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

14 March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Head Teacher Update (6) Session 2023/24

Welcome to the sixth 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 Fundraiser event	This event will take place on Friday 22 March at Gilmerton Miners Club. We really hope you can come along and join us.

Parent Council	I'm delighted to share that Katrina Coutts will take over as chair of our Parent Council. Katrina is the parent of an S1 pupils. Katrina will be supported by James Anderson as vice chair. James is the parent of an S3 pupil. Our next Meeting is **Tuesday 26 March at 6pm.** This will be on-line and the link to join this meeting can be found below: Click here to join the meeting We hope you can come along.
Cash for Kids	Thanks to Ms Grisdale and her team we have secured significant funding through the Cash for Kids cost of living grant 😊. Applications have been received and funds are being issued to families. We're delighted that as a school we can extend our commitment to care to our families.
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. We will take account of any exceptional circumstacnes. I will be writing home soon to parents/carers of pupils with an attendance rate of less than 85% to explain our next steps.

ClassCharts	Unfortunately, all school in Edinburgh and been instructed to stop using Class Charts. We are looking at alternative options and hope to be in touch about this soon. **Please note this is no longer in use.**
SQA Exams	Preparations are well underway, and we will be communicating home soon regarding the following: 1. Study leave – due to begin on 19 April. 2. Easter Study support sessions – sign up to follow. 3. Grade booster days – planned events to support the final preparation for exams. Please look out for communication. In the meantime, the SQA timetable can be accessed here.
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	Recruitment for next session is well underway. To date we have appointed the following: 1. Ruairidh Shaw – current probationer teacher at Gracemount has been appointed as a full-time permanent teacher of Mathematics for August. 2. Aron Ingelbrecht - current probationer teacher at Leith Academy has been appointed as a full-time permanent teacher of Business Education for August. 3. Nicole Spence – primary specialist (Numeracy). Nicole will join our team on 25 March, working on supporting the development of Maths and Numeracy across S1-3. 4. Caroline Clark – Caroline joined our team on 13 March appointed as temporary Support for Learning Teacher. 5. Darren Burns – Darren will join our team as temporary teacher of Physical Education. Start date to be confirmed.

Key Dates:

1. Week beginning 25 March – Senior estimate reports sent home.
2. Tuesday 26 March - Parent Council Meeting – 6pm (on-line meeting)
3. Wednesday 27 March – School Dance Show
4. Thursday 28 March – last day of term. Please note school will finish at its usual time of 3.30pm.
5. Tuesday 16 April – pupils and staff return to school.
6. Friday 19 April – S6 last day and SQA Exam leave to start.

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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