



**INSPIRING THE FUTURE**  
AT HAMILTON COLLEGE

**Transitus Year**

A Specialist Year to Begin Your Child's  
Journey into Senior School

# Letter from the Senior Leadership Team

## ■ Dear Parents

One of the important benefits of our Hamilton College family comprising children and young people from ages 2-18 and having everyone located on a single campus, is that we can offer smooth transitions through Nursery, Junior, and Senior School. To aid the transition from Junior School to Senior School we offer a Transitus year as the first stage of your child's journey into Senior School, which is designed to ensure that each learner is fully prepared for the changes that lie ahead. The Transitus year is ideal preparation for learners moving into Senior School, which benefits learners by;

- Helping them acclimatise to the different environment
- Building on the already well-established foundations in Numeracy and Literacy for future success
- Enriching their educational experience through access to additional Wider Curricular Activities and new practical skills classes
- Enabling learners to cope better with the move to a timetable more like a traditional Senior School, whilst still having the support of a dedicated 'Base' teacher
- Enhancing their understanding of Health and Wellbeing through new 'Lifeskills' lessons
- Strengthening relationships with peers
- Being as ready as possible to tackle the demands of SQA certificate courses in Senior School.

We are delighted to share the Transitus year programme with you, which will begin for learners each August. We trust you will agree that the Transitus year is the ideal springboard for learners moving into the next phase of their school journey. It will enhance the support, guidance and expertise on offer, to fully develop the rich array of talents we see in our young people and equip them for success as they continue their educational journey and towards their chosen path after they leave school.

# The Transitus year programme

■ The Transitus year programme will be the beginning of the Senior School (Transitus to S6) journey for learners, helping them to prepare for the years to come, encourage independent learning, and foster qualities that will benefit them throughout their whole lives.

## Summary of features of The Transitus year programme

1. The Transitus year in place of Junior 7/Primary 7 year
2. A dedicated 'Base' teacher for the Transitus year
3. Increased time for Numeracy & Literacy
4. Wider curricular access to Senior School teaching specialists
5. Pastoral support
6. Increased teaching time





## The Transitus year in place of Junior 7/Primary 7 year.

■ The Transitus year aids the transition of learners from a Junior School/Primary School setting to a Senior School setting. This is a 'changing' year. Learners have a designated classroom for Base curricular learning and then move to Senior departments for specialist learning and teaching. The curriculum is designed to enhance learning and lessons with the Base teacher are taught from the Transitus classroom. The primary focus of Base teacher lessons seeks to enhance Numeracy and Literacy abilities as well as allow time for topic-based learning. The class will be with the Base teacher all day on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. The remainder of the school week is spent with subject specialists in Senior School departments.

One day per week, the Transitus class will follow a Junior School day with their Base teacher. They have focused literacy and numeracy in the morning and join the Junior School for lunch and assembly. This allows them to be role models for the rest of Junior School. The afternoon is spent on topic/skills work with the Base teacher.

## A dedicated 'Base' teacher for the Transitus year group

■ The Base teacher role is a vital element of the transition process for learners at this stage. The teacher responsible will be a trained Primary specialist and work with Transitus classes at different points in the week, following the Broad General Education of the Scottish Curriculum. The Base teacher will be the main point of contact for parents on most matters and liaise closely with Senior School colleagues regarding monitoring and tracking of progress and wellbeing. The Base teacher is in school Monday to Wednesday. A form teacher is assigned to the class on a Thursday and Friday who registers them each morning and checks in with them again before lunch.





## Increased time for Numeracy & Literacy

■ The Transitus model allows for additional time to be dedicated to the teaching of Numeracy and Literacy. The Base teacher works closely with Senior School colleagues to monitor pupil progress in these curricular areas, which is also complemented by additional time with Senior School specialists in the English and Maths departments. Transitus have 7 periods (40 minutes each) per week of literacy and an additional 7 of numeracy with the base teacher and a further 3 periods per week with specialist English and Maths teachers.

Curricular Area	Number of periods	Who teaches the class
Mathematics	10	This includes specialist teaching and Base teacher
Literacy	10	This includes specialist teaching and Base teacher
Topic / Skills	3	Base Teacher
Languages	2	Specialist teachers
Science	2	Specialist teachers
Social Studies	2	Specialist teachers
Technologies	2	Specialist teachers
Religious and Moral Education	1	Specialist teachers
Expressive Arts	2	Specialist teachers
Health & Wellbeing	5	Specialist teachers



## Wider curricular access to Senior School teaching specialists

■ In the Transitus year, learners will spend a significant portion of their timetabled week with subject specialists from the Senior School, helping learners to prepare for the move into S1. This provision also widens access to a broader range of curricular subjects, again enhancing the transition of our learners and developing subject specific skills early in their journey.

## Pastoral Support

■ In addition to curricular developments this model provides additional pastoral care for learners at this stage. While the Base teacher has overall Wellbeing (Pastoral) responsibilities for Transitus classes, our two Principal Teachers of Pupil Support (Pastoral) work closely with the Base teacher to care for learners and liaise with families regarding concerns. They also develop a 'Lifeskills' programme (Health and Wellbeing) for Transitus classes, thus helping to develop strong supportive relationships within the group.



## Increased teaching time

■ The Transitus year group will have a school day beginning at 9.00am and finishing at 3.45pm each day of the week. In addition, the Transitus year group will join Junior School for lunch and assembly one day per week and Senior School break, lunch, and assembly times 4 days a week. This brings them in line with the Senior School day and increases learning and teaching time across the week.



## Senior School Foundation

■ The Transitus year offers the perfect foundation for learners moving into the next phase of their school journey. It will enhance the support, guidance and expertise on offer and fully harness the potential we see in our young people and equip them for future successes.

**For the latest information about the Transitus year please visit our webpage at [www.hamiltoncollege.co.uk/transitus](http://www.hamiltoncollege.co.uk/transitus)**

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Transitus year, please do not hesitate to contact Stuart Ross or Heather Stark by emailing [ssross@hamiltoncollege.co.uk](mailto:ssross@hamiltoncollege.co.uk) or [hstark@hamiltoncollege.co.uk](mailto:hstark@hamiltoncollege.co.uk) or by calling 01698 282700.



Hamilton College  
Bothwell Road Hamilton ML3 0AY  
Telephone: 01698 282700  
[info@hamiltoncollege.co.uk](mailto:info@hamiltoncollege.co.uk)