



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

Head Teacher Friday Blog (12) – 14 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week at McLaren has been a wonderful reminder of what makes our school community so special. Our support for *Children in Need* today was a fantastic display of our values in action – **Inclusivity, Community, Kindness and Growth**. Thank you to everyone who joined in our dress down day and donated £1. Your generosity makes a real difference to young people less fortunate than ourselves.

It was brilliant to see our S6 pupils and staff getting fully involved in the fancy dress parade, bringing energy and creativity to the day's activities. And with our S6 Bake Sale taking place on Wednesday, we are delighted to share that together we have raised a grand total of **£725.23** for this incredibly worthwhile cause.

With only one week to go before our Assessment Diet begins for senior pupils, it is vital that they remain focused and continue preparing as thoroughly as possible.

Finally, a reminder to our S2 parents and carers that the first Data Drop Report of the session will be released next week (**Thursday 20 November**), offering an early insight into how your child is progressing.

Important Dates

Monday 24 November 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.

PTA Fundraising Support

Support McLaren High School with Easyfundraising – It's Free and Simple!

We currently have just **21 supporters** signed up to Easyfundraising — and with a little help from our community, we could raise **hundreds of pounds** for McLaren High School **at no extra cost to you**. With Christmas shopping fast approaching, now is the perfect time to get involved. Every time you shop online through Easyfundraising, your favourite retailers donate a small amount to our school — and it costs you nothing.

Signing up takes **less than a minute**, and every purchase you make through the platform helps support opportunities and resources for our young people. Join Easyfundraising today:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mclarenhigh>

And for **this month only**, if you download the Easyfundraising app, the school will receive a **£2 bonus donation!** Please consider using the app for your **Black Friday and Christmas shopping** — those small donations add up and make a real difference.

📱 Download the app here:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/?causeld=66390&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=app-eal-nov-em1

Let's come together to support McLaren High School — one simple click at a time.

Sound & Music Weekend Workshop

Pupils from S1 to S6 took part in a 3-day creative workshop exploring field recording, improvisation, composition and sound production.

Led by composer and sound artist Fergus Hall and Callander based cellist and educator Keena Wildman. The young people enjoyed three days at Trossachs Church where they learned how to make sound recordings around Loch Achray, sample, mix and create experimental graphic scores as well as improvise and produce individual and group compositions that integrated field recordings with their own music and voice components. The event concluded with a small performance where pupils shared their works and talked to the audience about their experience. The tutors were extremely impressed by the works produced and the energy and enthusiasm of the group.

The workshop was created by [Friends of Trossachs](#) who secured a generous grant award from [Forth Valley & Lomond Youth Local Action Group](#) to grow creative opportunity for young people in the area. Coverage of the event was kindly made by Eloise Curran of [@theweemediaco](#) and can soon be viewed on [Friends of Trossachs](#) website where you can find more information on forthcoming events, future developments and offer support.

[Friends of Trossachs](#) have a forthcoming event on **Sunday 7th December, 12-4pm**

Blueprints and Baubles

Come, meet the team from WT Architecture, on Sunday 7th December, and contribute to the design development of Trossachs Church. This informal and flexible drop-in session will run between 12noon and 4 pm. Enjoy the Church 'dressed' for the festive season, inside and out, hang your ideas on the tree and give your voice to the building's future.

There will be the chance to try your hand at some festive crafts with local artists, enjoy seasonal music and of course, some tasty festive treats. Activities for all ages, everyone welcome.

Help Your Child 'ACHIEVE' with Exam Preparation

As we approach the S4-S6 Formal Exam Diet, I also want to remind parents about ACHIEVE, an online revision resource designed specifically for Scottish students. ACHIEVE offers digital courses that break down key topics and concepts, with clear explanations, illustrations, and hundreds of links to free resources, including SQA exam questions and solutions. Interactive assessments help students gauge their understanding, identify strengths, and target areas for improvement. Using ACHIEVE can boost pupils' confidence, helping them prepare more effectively for exams.

Benefits of an ACHIEVE Student Account:

- **Comprehensive Study Resources:** Digital textbooks cover a range of National 5 and Higher courses.
- **Interactive Assessments:** Instant feedback helps students check their understanding.
- **Self-Evaluation Toolkit:** Allows students to identify strengths and focus on areas for growth.
- **Extended Learning:** Access to carefully selected web links by subject specialists.

- **Exam Technique Practice:** SQA past paper questions and solutions provide valuable practice.

Pupils can sign up using the link below, and the access link is shared on Google Classroom. If they have any trouble logging in, please contact Mr. Campbell, Depute Head Teacher.

<https://achieve.hashtag-learning.co.uk>

Supported Study Sessions for Senior Pupils – S4-S6

As we approach the upcoming Assessment Diet, we are pleased to confirm that study support sessions will once again be running after school for senior pupils. These sessions have been extremely valuable in previous years, providing pupils with a focused space in school to work on their revision, receive support from staff, and prepare effectively for their assessments.

Supported study offers a range of benefits for pupils. It allows them to:

- **Access help and guidance** from teachers in a supportive environment.
- **Work collaboratively** with peers who are revising for the same subjects.
- **Structure their revision time** more effectively, reducing last-minute stress.
- **Build confidence** through regular, focused study sessions.

We strongly encourage all senior pupils to take advantage of this opportunity to help them achieve their best in the forthcoming assessments.

DYW Opportunities

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

Pupil Shout Outs



Living Our Values – Special Shout Out: Seonaidh Logan (S1)

This week, we are delighted to celebrate one of our core values in action – **Kindness**. A huge well-done to **Seonaidh Logan in S1** for demonstrating outstanding compassion and care towards another pupil in need. Seonaidh took the time to offer reassurance, provide support, and make sure a fellow young person felt safe and included.

Acts like this lie at the heart of what it means to be part of the McLaren community. Seonaidh's thoughtful actions remind us that kindness doesn't need to be loud or grand to make a meaningful impact – sometimes it's the quiet moments of empathy that shine the brightest. Thank you, Seonaidh, for being an inspiring example of how we can all live our values every day.

Massive Congratulations to Alex Hart (S3)

What a fantastic achievement for Alex Hart in S3, who had an outstanding weekend competing at the Home Nations Event in Dublin.

Alex delivered exceptional performances across the competition, securing:

1st place in the *Cadet Girls*

2nd place in the *Cadet Girls Team Event*

3rd place in the *Cadet Girls Singles*

An incredible set of results and a truly excellent weekend of competition! Well done, Alex — your hard work, dedication, and talent have really shone through. A huge congratulations also to all of the Scotland Team from Stirlingshire who took part. A brilliant effort all round.

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

‘The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one.’

Vander Houwen

Kind regards,

Marc Fleming
Head Teacher