Committed to Care and Excellence

Gracemount High School

Lasswade Road, Edinburgh, EH16 6TZ
Email: admin@gracemount.edin.sch.uk
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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

26 January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Head Teacher Update (5) Session 2023/24

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

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
Annual Parent/Carer survey	Every year we send out a survey to capture your views of our school. We then share the results with you. This helps us identify areas of strength and areas for improvement. Last year we had 182 responses. We would really appreciate you taking the time to share your views and support us with our improvement journey. Please find a link below along with a QR code for this year's survey which closes at 12 noon on Friday 22 March. https://forms.office.com/e/paKvtcYhx6
Parent Council	We are very close to appointing a Chair and Vice Chair for our Parent Council. We will update you as soon as this is confirmed. Lorraine Kennedy has stepped down as Secretary due to work commitments. I would like to thank Lorraine for her service to the Parent Council. If anyone is interested in supporting the Parent Council in this role, please do get in touch. Our next Meeting is **Tuesday 26 March at 6pm.** We will confirm

	whether this is an online or in-person meeting closer to the date. In the meantime we will send out a flyer to you with details of our Parent Council. Here is a link to our webpage https://www.gracemounthighschool.co.uk/parent-council/ and linktreepage linktr.ee/GracemountHigh
Cash for Kids	Thanks to Ms Grisdale and her team we have secured significant funding through the Cash for Kids cost of living grant 😊. This will go directly to our families and continue the wonderful work of our school to support our local community. A link to the application form that is completely confidential can be found here
Formal Assessments (Prelims)	These examinations are underway for candidates sitting National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. Exams finish on 2 February. We will be communicating with you if we believe your child needs to change a level because of their performance in the exams. This is detailed in our Senior School Expectations Policy – see below.
Senior School Expectations	Our Senior School Expectations Policy can be found here . A reminder that Blazers will be compulsory for S5/6-year groups from August 2024 and pupils must have an attendance rate of over 85% to be offered a place in Senior School.
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	Details have been shared with students who are sitting National 5 Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Higher Maths. Any parent who wishes to find out more should contact Mr Hunter.
Communications	We are in the process of finalising a communication policy. This will also link to how we use social media to promote our school. **To support communication, please ensure we have an up-to-date email address for you.** You can do this by emailing our admin team at Admin@Gracemount.edin.sch.uk
Staffing update	**Appointments:** 1. We were delighted to welcome to our staff Ms Caitlin Wilkinson to our PE department on a permanent basis, Mr. Sol Fenne as a Pupil Support Assistant and Mr. Rob Hart as a Pupil Support Officer (working across the learning community). **Current Vacancies:** 1. **Maths** - We have 1 current vacancy in Maths – closing date for application is 25 January. 2. **Support for Learning** - We are recruiting for two temporary

	posts in Support for Learning 3. **Physical Education** - We are recruiting for 1 temporary post in PE. 4. **Support Staff** - we are recruiting for 1 Pupil Support Officer for the Wellbeing base and 1 Pupil Support Assistant for the Enhanced Support base.

Key Dates:

1. Friday 9 February – term ends
2. Monday 19 February – pupils and staff return to school.
3. Tuesday 27 February- Teenage booster vaccinations
4. Week beginning 4 March – Senior Tracking reports issued.

I'd welcome any feedback on the Head Teacher updates 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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