

INSPIRING THE FUTURE AT HAMILTON COLLEGE

Transitus Year

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

Letter from the Head of Middle School



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 are able to offer smooth transitions through Nursery, Junior and Senior School. To improve further on that offering, we are introducing a Transitus year as an exciting feature of our new Middle School development (J7 – S3). This innovative Transitus year will be the first stage of your child's journey into Middle School and is designed to ensure that each pupil is fully prepared for this change.

As Head of Middle School, I will oversee the curricular developments required to make the Transitus year ideal preparation for pupils including;

- Helping them acclimatise to the different environment
- · Building on the 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 pupils 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.

I am delighted to share the Transitus year programme with you, which will begin for pupils in August.

I trust you will agree that the Transitus year is the ideal springboard for pupils 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 on their educational journey and towards their chosen path after they leave school.

Stuart Ross

Head of Middle School

The Transitus year programme

■ The Transitus year programme, will be the beginning of the Middle School (Transitus to S3) 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 group
- 3. Increased time for Numeracy & Literacy
- 4. Practical skills classes
- 5. Wider curricular access to Senior School teaching specialists
- 6. Pastoral support
- 7. Increased teaching time





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

■ The Transitus year aids the transition of pupils from a Junior School/Primary School setting to a Middle School setting. This is a 'changing' year.

Pupils 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 lessons on Study Skills, Practical Skills and make use of STEM activities.

The remainder of the school week is spent with subject specialists in Senior School departments.

Transitus pupils have opportunities to enjoy roles to support the House System and Prefects in the Senior School.

A dedicated 'Base' teacher for the Transitus year group

■ The Base teacher role is a vital element of the transition process for pupils at this stage. The teacher responsible will be a trained Primary specialist and work with both 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.





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.

Practical skills classes

■ In addition to developing Numeracy and Literacy, the Base teacher role includes the development of Study skills and Practical skills. This will enable opportunities for pupils to prepare for Senior School workloads, including preparing for tests and exams. Classes may incorporate practical cookery, outdoor learning, STEM, enterprise activities, environmental projects, character development challenges, goal setting and strengths analysis.





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 second year of middle school (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 pupils 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 three days of the week and finishing at 3.15pm two days per week. In addition, the Transitus year group will join Senior School break, lunch, and assembly times. This brings them in line with the Senior School day and increases learning and teaching time across the week.



Middle School Foundation

■ The Transitus year offers the perfect foundation for pupils 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

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Transitus year, please do not hesitate to contact Stuart Ross by emailing sross@hamiltoncollege.co.uk or calling 01698 282700.



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