

June 2011

To: All parents/carers of children currently in P7

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you at this important time as you and your P7 child prepare for the transition from primary to secondary school. Arrangements will be well underway to ensure that your child's move to high school is as smooth as possible, with visits, opportunities to experience aspects of the S1 curriculum and the chance to meet secondary pupils and staff all part of normal transitions planning by schools and local authorities.

Last year's P7 pupils were the first to experience Curriculum for Excellence in secondary schools, and will be the first to take the new qualifications when they are introduced from 2013-14. I have seen some great evidence, backed up by HMIE findings, of how those S1 pupils are thriving. Your P7 child will have been learning under the new curriculum for some time now so the transition to secondary school will provide an opportunity to continue to learn in the relevant, exciting and joined up ways that are the hallmark of the new curriculum - a curriculum which lays down the firmest foundations for your child's future.

As Cabinet Secretary I spend a lot of time in schools and I have been struck by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by teachers, and all those within our school communities, for Curriculum for Excellence. Schools and teachers up and down the country are embracing the new curriculum and the opportunities that it offers to energise learning and teaching, raise standards and improve life chances for all our young people.

With the assistance of the National Parent Forum of Scotland we have published a range of materials to help explain the new curriculum and what it means for education in Scotland. These materials include a series of factfiles, films and a host of other useful materials for parents/carers, all of which can be found on the Parentzone website. As an example of what is available I have enclosed a copy of the 3-18 Transitions factfile, which provides further information on the key transition that your daughter/son is about to make, and on other key transition points throughout the 3-18 learning journey.

If you have any questions about the transition to secondary school please speak to your school or visit www.LTScotland.org.uk/Parentzone. If you would like to contact me to have your say about Scottish education you can do so at www.engageforeducation.org.

I hope you find this letter and factfile helpful, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your child a smooth and successful transition to secondary school.



MICHAEL RUSSELL