Gracemount High School

Committed to Care and Excellence

Lasswade Road, Edinburgh, EH16 6TZ
Email: admin@gracemount.edin.sch.uk
Tel: 0131 664 7440 Fax: 0131 664 3902
Website: www.gracemount.edin.sch.uk

Head Teacher
Mr Ross Hunter

Depute Head Teachers
Ms Tania Peters (Tiree)
Mrs Amanda Lyons (Lewis)
Mr Mark Gregor (Skye)

Business Manager
Mrs Anne O'Neil

5 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Head Teacher update – March 2025

During the first week of every month, I 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.

We had 39 responses to last month's HT update. I am keen to continue to track engagement so if you would please scan the QR code of click on the link below to confirm your engagement with the update that would be very helpful.

https://forms.office.com/e/i9z84BBjZx

Please see updates below.

Title	Details
School Supported Self-Evaluation	In December and January, the school undertook a supported self-evaluation visit. A team from the local authority visited the school over 3 days to evaluate our work as a school. A copy of the summary letter will be sent to all parents and carers next week in a separate communication.
Pupil Wellbeing – Mobile Phone Use and Toilets	In my January update I wrote to you about changes to our approach with access to school toilets and use of phones in class. We have seen considerable improvements in safety around the toilets and much less use of phones in class. Both areas will continue to be a priority for us.
SQA Timetable	As our Senior pupils finalise preparations for exams please find a link to the recently updated SQA timetable nq-2025-exam-timetable (1).pdf. Please refer to key dates below for further information.
Staffing Update	**Computing and Maths** I'm delighted to say we have already secured additional staffing for Computing and Maths for August 2025.

	Pupil Support Leader Congratulations to Catriona Murray who has secured a full-time permanent position at Wester Hailes High School as Pupil Support Leader. Catriona will take up post on 17 March with her last day at Gracemount on Friday 14 March. Catriona will be replaced by Craig Cruickshanks who will take up the Lewis House Pupil Support leader post on a temporary basis until Mrs Wilson returns. Craig will retain senior classes for his subject up until the exams start to ensure there is no disruption to learning for his classes. Other Updates: 1. Ms Kayleigh Sutherland has joined our support staff team proving administration support to our Pupil Support Leaders 2. We are advertising for a full-time permanent Curriculum Leader of Expressive Arts.
Education Academy (previously Saturday School)	As part of our on-going support for our Senior Pupils, I'm delighted to say our partnership with Education Academy (previously Saturday School) continues. After school study classes are available to students in Maths, English and all Science subjects in National 5 and Higher. If you want your child to sign up, please contact Mr Hunter or the school office who can provide further detail.
Course Choice	All pupils in S2-5 are undertaking course choices. Further information can be found here on our school website Course Choice 2025 - Gracemount High School
Standardised Assessments	These have begun for all S3 students. And we aim to be finished by the first week in March. Further information can be found via this link Standardised Assessments - Gracemount High School
Attendance and Punctuality	**Reporting an absence** If your child is unable to attend school for any reason it is important you contact the school on their first day of absence to inform us. This can be done by calling 01316647440, emailing admin@gracemount.edin.sch.uk or by responding to the absence text stating their name, year and reason for their absence. **School Actions:** 1. We will text if your child is absent - please reply to this text. 2. A text will also be sent if your child is missing from a period in school. Sometimes there can be errors with this due to late coming, supply staff etc. Please do contact us if you feel this is incorrect. 3. If your child is late to class more than 5 times in a week, we will contact home to discuss.

	4. Please expect contact if your child's attendance is less than 85%. We are determined to work with our families in a supportive way. Please do reach out if you want to discuss any aspects of support that might help your child come to school and arrive on time. If you are requesting absence during the school term-time please contact the school office who will supply a form that you should complete and send to me. This is an updated procedure and is in place across all schools in Edinburgh.
Parent Feedback	As part of my ongoing efforts to foster open communication and support for all our students, I am making a commitment to personally call up to 10 parents each week. My goal is to connect with families, listen to your thoughts and feedback and address any questions or concerns you may have. I believe that continuing to build strong relationships with our families is an essential part of creating a positive and supportive learning environment for our students. These calls will provide an opportunity for us to collaborate in a way that goes beyond emails and meetings, ensuring that each of you feels heard and valued. If you are one of the parents I reach out to, I will do my best to schedule a time that is convenient for you. However, if you have any immediate questions or need assistance before that, please do not hesitate to contact me directly via email admin@gracemount.edin.sch.uk or the school's main phone line - 0131 664 7440. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. I look forward to speaking with you soon. To request a priority phone call please complete the link below or scan the QR code https://forms.office.com/e/XNMSsxqUrN

Parent Council Homework Consultation	We had 37 responses to our homework consultation. Feedback has been shared with the Parent Council and will be discussed at our next meeting.
Key Dates	1. 5th March – S1 Parents Evening (2) – Surnames N-Z 2. 5th March - S3 tracking 2 issued 3. 26 March – Parent Council Meeting 4. 28 March Senior Estimates completed 5. 4 April – Last day of term 6. Tuesday 22 April – Pupils return to school 7. Friday 25 April – SQA exams start (we will write you Senior parents separately regarding study leave)

Yours sincerely,
Ross Hunter
Head Teacher