Gracemount High School

Committed to Care and Excellence

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Head Teacher
Mr Ross Hunter

Depute Head Teacher
Mrs Dee Scott
Mr Mark Gregor (Acting)
Mr Lewis Whale

Business Manager
Mrs Anne O'Neil

2 May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our ninth Head Teacher update of this session. We are very much in full swing with SQA examinations well underway. We do wish all our young people every success and a special mention to our school leavers who begin pastures new. Good luck to everyone.

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.

Title	Details
Parent/Carer Survey	We had 182 responses, details of which can be found at the bottom of the page and on our school website here I will be reaching out to all the parents/carers that requested a call back over the next two-weeks.
Staffing update	To date we have appointed the following staff: 1. Ms Hayley Grisdale who will leave the Art department and assume the position of Curricular Lead for our Wellbeing Base sometime in May. 2. Ms Ailsa Irving, currently Physics probationer at Broughton High School. Ailsa will start with us in August. Staff leaving us are as follows. 1. Ms Caitlin McRobbie - current Modern Studies probationer. Caitlin will take up a Post at Rosehill High School in August. 2. Ms Ailsa McCreadie – promoted to Curricular Leader of Expressive Arts at Kelso High School and leaves on 28th April. 3. Mrs Greta Scott- Larson - moving to Kelso High School to take up post as Curricular Leader of Modern Languages and leaves us in June. 4. Ms Alison Thayne, currently Wellbeing Base lead will be moving to North Berwick High School from 12 May to take up position as Pupil Support Leader. 5. Mr Martin Cunningham, Physics is retiring as of 1 May. 6. Ms Jess Heatlie, currently Maths will be moving to take up a post at Rosehill High School in August. Congratulations to all. We are currently recruiting for teachers in Art (x2), Modern Studies, Maths, Acting Pupil Support Leader, Curricular lead of Expressive Arts, Curricular Leader of Modern Languages, and PE/Dance (temporary for 1 year).
Tiree House	Mrs Joanna Knight continues to be absent so Ms Catriona Murray, currently teacher of History is acting up to cover for Mrs Knight.

Technologies Day 4 May	All S1 pupils will be participating in a Tech day lead by Heart of Midlothian FC Technologies team.
Impact Challenge – University Partnership	Designed to raise aspirations in relation to Higher Education. 25 of our S3 pupils are participating in a joint university project based in the Kings Buildings through April, May and June.
Toilet Access	We are doing our best to manage access to the toilets to make it a safe environment for all our pupils. This does mean restricted access during class time and high levels of staff supervision. Despite this, challenges do remain. Please do get in touch if you have any questions, concerns, queries about this issue.
Mobile Phone Policy	This continues to work very well, ensuring a more positive learning environment in our school. Pupils and parents are reminded that if pupils access their phone during class time without permission it is removed and kept in the school office for the remainder of the day. Parents will be informed if this happens. 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 Please also look out for details of a **Flash Sale of T-Shirts and polo shirts**. As the weather becomes warmer pupils will want to wear clothing more suitable to the conditions. Details to follow soon. In the meantime, you can contact the school office who will assist with any purchases.
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.
Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	Gracemount High School teamed up with digital creators to develop 6 digital animations that explain what to expect along the CAMHS journey. These digital resources will support young people to understand the expectations of CAMHS and the pathway towards community mental health support, as well as offering a greater understanding and more awareness of the overall CAMHS process. These animations are now available by following this link CAMHS: What to expect | SAMH
Vaccination Information	Please find a link to our website with important vaccination information School Vaccination Information - Gracemount High School
Eid Celebration	A huge thank you to everyone that attended and helped to organise our learning community Eid celebration at Frogston primary school. It was simply wonderful
School calendar events	1. Monday 8 May – Holiday (Kings coronation) 2. Monday 22 May - Holiday 3. Thursday 25 May – S1 Parents Evening 4. Monday 29 May – new timetable begins for all pupils. 5. Monday 5 June – Parent Council Meeting (In school) 6. Wednesday 7 June – P7 Parents Evening 7. Friday 9 June – Sports Day 8. Tuesday 20 – Thursday 22 – P7 Transition visits 9. Tuesday 27 June – Annual Celebration Evening
School Improvement Plan	Our School Improvement Plan can be located here. Improvement and Quality - Gracemount High School

Gracemount High School – Parent/Carer Consultation – March 2023

There were 182 responses to this consultation.

Year Group	Number of Responses
S1	63
S2	44
S3	32
S4	32
S5	26
S6	6

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Number below are percentages				
My child likes being at Gracemount High School	27	45	14	9	4
Staff treat my child fairly and with respect	30	58	10	2	0
I feel that my child is safe at the school	24	54	14	5	3
The school helps my child to feel confident	23	52	14	9	2
I feel the staff know my child as an individual	26	51	11	9	3
My child finds their learning activities hard enough	14	52	16	17	1
My child receives the help they need to do well	20	55	14	9	2
My child is encouraged by the school to be healthy and take regular exercise	15	56	18	10	1
The school supports my child's emotional wellbeing	21	50	17	8	3
My child is making good progress at the school	21	54	24	9	2
My child was well supported to make good choices about taking the subjects that are right for them	19	48	22	9	2
I revive helpful regular feedback about how my child is learning and developing, e.g. informal feedback, parent meetings, and reports.	23	45	25	12	6
The information I receive about how my child is doing reaches me at the right time	13	40	25	17	4

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I understand how my child's progress is assessed	12	48	23	13	4
The school gives me advice on how to support my child's learning at home	9	32	35	9	6
The school organises activities where my child and I can learn together	4	13	44	31	7
The school takes my view into account when making changes	6	31	46	12	6
I feel comfortable approaching the school with questions, suggestion and/or a problem	24	49	14	6	6
I feel encouraged to be involved in the work of the parent council	8	31	51	8	2
I am kept informed about the work of the parent council	8	49	29	9	4
I am satisfied with the quality of teaching at the school	12	55	22	7	4
The school is well led and managed	19	51	22	4	4
The school encourages young people to treat others with respect	19	53	18	5	5
I would recommend the school to other parents/carers	18	45	24	8	4
Overall, I am satisfied with the school	19	47	23	7	4

Kind regards,

Ross Hunter

Head Teacher

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