Gracemount High School

Committed to Care and Excellence

Lasswade Road, Edinburgh, EH16 6TZ
Email: admin@gracemount.edin.sch.uk
Tel: 0131 664 7440
Website: www.gracemount.edin.sch.uk

Head Teacher
Mr Ross Hunter

Depute Head Teacher
Mrs Dee Scott
Mrs Lynsey Stewart-Young
Mr Lewis Whale

Business Manager
Mrs Anne O'Neil

6 March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the eighth Head Teacher update of this session.

We are very much in full swing, and our attention is on finalising course choices, preparing next year's timetable and of course get ready for the forthcoming SQA examination period.

Please remember that as well as supporting your child, the school is here to support our parents and carers too. Please click here to access the support for families web page from Edinburgh City Council. We also have a "Family Supports" page on our own website which you can access here.

I hope you find the information below relevant and useful. If you want to contact the school for any reason, please call the school office on **0131 664 7440** or email GRA-Admin Account Admin@Gracemount.edin.sch.uk. Our school website link is here and is an excellent way to keep up to date with events in the school, as is our school Facebook page which is also used to keep you informed. (4) Gracemount High School | Facebook

Title	Details
Parent/Carer Survey	Every year we ask you for your views which help us identify areas that we are doing well in and areas that we can improve on. I would really appreciate it if you would take the time to complete the parent/carer questionnaire by following the link or the QR code below. Please note this consultation closes on 31 March at 12 noon. https://forms.office.com/e/mhrSZrP2Q4
Pupil of the Month Awards	I want to congratulate all our pupils who received certificates for their effort and commitment to their schoolwork during the months of December and January. We had the pleasure of issuing these certificates at assemblies last week and it is always a joy to celebrate the positive contribution of pupils to their own learning and our school ethos. February and March certificates will be issued before the Easter break.
Staffing update	Mrs Stewart-Young (DHT) will be leaving us 15 March and we are in the process of recruiting a temporary Depute Head Teacher until the summer. Other staffing updates are below. 1. Mr Douglas, probationer Chemistry teacher has been appointed on a full-time basis. 2. We have recruited a Business Education teacher for next session and are finalising details. 3. Ms Wheelan, currently in our office team, has been appointed as part-time administration officer and will job share with Mrs Karen Reid. 4. Several other posts are under consideration, and I will update you in the next briefing.
Vandalism	Unfortunately, there continues to be significant issues related to

	vandalism, particularly to our toilets, Music and Art corridors and more recently to fire alarms which has resulted in several activations of the alarm. As a result, we have updated our out of class policy which includes when pupils have access to the toilets. Pupils with toilet passes will always have access to a toilet. All other pupils will have access before and after school, during break and lunch and in-between classes. I do realise toilet access can be an emotive issue and if you would like to discuss this approach, please do not hesitate to make contact with me.
Power Hour	Running on a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after school, the **"Power Hour"** aims to provide pupils with a quiet room to complete their homework or catch up on any missed work. Power Hour is open to all year groups but is mainly targeted at pupils in S1-S3.
Gracemount After School Study Support (GASS)	Our GASS timetable can be accessed here In the run up to exams senior pupils are strongly encouraged to attend where possible.
Mobile Phone Policy	This continues to work very well, ensuring a more positive learning environment in our school. I want to thank our parents and carers for their continued support. A reminder not to call your child during the school day when they are in class. Please contact the office if a matter is urgent.
School Dress Code	I will be writing to you separately regarding our school dress code. In the meantime our policy, that was created by staff, pupils and parents can be found here
Attendance and Late coming	Attending school regularly is critical to the success of a young person at school. We want to do all we can to support all our families with this. If you are worried about your child's attendance and want to discuss how the school can support you and your child please contact us. We are all in this together and are here to help.
Attainment Supports	I recently wrote to all senior parents, outlining supports that are available and we will be in touch soon regarding Easter Study classes.
SQA Exam Timetable	This has been published for 2023 and can be found here
Dance Show/Expressive Arts	Thank you to everyone that came along to support our Expressive Arts Show. It was wonderful to have such an event in person and in school. Continuing from this, our Dance show will take place on the evening of Thursday 30 March.
School calendar events	1. Week beginning 6 March - S2 reports issued 2. Week beginning 27 March – Senior tracking reports 3 issued 3. Thursday 30 March – School Dance Show 4. Friday 31 March - last day of term 5. Monday 3 April – Easter Holidays begin 6. Monday 17 April – Pupils Return
School Improvement Plan	Our School Improvement Plan can be located here. Improvement and Quality - Gracemount High School

Kind regards,

Ross Hunter

Head Teacher