

Ardscoil Uí Urmoltaigh, Droichead na Bandan

The Hamilton High School, Bandon, Co. Cork



40% Achieved
Over 500 points
in LC 2021

Hamilton High School *Ardscoil Uí Urmoltaigh*

Bandon, Co. Cork. T: 023 8844227 E: office@hamiltonhighschool.ie www.hamiltonhighschool.ie School Roll No.: 620500

Welcome from the Principal

Hamilton High School is a Catholic voluntary all-boys secondary school. The school was founded by Mr. Seán Hamilton. The school building and grounds are owned by Mr. Pádraig Hamilton who is a Trustee while the school is run by a Board of Management. Five new classrooms are open with plans for future development afoot, including the provision of a P.E. facility and a canteen.

The day-to-day management of the school is carried out by Senior Management, the school's Principal, Mr. Eugene O'Brien, and the school Deputy Principal, Mr. Damian Mitchell. The middle management team act as Year Heads for each year group and liaise with staff, students and parents. Class tutors are assigned to each class and work with Year Heads in the pastoral care of students.

The philosophy of the school is to encourage cooperation between all partners in education as well as to develop close links with the local community. Our students are encouraged to become life-long, independent learners. In our 81st year the school is proud to have been recognised as a centre of academic excellence with a strong emphasis on teaching and learning.

This prospectus is designed to give parents and students an overview of our school and to assist them with making the important choice of school for secondary education.

As a prospective student of Hamilton High School, I would like to assure you of the support of the staff and school management. I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming you all and wishing you every success for the new school year.

Míle Buíochas

Eugene O'Brien

Eugene O'Brien
Principal



Mission Statement

We set out to provide a happy and safe environment, conducive to good teaching and learning. Cuirtear béim chóir ar an nGaeilge agus spreagtar na daltaí lena labhairt.

The Hamilton High School has:

- excellent academic standards
- relatively small classes, especially at Senior Cycle
- an extensive range of subjects, especially at Senior Cycle
- an atmosphere conducive to good teaching and learning

The school has been offering an excellent service to the Bandon area for over 80 years. We are grateful for the confidence placed in us and we look forward to further achievements in the future.

Ethos

While a strong emphasis is placed on academic standards, the school community aims to participate in the development of each pupil into a mature, responsible and caring citizen, equipped with life skills and qualifications that will enable him to live a fulfilling and happy life.

Our students are encouraged to become lifelong, independent learners

Code of Behaviour

The Code of Behaviour is a negotiated, living document which supports the entire school community. Students, Teachers, Year Heads, Student Council, Middle Management, Deputy Principal, Principal, Parents, Ancillary Staff and Manager are key to ensuring the success of the Code of Behaviour. The school community is encouraged to create an inclusive climate which encourages and reinforces good behaviour and to uphold the school's high expectations for good behaviour.

Respect is the main principle underlying the Code and positive relationships of mutual respect and mutual support among students, staff and parents are expected.

Students are encouraged to take personal responsibility for their learning and behaviour. The Hamilton High School community aims to participate in the development of each student into a mature, responsible and caring citizen, equipped with life skills and qualifications that will enable him to live a fulfilling and happy life. Students are encouraged to become lifelong, independent learners. The Code of Behaviour will be reviewed at regular intervals.



Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Special Educational Teaching Support/Additional Teaching Support is provided to students who require such support based on their assessed needs.

The Special Education Needs Organiser (SENO)/National Council for Special Education (NCSE) make decisions regarding granting access to Special Needs Assistant (SNA) support and Assistive Technology. For students who require SNA support and/or Assistive Technology, following consultation with parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or at the request of the parent(s)/guardian(s), the school makes an application to the SENO/NCSE on behalf of the student. This application is accompanied by relevant professional report(s), for example an Educational Psychologist report, Occupational Therapy report etc; and by relevant information provided by, as appropriate, student, parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or school.

Reasonable Accommodations at the Certificate Examinations (RACE) facilitate students in accessing the Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations who would have difficulty accessing the exams or communicating what they know due to a visual, hearing, physical and/or learning difficulty. The State Examinations Commission (SEC)/RACE provides Reasonable Accommodations for students with a number of complex special educational needs including learning difficulties, temporary/permanent physical, medical, sensory, hearing, visual, sensory, emotional, behavioural or other conditions. An example of a Reasonable Accommodation would be use of a word processor. Currently, the RACE application process takes place during Third Year (Junior Certificate Year) and Sixth Year (Leaving Certificate Year).

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are asked to provide information regarding their son's special education needs including professional reports when completing enrolment application forms in order to ensure that Hamilton High School can provide each student with the necessary supports they require.

If you have any queries please call the school office to speak with our SEN Co-ordinator.

Curriculum Provision

Junior Cycle Programme

Students will complete a six year education cycle. Students must complete a three year junior cycle. Transition Year is compulsory for all students. Senior Cycle consists of a two year course of study. All staff will work with students and their families to ensure each student attends school regularly and punctually. First year students have the opportunity to study **all** of the subjects listed below.

