Committed to Care
and Excellence

# Gracemount High School

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
Mr Lewis Whale
Mr Mark Gregor

**Business Manager**
Mrs Anne O'Neil

14 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Head Teacher Update (2) Session 2023/24**

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Welcome to the second Head Teacher update of session 2023/24.

I hope you find the information below useful and 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.

Contact details for the school are as follows: 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 |
|---|---|
| Fringe and Outward Bound | I was delighted that we could support both these events again this session. We had over a hundred pupils attend Fringe shows during August and 33 S2's successfully completed their Outward Bound residential in Cumbria. Both events rely on being heavily subsidised through private donations which we are very thankful to receive. |
| Whole School Sponsored Walk | Each year all our students take part in a whole school sponsored walk to raise money for our school's opportunities fund. This take place on **Friday 15 September**. Please encourage your child to return the necessary permission form and to raise what they can. There's no pressure, any sponsorship no matter how large of small is welcome. The focus is our children participating and playing their part in helping to support and improve our school. |
| Staffing update | We are currently recruiting for a Curriculum Leader of Health and Wellbeing. This post will be advertised shortly.<br><br>There has been a delay to our History appointment. We hope to have Ms Rachael Simmins in post as soon as possible. Rachel will be joining us from Earlston High School. In the meantime, classes are being covered by specialist supply.<br><br>We have several Pupil Support Assistant (PSA) vacancies at the moment which we are hoping to fil through a central recruitment process. This is impacting on support in some classes. We will do our best to mitigate this and will work to fill these posts. |

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| | We have recruited Mark Selway as our Pupil Support Officer for our qualifications hub and we hope Mark will join us very soon. |
| Senior Team and Pupil Support | Key staff that will link with your families are below:<br>**Lewis House**<br>Dee Scott – Depute Head Teacher and Head of House<br>Julie Wilson – Pupil Support Leader<br>**Skye House**<br>Mark Gregor - Depute Head Teacher and Head of House<br>Jasmine McKay – Pupil Support Leader<br>**Tiree House**<br>Lewis Whale- Depute Head Teacher and Head of House<br>Catriona Murray – Pupil Support Leader (Acting for 1 Year) |
| School Dress Code | A huge thank you to our parents and carers. Your support with this has been fantastic and almost all our young people are adhering to this. They look very smart and very much part of our school.<br><br>A small minority of pupils are finding this a challenge however we will continue to enforce this policy. For information our policy can be found here. |
| Relationships for Learning / Class Charts | A key part of our relationships for learning policy is to ensure we have a focus on recognising and celebrating success.<br><br>Class Charts goes live as of Monday 11 September and details will be sent home so you can log-on and see how your child is doing.<br><br>You can access our Relationships for Learning policy here.<br><br>Our focus is always on having safe and productive classrooms with a focus on learning. This 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.<br><br>Details of S1 I-pads and dates for allocation will be shared very soon. |
| Mobile Phone Policy | Linked to ensuring we have safe and productive classrooms our policy can be found here.<br><br>Pupils can use devices across the school except for any classroom. |
| Attendance and Late coming | We are experiencing significant issues with late coming across the whole school day. We are working to address this and will be in touch about our updated approach to this in due course. Please do have a conversation with your child(ren) about the importance of arriving to school and class on time. |

Key Dates:

- Thursday 14 September – S1 Settling in parents evening.
- Friday 15 September – Whole School Sponsored Walk

- WB 19 September – Senior Reports (1) – Issued
- Tue 19 September – Parent Council AGM. This takes place in the school library starting at 6.00pm. All parents/carers are invited to attend.

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