Committed to Care
and Excellence

Gracemount High School

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Head Teacher
Mr Ross Hunter

Depute Head Teacher
Mrs Dee Scott
Mr Lewis Whale
Mr Mark Gregor

Business Manager
Mrs Anne O'Neil

7 August 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Session 23/24

As we get close to the start of the new school session please see below for updates. If you are a new parent/carer to the school, I normally send an update every 4/5 weeks in the format below. A link is sent by text along with an email version. Please ensure you have provided us with the correct contact details to ensure we can contact you.

Feedback on updates from parents/carers has been very positive however should any parent/carer wish to find out more or speak to me about any issue please do not hesitate to contact me. You'll find contact details below.

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 is used to keep you informed too. (4) Gracemount High School | Facebook

Please see updates below.

Title	Details
Staff Inset days	These take place on Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 August.
Pupils Start date	All pupils should arrive at school for no later than 8.30am on Wednesday 16 August.
Staffing update	The following staff will be joining us this session: 1. Ms Ailsa Irving – Physics Teacher 2. Ms Iona Alexander – Modern Studies Teacher 3. Ms Hannah Noble – Art Teacher 4. Ms Lucy Hanna – Art Teacher 5. Ms Jenny Anderson – Art Teacher 6. Ms Emma Hamilton – English probation Teacher 7. Mr Yaakov Sobolev – Biology probation Teacher 8. Mrs Tess Higgins – Maths Teacher 9. Mr Ruairidh Shaw – Maths probation Teacher 10. Mr James Ellis – Modern Language Teacher 11. Ms Caitlin Wilkinson – PE and Dance Teacher 12. Mrs Natasha Foster – Support for Leading Lead 13. Mrs Melanie McGregor – Science Lead (starts 4 September). Mr Wallis will act as lead of Science until then. We are still recruiting for History, and for a Pupil Support Officer for our qualifications hub.

Senior Team and Pupil Support	Key staff that will link with your families are below: **Lewis House** Dee Scott – Depute Head Teacher and Head of House Julie Wilson – Pupil Support Leader **Skye House** Mark Gregor - Depute Head Teacher and Head of House Jasmine McKay – Pupil Support Leader **Tiree House** Lewis Whale- Depute Head Teacher and Head of House Catriona Murray – Pupil Support Leader (Acting for 1 Year)
School Dress Code	This is a non-negotiable and our policy can be found here. It is imperative that you support our dress code. Gracemount HS holds an important position in our community, and it is important we strive to further cultivate a positive reputation of a school with high standards, that cares for our pupils and that cares for our community. Pupils who dress and identify with our school make a significant contribution.
Behaviour	We have established a clear policy built on all members of our community being Responsible, Respectful and Safe. You can access our policy here. Having safe and productive classrooms with a focus on learning is a critical feature of a successful school and any behaviour that prevents this from happening will be managed as per our school policy.
Empowered Learning – iPads	All pupils are provided with an iPad. All pupils are expected to bring this with them to school and to look after this device. Used correctly it is a wonderful tool to support learning at all levels.
Senior Induction Day	All S5/6 pupils will have an induction day on Friday 18 August. We will look at the importance of values, beliefs and attitudes and forming positive and sustainable habits. We look at study skills and expectations for S5/6 and will discuss the importance of attendance and service to the school.
Mobile Phone Policy	Linked to ensuring we have safe and productive classrooms our policy can be found here. Pupils can use devices across the school except for any classroom. Simply put, pupils who use it, lose it.
Attendance and Late coming	The importance of being at school and attending on time are critical. Establishing these habits and routines early have huge benefits to academic performance as well as a pupil's wellbeing. Please do all you can to support punctuality and positive attendance. We will be updating our policy at the start of this session. More details to follow.
Community behaviour / litter	Members of the senior team will be present in the community at breaks and lunch to support our pupils in making a positive impression and encouraging them to interact positively with their community. One way they can do this is to ensure all their litter in placed in bins provided. Our "leave no trace" mantra will be discussed at assemblies on the first day of the school session with all pupils.
Assemblies	There will be house assemblies for all pupils on day 1. The purpose is

	to establish expectations and to formally welcome back all our pupils. Our message of **Committed to Care and Excellence** will be shared.
SQA results (appeals) and re-coursing	I am currently analysing all the results and will share details with you in the next HT update. Mrs Scott wrote to senior parents in June outlining arrangements for re-coursing considering exam results along with the SQA appeals service – see link below. https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/79049.html There will be two opportunities to re-course at the start of term. On Monday 14th August parents and pupils can make an appointment between 2pm and 4pm to meet with Mrs Scott/ Mr Gregor to discuss this. Please call the school office before 1pm on this date to make an appointment. There will then be a further re-coursing event after school (around 3.40pm – 4.30pm) on Wednesday 16th August where all Curriculum Leaders will be available to support with re-coursing. Parents are welcome to attend this too.

That's all for the first update of the session. I'd welcome any feedback and I look forward to working with you all over the coming months and doing everything we can to support your child(ren) to reach and exceed their potential.

Kind regards,
Ross Hunter
Head Teacher

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