Committed to Care
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Gracemount High School

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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

2 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Head Teacher Update (1) – Session 2024/25

On the first Monday of every month, I will release a Head Teacher update with important and relevant information for parents and carers. This will be sent by email and text with a link to the school website page.

I hope you find the update informative, and I would welcome any feedback you may have at all. You can contact me by calling the school on **0131 664 7440** or by email at 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
A positive start	It's been a busy start to the term with 140 S1s arriving and settling in very well to the school. We've already had 15 trips running with 14 going to the Fringe, and our S2 group just returning from their weeklong Outward-Bound experience. Lots happening as pupils settle back into school and establish their routines.
School Improvement	If you are interested in our School Improvement work please see a link to our School Improvement Plan here
Celebrating wider achievement	One area we want to improve on is celebrating our pupils' achievements in and out of school. To do this we aim to gather information on what our pupils achieve out of school. Please scan the QR code below and tell us about your child's achievements out of school.

Staffing update	There have been some changes to our staffing recently which are detailed below: 1. Mr Whale, Depute Head Teacher has left and Mrs Wilson, previously Pupil Support Leader for Lewis house is Acting up. Interviews for this post take place on Monday 9 and Friday 13 September. 2. Ellie Manczak will take up post from today as Pupil Support Leader for Tiree House. 3. Catriona Murray will take up post as Pupil Support Leader for Lewis House 4. Mrs Alawiyyah Ilyas is covering for Ms Iona Alexander's absence in Social Subjects. 5. Ms Ailie Scott-Dickens has been appointed into our Enhanced Support Provision as a class teacher and will take up post shortly. New staff that joined us this session were: 1. Mrs Emma Byres – English 2. Mr Aron Ingelbrecht – Business Education 3. Mr Michael Forward – Maths 4. Mrs Vicky Gowans – Support for Learning 5. Ms Mae Hill – Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies
Senior Team and Pupil Support	Key staff that will link with your families are below: **Lewis House** Dee Scott – Depute Head Teacher and Head of House Catriona Murray – Pupil Support Leader **Skye House** Mark Gregor - Depute Head Teacher and Head of House Jasmine McKay – Pupil Support Leader **Tiree House** Julie Wilson (Acting) Depute Head Teacher and Head of House Ellie Manczak – Pupil Support Leader **Senior Development Officer and Care Experienced Lead** Zelda Reynolds
School Reports for your child	All schools across Edinburgh have adopted a new tracking and reporting system. More details will follow in a separate communication so you will be made aware of how to access these reports.
School Dress Code	Last year we undertook a significant consultation on our school dress code. I'm pleased to say almost all young people are adhering to this. Thank you for your support.
Behaviour	Having safe and productive classrooms with a focus on learning is a critical feature of a successful school and any behaviour that prevents this from happening will be managed as per our school policy which can be found here. along with other school polices. We are reviewing this, this session and will keep you briefed on any suggested changes. At the moment, we are looking at ways to celebrate success and positive behaviours and will be in touch shortly.
Empowered Learning – iPads	There is a renewed focus on your child having their iPad in school. S1-4

	pupils should keep this in school with their Key Adult who will charge it for them. Written requests can be made to take this home. Please direct these via Admin@Gracemount.edin.sch.uk and mark for the attention of Mr Mark Gregor.
Mobile Phone Policy	We undertook a significant consultation last session and our mobile phone policy can be found here We will keep this under review and update you if there are to be any changes which would be in line with recent guidance issued by the Scottish Government. Mobile phone guidance for Scotland's schools - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
Attendance and Late coming	A reminder that our school days starts at 8.30am every day. All pupils report to their Key Adult for a soft start at 8.30am and again at 3.25pm. There will be a separate communication sent today on our approach to this.
S1 break and lunchtime	A reminder that S1's are to stay in the school grounds until Friday 13 September at break and lunchtime. PSE classes are working on important issues related to • Road Safety • Time Management • School Rules on Punctuality • Safety and Peer Issues Outside the School Building
SQA results	We are reviewing all our SQA results and processing appeals as required. Overall it was a relatively pleasing set of results at National 3-5 with some improvement required at Higher. I will give a fuller briefing to our Parent Council and share details in my next update.
Key Dates	1. 6 September – Senior Target Grades Set 2. 12 September – Senior Parents Evening 3. 17 September – Parent Council 4. Week beginning 30 September – S3 reports sent home

That's all for the first update of the session. 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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