Committed to Care and Excellence

# Gracemount High School

Lasswade Road, Edinburgh, EH16 6TZ
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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"***

11 December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Head Teacher Update – December 2025**

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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| **Attendance and Punctuality** | 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>**Every day counts - Attendance**<br>New attendance procedures have been launched across the learning community to promote the importance of school attendance<br>We want to ensure our young people are attending school as much as possible. Your support in this is appreciated.<br><br>Please contact the school if there are any aspects of this you are concerned about. We are committed to working with our families and young people to support their attendance at school. |
| **Head Teacher Assemblies** | There have been recent reports on the use of racist language. Consequently, I held assemblies this week for all pupils on the importance of how our words matter.<br><br>We are encouraging the reporting of any racist, homophobic or misogynist incident to a member of staff. I want to assure all our pupils, staff and parents that we take these matters very seriously and manage them in line with our bullying and equalities procedures. It is vital that the school a safe place for all. The message is clear – ***Gracemount is*** a ***caring school community where everyone belongs, everyone learns, everyone achieves*** |
| **School Dress Code** | I would like to 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. |

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| | **Please note that as per our recent communication, baseball caps are not permitted to be worn in school at any time.** |
| **Class Charts** | Class Charts is an online system which teachers use to track achievement and behaviour throughout the school day. In January this system will go live to pupils and parents.<br><br>Please look out for important communications to follow after the Christmas break. |
| **School Communication Procedures** | We recently launched our updated communication procedures. This will help you when you are getting in touch with the school. Please find details here on our school website.<br><br>GHS-Communciations-Procedures-2025.pdf |
| **Online Safety Event for Edinburgh Parents and Carers** | **Free Online Safety Event for Edinburgh Parents and Carers**<br>By **Edinburgh Learns Digital**<br><br>Hearts Innovation Centre, Tynecastle Park, McLeod Street, EH11 2NL.<br>January 14th from 6pm to 8pm<br><br>You can sign up below<br><br>Free Online Safety Event for Parents and Carers |
| **School Improvement** | If you are interested in our School Improvement work please see a link to our School Improvement Plan here |
| **Staffing update** | We are in the process of appointing the following support staff:<br><br>1. 3 Pupil Support Officers for our school<br>2. 1 learning community Pupil Support Officer<br>3. 1 learning community English as an Additional Language Teacher |
| **Formal Assessments** | Formal assessments have been taking place across our school for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher subjects. Almost all will be completed by the end of this week.<br><br>A further tracking report will be issued in January fort S4-6 students, and the school will review performance and progress and decide on next steps for presentation for the final exams.<br><br>Where a young person has not performed to the expected standard, the school will be in touch to discuss a possible change of level / unit only approach. |
| **SQA Timetable Update** | **2026 Exam Timetable**<br>The 2026 exams start on Wednesday 22 April and finish on Tuesday 2 June.<br><br>Results day will be Tuesday 4 August 2026.<br><br>If you have any questions about exams, you should speak to your child's Pupil Support Leader in the first instance.<br><br>2026 Exam timetable |
| **Key Dates** | 1. 18 December – School Christmas Concert |

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| | 2. 19 December last day of term – School closes at 12 noon<br>3. 5 January – Staff Inset Day<br>4. 6 January – Pupils return to school<br>5. 13 January - Parent Council meeting |

That's all for now. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and extend my best wishes for 2026.

Kind regards,
*Ross Hunter*
Head Teacher