



Head Teacher Friday Blog – 15 August 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to Academic Session 2025/26

A very warm welcome to the McLaren High School community. Whether you are joining us for the first time or continuing the journey with another child, we are delighted to have you as part of our school family.

At McLaren, we believe that education thrives on strong partnerships between home and school. Together, we share a vital mission: to support every young person not only to succeed academically, but to grow in confidence, character, and compassion.

Our school values are central to everything we do:

- **Inclusivity** – because every young person deserves to feel seen, supported, and valued.
- **Community** – because we are stronger when we work together and lift one another.
- **Kindness** – because positive relationships are the foundation of a safe, respectful environment.
- **Growth** – because we believe every pupil has the potential to learn, develop and flourish in their own way.

These values guide how we learn, how we teach, and how we treat one another every day.

To help you stay informed and connected, I will send out a **weekly update every Friday**. These updates will include:

- Key information and updates on the life of the school
- Celebrations of pupil and staff achievements
- Important dates for your diary
- Ways you can be involved and support your child's journey with us

I hope you find these communications both useful and encouraging.

We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child's learning, wellbeing, and wider development.

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.

Now that the new term is well underway, I am keen to provide you with some additional information in connection with the new term. I hope that our new S1s have settled in well and that they are

enjoying being part of the McLaren High School community. I must commend them on their very high standards of uniform, they look very smart indeed. Also in talking to staff around the school, they have been very impressed how well S1s have settled in.

I have been speaking with each year group this week, about our values and also our expectations - that every pupil should be 'On PAR' – Prepared, Ambitious and Respectful. It is important that every young person arrive at school to do their very best, with a positive mind-set to achieve their potential.

Communication with your Pupil Support Leader/Depute Head Teacher

If you have any issues related to school, which you would like to speak to us about, please do not hesitate in contacting us. If you have any concerns that you wish to discuss with us out-with a reporting or tracking period, then I would ask that you make contact with the Pupil Support Leader (PSL) associated with the house that your child belongs to or one of the Depute Head Teachers (DHT) who has year group responsibilities. **Please keep in mind that our PSLs and DHTs do have a teaching commitment and may not be in a position to get back to you immediately when you make contact with the school.** They will endeavour to get back to you as soon as they can.

Bracklinn House	Dochart House	Leny House
Mrs Underwood (PSL)	Mrs Dunn (PSL)	Miss Cruickshanks/Mr Ashworth (PSL)

Mrs Whyte Stage 3 & 4 Pupils

Depute Head Teacher S1 & S2	Depute Head Teacher – Katrine House/Head of Pupil Support S5 & S6	Depute Head Teacher S3 & S4
Mrs Heel	Mr Campbell	Mr Macmillan

Mobile Phone Policy

We ask that phones are switched off and in bags during all lessons and during transitions from class to class and that pupil 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.

To help support the school with responsible mobile phone use, I would ask that you refrain from messaging your child during class time and **contact the school directly** if you have concerns that need to be discussed. The school day timings are listed for you below:

Monday & Tuesday		Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	
Form Class	8:45am	Form Class	9:00am
Period 1	8:55am	Period 1	9:10am
Period 2	9:45am	Period 2	10:00am
Interval	10:35am (15 mins)	Interval	10:50am (20 mins)
Period 3	10:50am	Period 3	11:10am
Period 4	11:40am	Period 4	12:00pm
Period 5	12:30pm	Lunch	12:50pm (50mins)
Lunch	1:20pm (50 mins)	Period 5	1:40pm

Period 6	2:10pm	Period 6	2:30pm
Period 7	3:00pm	School Finishes	3:20pm
School Finishes	3:50pm		

Chromebooks

S2-S6 - As part of our readiness to learn – being on PAR – Prepared, Ambitious and Respectful, it is important that along with school uniform that all pupils arrive at school with their Chromebook **fully charged** and ready to use. We have very limited spare stock and as such, we are not in a position to lend pupils a device if they have forgotten it. Any issues with Chromebooks need to be reported to Mr Worbey our IT technician as soon as possible. If a Chromebook has been damaged then you and your child may be liable to any charges that occur to repair it, therefore I would ask that pupils treat these items with a little respect as if it were their own device that they had bought themselves.

