



'Rooted in Nature, United in Community, Growing in Kindness.'

Head Teacher Friday Blog (9) – 10 October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's hard to believe that we have already reached the end of our first term — time really has flown by! It has been a wonderful start to the school year, and I want to take a moment to thank our whole community for the positivity, energy and commitment that have filled McLaren High over these past weeks.

It was a real pleasure to welcome our S1 parents and carers to our S1 Showcase Evening on Tuesday. The evening was a fantastic celebration of our young people's learning and achievements, and I want to thank those parents who took the time to share with me how well their child has settled into life at McLaren — your feedback is always greatly appreciated.

Last Friday afternoon, our Senior Pupils led our annual Clubs Fayre, showcasing the wide range of clubs and activities available across the school. From sports and music to debating, STEM and creative arts, there truly is something for everyone. I would strongly encourage every pupil to take part in at least one club — it is a great way to build confidence, develop new skills, and make new friends.

As we move into Term 2, our Senior Phase Assessment Diet begins on 27 November, and it is essential that our senior pupils remain focused and well prepared. We look forward to meeting with S5 and S6 parents at our Parents' Evening on **Thursday 6 November**, where we will provide an important update on each young person's readiness for these assessments.

As always, thank you for your continued encouragement and partnership — it makes a real difference. I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable October break, whether you are spending it at home or travelling further afield.

Important Dates

Monday 27 October at 6.00pm – Parent Council Meeting. Held in school in the McLaren Room, just off Main Reception and via Google Meeting Link: meet.google.com/smr-osfe-ccw. Barclay Milne is the new the Parent Council Chairperson and Kieran Brennan is the Vice-Chair this year. If you have any points, you would like to discuss about parental involvement or any other specific issues please contact Barclay or Kieron via email at mclarenpc465@gmail.com. Minutes of the Parent Council will be available on the McLaren High School website, located in the Parent Council tab.

Tuesday 28 October - PTA AGM will take place on at 6.30pm in the McLaren Room. All parents welcome.

Friday 31 October – S1-S3 Sportathon

Thursday 6 November – S5/S6 Parents' Evening – 1630-1900

Celebrating Positive Behaviour

At McLaren High School, we place great importance on acknowledging and celebrating the positive behaviour and effort of our students. Merits are awarded throughout the term whenever a student's actions or achievements deserve special recognition. These can include producing an outstanding piece of work, showing consistent effort in class, or making a positive contribution to the local community.

This week, we have had the pleasure of celebrating our pupils' achievements during our House Assemblies, where merit certificates were proudly presented. Recognising our merit winners in front of their peers not only rewards individual excellence but also inspires others to strive for their best.

By celebrating positive behaviour in this way, we reinforce the values of **respect, hard work, and community spirit** that are central to life at McLaren High. These assemblies are a reminder that every effort counts and that our school is a place where everyone's achievements are valued and celebrated.

Marking Black History Month – Living Our Value of Inclusivity

At McLaren High School, inclusivity is one of our core values — a principle that guides how we learn, work, and live together as a community. This October, as we mark **Black History Month**, we are reminded of the importance of celebrating the richness and diversity of our society, and of ensuring that every young person feels seen, respected, and valued.

Black History Month offers a powerful opportunity to learn about the stories, achievements, and contributions of Black people — both in the UK and across the world — that too often go untold. It also invites us to reflect on issues of equality, representation, and justice, and to consider what more we can do to create a truly inclusive environment for everyone.

For our pupils, this is about more than history. It is about understanding the past in order to shape a fairer future — one built on respect, empathy, and shared humanity. Through learning, discussion, and reflection, we aim to help our young people appreciate the strength that comes from diversity and the importance of standing up for inclusion in all areas of life.

At McLaren High, celebrating Black History Month is one of the ways we bring our value of **inclusivity** to life. It reminds us that every voice matters, every story deserves to be heard, and that together we can continue building a community where everyone belongs.

DYW Opportunities

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

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.

Senior Boys' Football

A huge well done to our S4–S6 Boys' Football Team who played their first match of the season on Wednesday — and what a start it was! Under the strong leadership of Captain Andrew Fairbairn, the team secured an impressive **8–0 victory**, showcasing fantastic teamwork, skill and determination throughout.

AJ Macmillan scored a brilliant hat-trick, with Ollie Brunner adding two goals and JJ McIntyre, Andrew, and Tyler Gibson each contributing one. It was a superb team performance and a great example of McLaren pupils representing the school with pride and sportsmanship.

Hockey

It's been another busy and successful week for McLaren Hockey. On Tuesday, our mixed Hockey Team took on Queen Victoria School in the second friendly of the season — a match that also marked the official opening of our new astro pitch. The team played with great energy and teamwork, coming away with a well-deserved 4–2 win.

Then on Thursday, our Boys' Hockey Team travelled to Glasgow to compete in a tournament, where they performed brilliantly — winning three out of four matches and narrowly missing out on a place in the final after a close game against Jordanhill. They finished third overall, an excellent achievement against strong competition.

A huge thank you to our coaches, Grant East and Miss Clarke, Teacher of Biology, for their continued support and encouragement.

Our pupils have once again done McLaren High proud — showing commitment, teamwork, and the positive attitude that defines our school community.

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

‘To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.’

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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 or on 01877 330156. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping our young people achieve their very best.

Kind regards,

Marc Fleming
Head Teacher