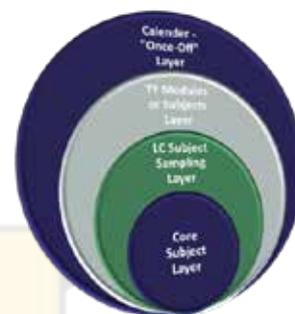
Irish, English (New Junior Cycle Award), Mathematics (Project Maths), Science, Business Studies, Religious Education, Physical Education, Civic Social and Political Education (CSPE), Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Information Technology, History, Geography, French, German

Classes are non-streamed when students come into First Year but at the beginning of Second Year classes are sometimes banded for Maths, English and Irish. This allows students to be placed in classes (for these three subjects) that suit their ability level. All other subjects are taught at mixed-ability level. The school community, particularly the Guidance Counsellor and Year Head, will assist new students settling in and First Year students in their transition from primary school to secondary school. **Students choose one modern language, either French or German, at the end of first year.**

The Junior Cycle curriculum is complemented, in so far as possible, by school field trips and outings: Science Field trip to Fota Wildlife Park, Educational school trip organised by the Year Head, Geography field trip, visits to the theatre and the local & wider community for project work.

Transition Year Programme

Transition Year at Hamilton High School is compulsory and offers students a broader educational experience. Students engage in a wide range of activities and are given the opportunity to sample subjects offered at Leaving Certificate. In Transition Year, we place particular emphasis on the development of each student into a mature and caring citizen. We aim to equip students with the life skills and qualifications that will enable them to lead a happy and fulfilling life. Students are encouraged to become independent lifelong learners where they take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision-making. Parental support is vital to the success of Transition Year and with this continued support we endeavour to improve our Transition Year programme annually. The Transition Year Co-ordinator meets with parents early in the first term to outline the proposed programme for the year.



- Core Subjects- Irish, English, Mathematics.
- Modern Languages- choice of French or German and Chinese Language Module.
- Science- sampling of Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Applied Mathematics.
- Business- sampling of Accounting, Business and Economics.
- Humanities- sampling of History and Geography.
- Physical Education.
- SPHE including RSE.
- Information Technology, Career Guidance.
- Health, Safety and Environmental Studies.
- Life Skills Modules including- Health and Fitness, Media Studies, Drive for Life, First Aid, Self Defence, Community Work, Mindfulness, GAA Coaching Course...and many more!
- Outdoor Pursuits Trips in September and at End of Year.
- School Magazine, Young Scientist, Young Social Innovators, Gaisce.
- A Work Experience programme is organised and monitored by the Transition Year Co-ordinator. Students are given feedback on their placement.
- Guest speakers highlighting Drug Awareness, Personal Safety and Mental Health.
- Various other trips and initiatives are made available throughout the year.

Senior Cycle Programme

The following subjects are currently available in senior cycle:

A. Core Subjects

Career Guidance

English

Irish

Maths

Modern Language; French or German - chosen at the end of the Junior Cycle

Religion

SPHE including RSE

B. Subject Options

Students choose **three** subjects from the following:

Accounting, Applied Mathematics, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Economics, Geography, History, Physics

Overall, in terms of Curriculum Provision, the purpose of Hamilton High School is to equip students with the necessary life skills and qualifications to become lifelong, independent learners as well as mature, responsible and caring citizens.

Suggestions for Parents

- **Be positive:** encourage your son to reach his potential and praise his efforts. Talk to your son about the importance of education. Encourage your son to become involved in school activities.
- **Make sure homework is done:** if there is a problem with homework, send a note in the Student Journal/ contact the Subject Teacher/Year Head.
- **Be organised:** Help your son to organise his homework schedule and study schedule. Encourage him to get his school bag/lunch/P.E. gear etc. ready the night before.
- **Ensure your son goes to bed at a reasonable time:** students must have a note if they are late and may incur a sanction if they are persistently late.
- **Appointments:** please try to arrange medical/dental/speech therapy, etc. appointments outside of school time. If, unavoidably, your son has an appointment during school time, give him a note to sign out and return him to school if he is medically fit.
- **Correspondence:** check your son's Student Journal for notes from teachers and any letters from school re meetings/early finishes, etc.
- **Attendances/absences:** ensure your son attends school every day, especially on Parent/Teacher meeting/staff meetings days, Mondays, Fridays, birthdays, etc.
- Refer to parent(s) procedures for reporting absences. If your son is sick in hospital or has an accident, please inform the school. If your son is sick in school, ask him to tell the Year Head/Deputy Principal and you will be contacted.
- **Family Issues:** reassure your son, continue with his regular routine, e.g. attending school, doing homework. Please inform the Principal if there are any issues which may be affecting your son's performance in school.



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Smartphone/i-phone user - Download our free School App 'Hamilton High School'



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