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"

Dear Parents/Carers,

Head Teacher Update – Term 1 October 2026

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

Please see updates below.

Title	Details
School Website	We are currently experiencing some technical issues with our website and some information may be missing. We are trying to resolve this issue and will let you know when this is fully resolved.
Mobile Phone Update	I am delighted to report that our students have responded brilliantly to the new rules and expectations. We are now a phone free school and almost all young people are following the expected rules. We have had a recent site visit from our supplier of phone pouches. As a result, we are in the process of planning how we will roll out the pouches to our students. We will be in touch with you shortly about next steps and what you need to know.
School Communications	Please find a link to our school communication procedures below. Some parents have requested details regarding the school's response time to parental contact. Please see this below: **Response time to parent/carer contact** - Please note all our staff have substantial fixed commitments throughout the day such as teaching classes and meetings. Therefore, they may not be able to get back to you immediately. You will receive an acknowledgment within **48 hours of your contact**, and the **appropriate person will be in contact within 5 working days** to agree next steps and actions. Parents who arrive at school without an appointment are not guaranteed to be seen by a member of staff however contact details will be taken and we will make contact as soon as possible. GHS-Communciations-Procedures-2025.pdf
Qualification Scotland Exam Performance	The school has continued to make progress across almost all areas of exam performance. A full briefing will be provided to the Parent Council on 4 November with updates to follow.

Parent Council	I am delighted to report that we have appointed a new Chair and Vice Chair of our Parent Council. I am sure they will be in touch with you soon as our new Parent Council takes shape. Chair – Mrs Sakinah Safi (parent of S5 and S2 children) Vice Chair – Mrs Sam Garland – Parent of S2 child In the meantime, you can continue to contact the parent council via this email gracemounthighpc@gmail.com Our next Parent Council meeting is 4 November, and we would like to build on our numbers to ensure a strong parent voice. Please do consider coming along. The invitation is open to all our parents/carers. Meetings take place in the school library and begin at 6pm.
Attendance and Punctuality	**Punctuality** A reminder that our school day 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 your child arrives to school on time as often as possible. A breakfast club runs every day from 8am in our staffroom. **Attendance – Every day counts** We will be writing to all our parents and carers shortly to give you an update on your child's attendance. Please do contact the school if there are any aspects of your child's attendance you are concerned about. We are committed to working together with our families and young people to support their attendance at school.
Class Charts	Class Charts is an online system which teachers use to track achievement and behaviour throughout the school day. All parents and carers should have access to an account to view this information. If you do not have access, please contact the school by calling us on 0131 664 7440 or emailing Admin@Gracemount.edin.sch.uk
School Improvement and Standards and Quality Report	If you are interested in our School Improvement work please see a link to our School Improvement Plan here There is also a link to our standards and quality parent friendly version below GHS-SQ-report-Parental-Version-202526-002.pdf
Staffing update	We are in the process of appointing the following staff: 1. Teacher of Modern Studies 2. Teacher of Enhanced Support provision 3. Temporary Teacher of Mathematics After over 10 years at the school, we say farewell to Mr Yusaf in Mathematics. We're very sad to see Mr Yusaf go however we wish him well in the next stage of his career.
QS (formerly SQA) Formal Assessment and Qualifications Scotland Timetable Update	Our formal assessments for senior phase students will commence week beginning 23 November. A timetable will be issued in advance to

	all senior students. A reminder there is no study leave and pupils are expected to attend school at all times. The 2027 exams start on Monday 26 April and finish on Wednesday 2 June. A link to the timetable is below National Qualifications 2027 Exam Timetable Results day will be Tuesday 10 August 2027. If you have any questions about exams, you should speak to your child's Pupil Support Leader in the first instance.
Key Dates	1. Friday 2 October – S1 tracking reports issued 2. Tuesday 6 October – S1 Pupil Support Evening – parents/carers invited will be contacted by support staff 3. Wednesday 7 October – P5-7 Open Evening 4. Friday 9 October – last day of term 5. Monday 19 October – Staff Inset day 6. Tuesday 20 October – Pupil return to school

Kind regards,
Ross Hunter
Head Teacher