

## He had to lip-read to keep up with class

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HE IS deaf and one year younger than his classmates, yet Lionel Heng Jian Yong, 15, outperformed many of his schoolmates by scoring seven A1s in the O-level examinations.

The St Joseph's Institution student is now in one of the top junior colleges, National Junior College.

Lionel's mother, Mrs. Emily Heng, a housewife, said teachers at SJI used wireless microphones with a special radio frequency to help the students follow the lessons. This frequency closes the distance between the students and teachers, helping them to catch more of what the teachers were saying in the classroom.

But Mrs. Heng added that Lionel still depended heavily on lip-reading to keep up with lessons in class.

Besides Lionel, three hearing-impaired students at SJI passed with at least six credits.

Said Mrs. Heng: "Lionel is a very driven boy and he wanted to get eight A1s. I am the one who had to tell him not to drive himself too hard."

She said Lionel, who was born deaf, enrolled in Primary 1 at the Canossian School for the Hearing Impaired at age five. His good results in the Primary 4 streaming examinations allowed him to transfer to a mainstream school, St Anthony's Primary.

