



**‘Rooted in Nature, United in Community, Growing in Kindness.’**

## **Head Teacher Friday Blog (4) – 5 September 2025**

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Senior Prizegiving 2025**

Last night we gathered as a school community to celebrate the achievements of our young people at our annual Senior Prizegiving. We were ably guided through the evening by Mrs Heel, Depute Head Teacher, whose calm and assured presence helped the ceremony flow seamlessly.

The breadth and depth of awards was truly astonishing to see — recognising excellence not only in academic subjects, but also in leadership, service, music, sport, and wider contributions to school life. It was a powerful reminder of the range of talents within our pupil body and the commitment of staff who support them to succeed.

We were also treated to inspiring speeches from our new School Captains, Anna and Adah. Both spoke with warmth, clarity and ambition about their hopes for the year ahead — championing pupil voice, celebrating inclusivity, and strengthening the sense of community at McLaren High School. Their words captured the spirit of leadership and service that lies at the heart of our school.

Our Keynote Speaker, gifted and talented eye surgeon **Dr Robert Peden**, delivered a key note address. He reflected on his own time as a pupil at McLaren, sharing how the school shaped him as a young person and supported his aspirations. Dr Peden commented that it was a delight to see that the school continues to nurture a strong ethos and uphold a proud academic record.

Senior Prizegiving was, as always, a highlight of the school calendar — a celebration of hard work, talent, and community. We are immensely proud of all our award winners and of the values that underpin their achievements.

### **Important Dates**

#### **Parent Information Session – LANDED**

On **Tuesday 9 September 2025**, all pupils will take part in a session with **LANDED**, a charity that helps young people make safer, healthier choices. We invite **parents and carers** to an information session the same evening, where LANDED will share the key messages and how you can support these conversations at home.

📍 **Venue:** McLaren High School Assembly Hall

📅 **Date:** Tuesday 9 September 2025

🕒 **Time:** 6.00pm

👉 **Sign up by Friday 5 September** using this link: [Parent Information Session Sign-Up](#)

We hope you can join us for this valuable session.

### Join Our Team – SLA Vacancy at McLaren High School

We are excited to share an opportunity to join our team at McLaren High School. We currently have a vacancy for a **Support for Learning Assistant (SLA)** — a role that plays a vital part in supporting our young people to thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

Our SLAs work closely with staff and pupils, helping to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment where every young person can achieve their best. It is a rewarding role, perfect for someone who enjoys working with young people and being part of a positive, dedicated team.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, you can find full details and apply here: [SLA Job Application Link](#) . We would love to hear from enthusiastic, caring individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of our pupils.

### Flu Vaccinations

A reminder that NHS will be in school on Thursday 25 & Friday 26 September. Consent forms were handed out in Registration Classes this week, so please check your child's schoolbag. Please ask pupils to return the completed consent forms to their Registration Teacher or directly to the Main Office by Monday 8 September. On the vaccination day, it can be an administrative headache for the nursing staff if they are trying to receive consent over the phone, so please be vigilant in getting these forms returned.

### DYW Opportunities

Please click [here](#) for local job, apprenticeship and career opportunities for young people in our local area.

### New S1 Chromebooks

A user agreement and parental letter will be emailed to you in the next week and I would ask that you complete the google document stating that you understand the terms of conditions of your child receiving a Chromebook. **Chromebooks will only be issued to pupils who have a user agreement signed by their parents.**

### Mobile Phone Policy

A reminder that we ask that phones be switched off and in bags during all lessons and that pupils are not permitted to take their phones with them if they have asked to go to the toilet. Pupils can have access to their phones at break and lunchtime. In wellbeing classes, we will be talking to pupils about the respectful and responsible use of mobile technology. This will encourage our pupils to positively embrace mobile technology to enhance learning now and, in the future, whilst helping to protect everyone in our school community from the possible disruptive and harmful consequences of misuse.

### Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Parent Information Event

We are delighted to invite parents and carers of prospective or current Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants to an **online information event** on:

 **Tuesday 16 September**

 **7.30 – 8.30pm**

 **Google Meet link:** [meet.google.com/ghb-hvou-iju](https://meet.google.com/ghb-hvou-iju)

At this event, Mr Ken Milligan will share key information about the award programme, explain expectations for new Bronze participants, and answer any questions from parents of both new and continuing participants.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a fantastic opportunity for young people to build confidence, resilience, and independence. Through volunteering, learning new skills, taking part in physical activities, and tackling the famous expedition, pupils gain experiences and qualities that will serve them well in school, further education, employment, and life beyond. It is also an excellent way for pupils to give something back to their community while having fun and building friendships.

We strongly encourage as many pupils as possible to take part – it really is a life-changing experience.

### **Extracurricular Clubs at McLaren High School**

We are delighted to share with you the wide range of extracurricular clubs and activities on offer at McLaren High School this session. You can view the full list of opportunities by clicking on the link below:

#### **[Extracurricular Clubs 25-26](#)**

Taking part in clubs is a wonderful way for our young people to make new friends, develop skills, build confidence, and strengthen their sense of belonging within our school community. In particular, we would expect all of our new S1 pupils to get involved in at least one club as part of their wider McLaren experience. I want to extend my thanks to the staff, parents and adult volunteers who freely give their time and energy to run and support these activities – your commitment makes an enormous difference to the life of our school.

### **Pupil Shout Outs**

It is always a pleasure to share the successes of our pupils outside the classroom. Please remember to use the link below to let us know about achievements we can celebrate in future blogs.

#### **Alba Freedman (S1)**

Alba and her pony, *Boy*, represented Scotland at the European Mounted Games Championships in Millstreet, Ireland. Competing as part of the Scotland U12 team, they achieved an impressive 5th place finish.

#### **Emma Anderson (S6)**

Emma has been training with rugby's regional squad over the past year. This summer, she proudly pulled on the Scotland jersey for the first time, playing in international matches against both Wales and the Netherlands.

#### **Alisa Shatalova (S2)**

Alisa was a finalist in the **GLIMMERS** programme, run by the Traverse Theatre Company and Edinburgh Napier University's Screen Academy Scotland. Her story was developed into a short film, which can be viewed here: [Watch Alisa's film](#).

### **Celebrating Success at McLaren High School**

At McLaren High School, we are immensely proud of our amazing and talented pupils who achieve excellence not only in school, but also within the local community and on national and international stages. Their successes — whether in academics, the arts, sport, leadership, or service — reflect the hard work, commitment, and creativity of our young people.

We are always eager to hear about these fantastic achievements and to celebrate them as a school community. To help us do this, we encourage parents and carers to share any success stories with us using the form below. By recognising and promoting these accomplishments, we can shine a spotlight on the many ways our pupils make a positive difference and inspire others.

Celebrating pupil success is an important part of our ethos at McLaren, as it strengthens our values of **inclusivity, community, kindness, and respect**, ensuring that every achievement is valued and every young person feels a sense of pride and belonging.

<https://forms.gle/QaHeFumjzXopjCFL6>

**Free School Meals & Clothing and Footwear Grant**

If you have a school age child and are on a low income, you may be entitled to support with school meals, clothing and footwear.

[Free School Meals & Clothing Grant](#)

**Educational Maintenance Allowance**

This is a payment of £30 a week, for young people who remain in school **after their 16th birthday** and meet the eligibility criteria.

[Educational Maintenance Allowance](#)

**Quote for the Weekend**

‘Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.’

**Robert Collier**

If you have any questions in relation to this update or any other school matter then please do not hesitate to be in touch with us @ [mclarenhs@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:mclarenhs@stirling.gov.uk) or on 01877 330156.

Kind regards,

Marc Fleming  
Head Teacher