

Gracemount High School Parent Council Newsletter 2020/21 – Issue 1

email: gracemounthspc@gmail.com

Welcome to Issue 1 of the Gracemount High School Parent Council Newsletter.

Firstly we hope that you are safe and well during this challenging period. Whilst being at High School or studying from home, may feel slightly different for your young person we thank the staff, students and you as parents/carers for the help and support to keep everyone safe whilst being able to continue with the programme of education.

We're sure you will agree that the School Leadership team has done a great job in implementing the required procedures and keeping us all informed.

The following are good additional sources of information:

- GHS website - <http://www.gracemounthighschool.co.uk/index.php>
- GHS FB page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Public-School/Gracemount-High-School-2316611451993948/>.
- Connect - <https://connect.scot/parent> has useful resources to support parents, learning, and collaboration between learning providers.

So what is the role of the Parent Council?

The Parent Council (PC) represents the views of ALL parents/carers who have a student at Gracemount High School. Any parent can be a 'member' of the PC, and current attendance includes GHS parents/carers and staff.

We meet around 4 times a year and support the school, parents/carers and pupils by getting involved in a number of key areas, such as:

- ✚ School policies, inspection reports, parental involvement plans
- ✚ Appointment of senior staff
- ✚ Liaise with Council over certain issues, including building fabrication improvements
- ✚ Assist with school fund raising initiatives when requested
- ✚ Support wider community engagement

Our Chair, John Brownlee, has recently stepped down and we thank him for his time and dedication to the role. Lindsay Aitken has taken over the interim Chair role but we are looking for the following office bearers to be appointed formally – Chair and Vice Chair. If you think you would be interested or would like any further information please email gracemounthspc@gmail.com.

The next meeting will be held virtually on the 3rd November 2020. The school will announce all future meetings via text and the GHS Facebook page. Everyone is welcome, if you'd like to attend, please get in touch.

Parents/Carers have access to the Minutes and these will be available on the School website - http://www.gracemounthighschool.co.uk/Our_School/Parent_Council/index.html

What is the PC currently doing?

Covid 19

Due to the unfortunate situation we face. The PC are here to ensure you are kept informed and are supporting the school with their response, where appropriate.



GHS are sourcing additional IT equipment to increase home learning capabilities for all pupils and to purchase specialist equipment for certain class room based needs, the PC will support where required.

The School will communicate fundraising plans in due course. If you would like to get involved please email gracemounthspc@gmail.com



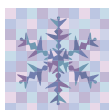
Parent views

We are keen to get you and your young person's views on a number of topics throughout the academic year. We will likely do this by survey so please look out for these. In the meantime if you would like to discuss anything with the PC then please email gracemounthspc@gmail.com

Community Support Group: Grab and Go service

GHS is currently supporting a 'Grab and Go' service operating from Gracemount Community Park every Thursday between 2:45-3:15pm. The service supplies a minimum of 70 bags of food/ household essentials each week. It also offers a delivery service to High School families who cannot attend the 'Grab and Go.'

For this to run the service relies on volunteers. Any parents/guardians who might be interested in joining this Community Support Group are invited to join in the monthly meetings with a view to supporting and volunteering with the Group. Please email gracemounthspc@gmail.com if you would like to join the Group or would like further information.



Winter weather

As the poorer weather approaches we want to remind you that it is council responsibility to grit the streets and should be done, sometimes they are not and yellow grit bins can be used by the public.



Local area – litter and dog fouling

We are all responsible for making sure our streets and roads are safe and clean. If you need to report any litter or dog fouling to the council here are the links to report online:

- <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/dogfouling>
- <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/litter-flytipping/litter-street-cleaning>
- <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/litter-flytipping/flytipping>
- <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/report>