



Committed to Care
and Excellence

Gracemount High School

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Head Teacher
Mr Ross Hunter

Depute Head Teacher
Mr Lewis Whale (Acting)
Depute Head Teacher
Mrs Dee Scott

Business Manager
Mr Scott Mackenzie

5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

May I first of all take the opportunity to extend our very best wishes on behalf of all our staff to you and your family for the year ahead. One can only hope that, in time, the current situation improves for us all.

Please see below for some very important updates.

Access to school for Key Worker / Vulnerable Children

Our school opens tomorrow for children of key workers (both parents) and children who may be deemed vulnerable. A text message will be sent today to confirm the offer of a place if your child meets any of the criteria. If your child has not been offered a place and you think they should be, please contact us with details via the admin email address provided

Admin@Gracemount.edin.sch.uk

If your child attends the school hub please note the following:

1. The hub will run from 8.30am to 3.30pm. For this week only, we are providing childcare. From the 11 January onwards, the focus will be on supporting access to digital learning set by class teachers.
2. All children should ensure they bring a face covering with them and adhere to infection control procedures.
3. Break will be 10.30 – 11 and lunch 1-1.30. Pupils will be provided with a free lunch, soup and sandwich but will need to bring a snack for morning break.
4. School uniform is not required to be worn.
5. Pupils will only be allowed access to their phones at break and lunchtime from 11 January.
6. All pupils must register on arrival.

Digital Learning

For most pupils learning will begin again at home from 11 January. The application we will use to deliver learning will be via MS Teams. All pupils should have access to Teams and Teams pages created by their teachers. Parents/carers can sign into Teams using their child's sign in. This is an excellent way of keeping up to date with tasks being set for home learning.

Our staff are working very hard to ensure they deliver high quality on-line learning and we have asked our teachers to make themselves available at least once a week for each class so pupils can contact them live. More details will follow for each class from class teachers via Teams.

We do not expect you to take the place of our teachers. The most important thing you can do as a parent/carer is take an interest in what your child is doing and support them to engage with the learning tasks set.

More details are available via our school website learning at home page
http://www.gracemounthighschool.co.uk/Learning_At_Home/index.html

Registration

From 11 January all pupils will be asked to register each day via our school website. Please help us by supporting you child to register and engage with their learning.

Online learning / Study Groups

Study groups are a great way to engage your children in on-line learning. I would strongly encourage our pupils to pair up or work in groups where they can. When done responsibly, working on-line with friends/classmates can be a great motivational tool with the additional benefit of supporting wellbeing in this time of isolation.

Digital Devices

To learn at home our young people need access to digital devices and the internet. Mrs Scott sent out information asking for families in all year groups to contact us if their child does not have access to a device or the internet. We have received 57 responses and are prioritising getting a device to each child. For those without access to the internet we will look at offering a place in our school hub.

Despite ordering I-pads for the whole of S3 earlier this session these have yet to be delivered to the school. We hope they will arrive soon. Once they do, we will prioritise getting these to our S3 students.

School Events

A number of events are due to come up in our calendar. Events include pupil reports, parents' evenings and our coursing evening. As most require staff to have access to the school we are looking at how best we deliver these events. More details will follow in due course.

Parental Engagement

The Senior Leadership Team plan to hold an on-line parental engagement session next week. Please look out for a communication on this.

In the meantime, should you have any other queries please do not hesitate to contact the school. Our office team will mostly be working remotely so please be aware we may take slightly longer to respond. As always, we will do our very best to get back to you as quickly as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Ross Hunter
Head Teacher

