



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

Head Teacher Friday Blog (16) – 12 December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the festive season, I hope all our families are looking forward to some well-earned time together. Christmas offers a wonderful opportunity to pause, reconnect and enjoy moments with those who matter most. It is also a time that reminds us of the importance of kindness within our community. A simple visit, phone call or check-in with an elderly neighbour or someone who may be spending the season alone can make such a difference — a true reflection of our McLaren values of Inclusivity and Community.

It is hard to believe that we are already nearing the end of Term Two. At this time of year, when many of us arrive at school in the dark and return home in the dark, the holidays give us the chance to embrace the simple things we often miss. We are incredibly fortunate to live and learn in a catchment with such beautiful surroundings, and I hope our families take the opportunity to enjoy some fresh air, good walks and precious daylight. Connecting with nature — even in small, everyday ways — can be wonderfully restorative.

I'll certainly be embracing the season myself and taking some time away from school to recharge. I encourage all our pupils to do the same: rest well, re-calibrate, and return with a positive mindset, ready to give their very best in 2026.

End of Term Arrangements

It has been a busy few weeks here at McLaren High School, filled with exciting events and activities leading up to the holidays. Next week, pupils are welcome to continue the festive fun by wearing their *Christmas jumper* alongside their school uniform, should they wish.

On **Monday 15 December**, pupils will also have the opportunity to support those in need by contributing an item to the local foodbank — details of items needed by year group are listed later on in my blog.

School will close for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 19 December**. Lunch will be available from 12:00pm, and school buses will depart at 12:15pm.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and, on behalf of everyone at McLaren High School, take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year when the time comes.

The new term begins on **Monday 5 January 2026** at 8:45am.

Important Dates

Wednesday 17 December – S5/6 Dance, 6:30pm–9pm (£10)

Thursday 18 December – Community Christmas Concert, 7pm (£5), with an Art Department

Exhibition from 4pm–7pm

5 January - Term 3 Begins @ 0845

22 January – S1 Parents' Information Evening 1630-1900 – Assembly Hall

Free Bus Travel

Heading out and about during the school holidays? Great news — you can **travel completely FREE** with your **U22 bus pass** on the **C60 bus service** between **Killin and Callander**. Whether you're meeting friends, exploring the outdoors, or just fancy a day out, it's an easy (and free!) way to get around. Check out the timetable here:

[Bus Service C60: Callander and Killin via Kilmahog, Strathyre and Lochearnhead | Stirling Council](#)

Food Parcel Appeal – Monday 15 December

A reminder that we are asking each year group to contribute a suggested donation to help fill our parcels—though all contributions are very welcome.

Suggested Donations by Year Group

- **S1:** Tins of soup
- **S2:** Tinned meat, tinned macaroni, tinned Bolognese, etc.
- **S3:** Pasta or pasta sauces
- **S4:** Tinned fruit or vegetables
- **S5:** Biscuits or selection boxes
- **S6:** Pasta or pasta sauces

Thank you in advance for your generosity—your donations make a real difference to families in our community and help spread festive cheer.

DYW Opportunities

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

Pupil Shout Outs

Huge congratulations to our fantastic S1/2 'School of Triathlon' stars

On Friday, our pupils took on a *full triathlon* — and they absolutely smashed it. Their determination, effort and attitude were outstanding from start to finish.

The challenge included:

- ✓ 10 lengths in the swimming pool
- ✓ A lightning-fast transition
- ✓ A 5K bike ride around the Meadows
- ✓ A 2K run around the Bridgend field

For many, this was their first ever event, and they did themselves and McLaren High School immensely proud. A huge thank you to our brilliant S2 and S6 Sports Leaders for marshalling and supporting the event so professionally — your leadership and encouragement made all the difference.

🏆 Top 3 Male

- 🏅 Jack Silcocks

- 📷 Zack Walker
- 📷 Ellis Nixon

⚔️ Top 3 Female

- 📷 Ruby Williamson
- 📷 Niamh Fenwick
- 📷 Charlotte Edwards

Well done to all of the other Triathlon participants - Aidhen Aji, Oliver Beher, D'arcy Gowrie, Sam Lee, Luke Main, Hugh Thomas and Oliver Wilkinson. We are incredibly proud of every single competitor — you were all amazing.



Huge congratulations to our fantastic S2/3 Netball team on their 55-11 win on Wednesday!

It was a brilliant game of netball from start to finish, with every player showing great determination, teamwork and skill.

- ★ **Player of the Match:** Holly Preston
- ★ **Players' Player:** Amie Stewart
- ★ **Coach's Player:** Cameron Barclay

Well done to the whole team — you were outstanding:

Amelie Trotter, Amie Stewart, Cameron Barclay, Eilidh Steele, Holly Preston, Katie Niven, Leila Foote, Niamh Fenwick, Susanna Horsburgh, Alex Hart. A big thank you to Wallace High School for hosting.

Hockey Update – A Fantastic Effort

Our hockey team put in an excellent shift this week, taking on four very strong opponents: Jordanhill, Glasgow Academy, High School of Glasgow and Hutcheson's Grammar. Despite the tough competition, the players rose to the challenge with determination and enthusiasm.

There were some really confident performances across the day, and it was brilliant to see clear improvement from the first game to the last. The team showed resilience, teamwork and great spirit throughout—exactly what we love to see.



By the final whistle, there were plenty of smiling faces, and they should all be incredibly proud of their efforts. Well done, team - Archie Buckland, Hugh Thomas, Peter Drobot, Ness Campbell, Pippa Donaldson and Emily Clow

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

‘Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning.’

Gloria Steinem

Kind regards,

Marc Fleming
Head Teacher