New S1 - A user agreement and parental letter will be emailed to you in the next few weeks 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.**

Parents' Information Evenings

Parents' evenings will all be held in school, face-to-face. This will be a lovely opportunity to meet with your child's class teachers and to hear about their progress and next steps in learning. All parents' evening will take place from 1630-1900. The locations used throughout the school for these evenings will be confirmed closer to the event. Appointments are made using our online booking system that allows you 10 minutes with each teacher. An email is sent out to you normally 2 weeks ahead of each parents' evening providing you with instructions about how to make appointments.

2 September

S4-S6 Parents' Evening – An opportunity to hear about how to help prepare your child for their SQA exams and how they will be assessed through the year.

7 October

S1 Parents' Evening – A 'showcase event' where your child will have the opportunity to take you to meet and talk with their teachers and look around the school.

1 October

S4 Parents' Evening

6 November

S5 & S6 Parents' Evening

22 January

S1 Parents' Evening

17 February

S3 Parents' Evening & Options Process Information

4 March

S2 Parents' Evening

Tracking & Monitoring of Pupil Progress

Please be rest assured, any issues or concerns will automatically be reported to you via our 'Pupil Progress' system and followed up by your child's Pupil Support teacher throughout the year using our tracking & monitoring procedures. Tracking reports will be issued to parents in the academic session at the following times:

S1 – 11 December & 21 May

S2 – 20 November & 26 February

S3 – 9 October & 5 February,
S4-S6 – 18 September, 26 January & 25 March

Uniform Policy

Our uniform policy reflects our values and reinforces our school's culture of high expectations and academic achievement. All pupils must dress according to the uniform policy. On the whole most pupils have come back in August in full school uniform, however there can always be improvements and we are looking for full support from parents as our school uniform is important to us. It is our way in which we identify ourselves as a school community and it promotes a strong, cohesive school identity, which supports high standards and expectations in all areas of school life. It promotes harmony between different groups represented in the school, and it enhances security.

Smartness and high standards of appearance are expected at all times.

McLaren High School recognises the value of having a school uniform for the following reasons:

- Uniforms unite the school. Pupils make a commitment when they put on their McLaren High School uniform that they will abide by the rules of the community.
- Uniforms reduce distractions. We are focused on achieving success.
- Uniforms make us all equal. Whether families have high or low incomes, the pupils come to school looking the same way. No one needs to feel bad about the clothes they have or don't have.
- There is a safety side to the uniforms because if all students are clearly recognisable it is easy to identify strangers. Also on the way to and from school uniforms afford a degree of safety, as the students are part of a large body of young people who will look out for each other.
- Uniforms look professional. Pupils look neat and ready to learn. It prepares students for future employment.
- A sense of pride – we all feel proud of our students when they are well dressed in McLaren High School uniform.
- Value for money – good quality school uniform is a relatively cheap way of dressing young people for school. It makes the morning easier- they only have to think about their uniform and not alternatives.

PE Uniform

Pupils can wear a PE t-shirt representing their house colour – **red** for Bracklinn, **blue** for Dochart and **green** for Leny. These are available to purchase from our supplier Logoxpres. Pupils should also wear black or dark sports shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms.

Celebrating Success at McLaren High School

At McLaren High School, we are extremely proud to have so many amazing, talented pupils who excel in school, in the local community and on a National/International stage. We are always keen to hear about the fantastic achievements of our pupils and would like to encourage parents and carers to use the form below to share any success stories with us so that we can recognise, promote and celebrate our young people accordingly.

[Celebrating Success](#)

Parent Forum – The Parent Council Needs Your Support!

As part of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006, all parents are automatically members of the Parent Forum. We are fortunate to have an active and supportive Parent Council. The numbers of parents attending meetings generally very small and I am keen to have representatives from all of our rural communities at these meetings. The next meeting and AGM of the Parent Council is on

Monday 25 August at 6.00pm and will be held in school in the McLaren Room, just off Main Reception. Hannah Sanderson is currently the Parent Council Chairperson and David Donaldson is the Vice-Chair. If you have any issues, you would like to discuss about parental involvement or any other specific issues please contact Kieron or Hannah 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.

Quote of the Weekend

‘The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.’

B.B. King.

We are all very excited to be back working with you and your child and I hope that the McLaren High School community has another productive and successful academic session. I very much look forward to meeting with you in person at one of our many school events or at one of the parents’ evenings.

Kind regards,

Marc Fleming
Head Teacher