Committed to Care and Excellence

# Gracemount High School

Lasswade Road, Edinburgh, EH16 6TZ
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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

6 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Head Teacher Update (3) Session 2023/24**

Welcome to the third 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 used to keep you informed too. (4) Gracemount High School | Facebook

Please see updates below.

| Title | Details |
|---|---|
| ClassCharts | We are aiming for as many parents/carers as possible to sign up to this app. If you have not yet got access, please email our admin team who will provide you with details.<br><br>Admin@Gracemount.edin.sch.uk |
| Saturday School | Some parents/carers may know of our partnership with Saturday school where we provide bespoke study classes for targeted groups at National 5 and Higher. I'm delighted to say we are planning on expanding this for the session ahead. More details to follow.<br><br>In the meantime, Saturday school are offering Edinburgh wide classes. Details can be found here https://www.saturdayschoolglasgow.com/booking-edinburgh |
| Late coming Policy | This term one of our areas of focus is to improve punctuality (being on time). From 30 October we introduced a new late coming policy and have spoken to all pupils about this. We are focussing on the brain science of learning and the importance of that first 5-10 minutes at the start of a lesson.<br><br>The link to the policy can be found here. |
| Out of class Policy | Another focus for this term. The link to the policy can be found here |

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| | Whilst we understand there are reasons why pupils will be out of class during lessons we want to keep this to an absolute minimum. Pupils must have a slip from their teacher to indicate they have permission to be out of class and must also leave their phone in the class if and when they access the toilet during class time. |
| Communications | We are in the process of updating our communication policy. This is partly due to costs associated with our text message system. I will be in touch shortly about this. In the meantime, whole school communications will be via email. **To support communication please ensure we have an UpToDate email address for you.** |
| Whole School Sponsored Walk | Thank you to everyone that supported our whole school sponsored walk. We raised just in excess of £1600, all of which will be reinvested to support our pupils and families.<br><br>Your support, encouragement kindness and generosity are truly appreciated. |
| Staffing update | We are currently recruiting for a Curriculum Leader of Health and Wellbeing. Interviews will take place this week.<br><br>Ms Rachael Shimmins has taken up post as our History Teacher.<br><br>Mark Selway has taken up post as Pupil Support Officer for our qualifications hub.<br><br>Daniel Pou Solis has taken up post as a Pupil Support Assistant (PSA)<br><br>Sarah Robson has been recruited as a PSA for our Enhanced Support Base ESB and will take up post on 22 November. |
| School Dress Code | We continue to focus on this. Thank you for your support.<br><br>For information our policy can be found here. |
| Empowered Learning – iPads | S1's have now been issued iPads. Please ensure the £30 deposit is paid before Christmas. Any family who may need financial support can contact the school in confidence. |

Key Dates:

- Wednesday 8 November – Parent Council Meeting (details to follow)
- Week beginning 20 November – S1 reports sent home
- Week beginning 27 November – Senior reports sent home
- 30 November – Learning Community (Gracemount HS, Gracemount Primary and Frogston Primary) Parent Council Meeting
- 7 December – S2 Parents Evening

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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