Committed to Care and Excellence

# Gracemount High School

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**Head Teacher**
Mr Ross Hunter

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

**Business Manager**
Mrs Anne O'Neil

***"A caring school community where everyone belongs, everyone learns, everyone achieves"***

1 September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Head Teacher Update (1) – Session 2025/26**

On the first Monday of every month, I will release a Head Teacher update with important 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 |
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| A positive start – School Dress Code | It's been a very positive start to the term, and I would like extend our sincere thanks for your continued support of our school dress code. Almost all young people are arriving to school dressed appropriately and in line with our expectations. Your efforts in providing the correct dress not only help pupils feel a strong sense of belonging but also contributes to creating a focused and respectful learning environment for all.<br><br>Starting from this week, items will be made available for pupils to borrow as needed and, where appropriate, to keep. This will ensure that every child can feel confident and comfortable, ready to make the most of their time in school.<br><br>Your kindness and commitment to our school community make a real difference, thank you. |
| Recognising and celebrating positive school behaviours | We are working hard to ensure our young people are recognised for their positive behaviours across our school.<br><br>In August alone **class teachers issued 1454 merits**. 116 parents and carers will receive a positive text this month as their young person(s) have gained 5 or more merits. Well done to all.<br><br>The Senior Leadership team are undertaking ethos walks and issuing praise postcards and pupils are being entered into a month prize draw. |

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| | Head Teacher gold awards are being issued at the end of each month I will call home to speak to the parents of the pupils who receive these. These are issued to the pupils in each year group that receive the most merits.<br><br>In October we will be re-launching Class Charts, a web based system that all parents and young people can access to see their merits and demerits. More information to follow. |
| Edinburgh Fringe, Duke of Edinburgh and Outward Bound | As our school session has started, learning has not been confined to the classroom. It has been brilliant to see so many young people get the opportunity to attend Fringe shows across the city.<br><br>Our Duke of Edinburgh students have been out on their Silver expedition and today we have over 30 S2 students heading off to their Outward Bound residential experience. |
| SQA results | We are reviewing all our SQA results, and processing SQA appeals as required.<br><br>Overall, it was a relatively pleasing set of results, especially in S4. I will give a fuller briefing to our Parent Council and share details in my next update. |
| Re-coursing deadline | To ensure all pupils get enough time in their courses and can make significant progress we have set a re-coursing deadline for students to move classes. This has been set for today, Monday 1 September.<br><br>After today there will be no further opportunity to change classes in S4-6. |
| School Improvement | If you are interested in our School Improvement work please see a link to our School Improvement Plan here |
| Staffing update | New staff that joined us this session were:<br><br>1. Stephen Newlands – Science technician<br>2. Caitlin Sparks – Art<br>3. Jennifer Menard – Modern Languages<br>4. Elise MCormick – PE<br>5. Brandin Sharpe – PE<br>6. Tom Cahalin – PE<br>7. Nicole Muir – English<br>8. Ebru Ustun – Maths<br>9. Kirsten Telford, George Noulas and Diane Cameron will all work across our Learning community as Inclusion support teachers.<br>10. Cat McMillan – Youth Worker (starts 29 September)<br><br>We have also appointed 4 Pupil Support Assistants who will take up post as soon as possible.<br><br>1. Emma Randall<br>2. Heather Kamal<br>3. Elisa Oliver<br>4. Claire Mawditt<br><br>Other vacancies:<br><br>1. 0.5 Teacher of Support for Learning – interviews taking place on Tuesday 2 September |

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| | 2. Pupil Support Officer – Interviews taking place on Monday 1 September |
| Senior Team and Pupil Support | Key staff that will link with your families are below:<br><br>**Lewis House**<br>Amanda Lyons – Depute Head Teacher and Head of House<br>Julie Wilson (Mon-Thurs) and Craig Cruickshanks (Friday) – Pupil Support Leader<br><br>**Skye House**<br>Mark Gregor - Depute Head Teacher and Head of House<br>Jasmine McKay – Pupil Support Leader<br><br>**Tiree House**<br>Tania Peters - Depute Head Teacher and Head of House<br>Ellie Manczak – Pupil Support Leader<br><br>**Senior Development Officer and Care Experienced Lead**<br>Zelda Reynolds |
| Attendance and Late coming | A reminder that our school days starts at 8.30am every day. It is important for our pupils to get off to a good start and we are asking for your support to ensure they arrive to school on time.<br><br>Late comers must sign in at the office.<br><br>New attendance procedures are being launched across the learning community (Gracemount High School, Gracemount Primary School and Frogston Primary School) and we will be in touch in due course. |
| S1 break and lunchtime | A reminder that S1's are to stay in the school grounds. We will be having an assembly this week and writing to S1 parents separately to update them on this. |
| Key Dates | 1. 5 September – Senior Target Grades Set<br>2. 8-10 September – Senior reports sent home<br>3. 11 September – Senior Parents Evening<br>4. 15 September – Monday Holiday<br>5. 16 September – Parent Council |

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