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

19 December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Head Teacher Update (4) Session 2023/24

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

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of the school since we began our new session in August. I hope that you and your loved ones have a safe, peaceful and enjoyable festive break. Merry Christmas to all 😊

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
Parent Council Dates	Our next Meeting is **Monday 22 January at 6pm** in the school library. All parents/carers are invited to attend.
Mission Christmas	Gracemount High School has worked alongside Gracemount Primary and Frogston Primary School to support our families this Christmas. We are providing each family with a Christmas hamper of treats and Christmas presents. This year, we are helping 80 families at the High School. This is thanks to Forth One, Cash for Kids, Liberton Rugby Club, our Christmas hamper fundraiser, book club bake sale and a 'go fund me' account organised by the parent council. To everyone that has supported our school and made this time of year a little easier for our community, thank you so much 😊
Formal Assessments	Our Formal Assessments for senior pupils will begin on Wednesday 17 January. All pupils will be sent a timetable. Details can be found here. These are very important assessments, and we urge all our students to prepare as thoroughly as possible for them. These assessments link directly to our Senior School Expectations Policy, which can be found here .
Winter Supports	Please see below for some local support during the festive period.

	South East: **Edinburgh Food Project – See website for Christmas and normal opening hours** Locations - Edinburgh Food Project **Financial Advice/Energy Advice** **The Advice Shop:** 249 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ, 0131 200 2360 **Chai:** 28 Westfield Avenue, Edinburgh, EH11 2QH, 0131 442 2100 **Change Works:** 0800 870 8800, Changeworks | Make Your Home Energy Efficient **Edinburgh South Warm Hub, 227 Gilmerton Rd, EH16 5UD** Stay warm and cosy at Inch Park Community Sports Club. Every Friday from 9am-5pm. Access their work from home workspace with use of the FREE Wi-Fi. Children are welcome all day and older children are welcome after school for games and PlayStation gaming. Tea, coffee, juice and snacks are available.
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. Admin@Gracemount.edin.sch.uk
Saturday School	After successfully securing funding, details for our bespoke Saturday School programme will be shared immediately after the holidays. Programmes of study at Higher and National 5 level will be available for Mathematic, Physics, Biology and Chemistry.
Communications	We are in the process of updating our communication policy. This is partly due to costs associated with our text messaging system. I will be in touch shortly about this. In the meantime, whole school communications will be sent via email. **To support communication, please ensure we have an up to date email address for you.**
Staffing update	**Appointments:** 1. We have welcomed Elizabeth Martin to the school as our new Librarian. Elizabeth took up post on 18 December. 2. We have appointed Sol Fenne as a PSA. Sol will take up post on 8th January. **Current Vacancies:** 1. We have two vacancies in PE. Interviews take place on 20th December. 2. We have 1 vacancy in Maths due to the resignation of Ms Higgins. We wish Ms Higgins well. We plan for the advert to go live in January.
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:

1. Week beginning 18 December – Senior tracking reports (2)
2. 22 December - School term ends at 12 noon. School will be open for lunch until 12.20pm
3. 8 January - Staff Inset Day
4. 9 January - Pupils return to school
5. Week beginning 15 January – S3 tracking reports issued
6. 16 January – School Options evening for S3-5
7. 17 January – Formal Assessments for S4-6 start
8. 25 January – S3 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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