps. It is a long but rewarding journey with some failures along the way, but one should not give up!*

**Gretal Seet Jia Xuan**

*Congrats*