

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

Head Teacher Friday Blog (21) – 30 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important Dates

4 February – S4-S6 targeted Parents' Evening – This event is for parents and carers. The school will be sending out individual invites for this event to discuss post prelim performance and identify next steps in the lead up to the exams in April/May.

5 February – 2d S3 Report Update which will be a data drop

9 – 13 February – Half Term Holiday

17 February – S3 Parents' Information and Options Evening (1630-1700)

Mock Interviews for S5 and S6 – 5 February

On Wednesday 5 February, our S5 and S6 pupils will be taking part in Mock Interviews as part of our ongoing commitment to preparing young people for life beyond school.

These interviews provide an invaluable opportunity for pupils to experience a realistic interview situation in a supportive environment. They allow young people to practise presenting themselves professionally, answering questions with confidence, reflecting on their skills and experiences, and responding positively to feedback. For many, this will be their first formal interview experience, making it an important step in building confidence and resilience.

We are very grateful to our external partners and parents who have generously given their time to act as panel members. Their involvement brings authenticity to the experience and helps ensure that pupils gain meaningful, real-world insight into what employers, colleges and universities are looking for.

I would also like to thank Mrs Burrell and Miss Walker for coordinating this important initiative and for sharing a helpful Mock Interview resource with pupils, which can be viewed using the following link: [Mock Interview Video](#)

Opportunities such as this play a vital role in supporting our young people to develop the skills, confidence and ambition they need for future success, and I look forward to hearing how pupils benefit from the experience.

Parent Council Update

The January Parent Council meeting on Monday this week, focussed on two major exciting initiatives: **Home & Family Learning Questionnaire**

We looked over the draft questionnaire that was sent out with the agenda and agreed on several adjustments. These changes will be made before distributing the questionnaire to parents and guardians around the end of February.

Internet Security Event

We're organizing an Internet Security evening at the school on June 10th at 7 p.m., and we encourage all parents and guardians to attend. The event features an impressive lineup of speakers and will cover:

- Career opportunities related to AI and cyberspace, along with how the job market is evolving
- Rising safety and security issues for children using the Internet, social media, and AI
- How to spot signs if your child is affected
- Simple steps to reduce potential threats considerably
- Guidance on what actions to take, and who to contact if your child is affected

The minutes of the meeting will be on the school web site early next week. Why not mark your calendar and come along to the next informal/relaxed meeting on 20th April 2026 6.00 - 7.30

For any suggestions, feedback, or concerns, please feel free to email Barclay Milne, our Parent Council Chairperson, at barclay@barclaymilne.com

parentsportal.scot

The new parentsportal.scot app has launched for parents across Stirling Council. It allows you to view and manage a range of useful information and services including:

- Your child(ren)'s personal details, emergency contacts and medical information
- Attendance records and timetable
- The ability to complete annual data check forms online
- Access to ParentPay for school meal and trip payments
- Apply for Young Persons' Free bus pass

More information can be found [HERE](#). If you require any help or advice with logging in, please contact the school office at mclarenhs@stirling.gov.uk.

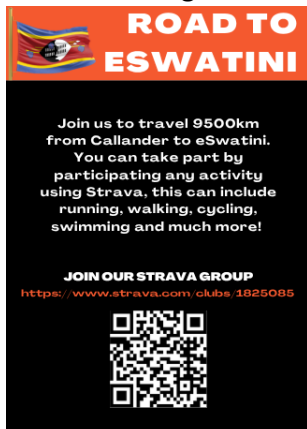
Be Prepared, Be Ambitious, and Be Respectful – Our Core Expectations

At McLaren High School, we are also committed to ensuring that pupils reach their full potential. Our **core expectations—Be Prepared, Be Ambitious, and Be Respectful**—help guide our young people in making the most of their learning and personal development.

- **Be Prepared** – Pupils should arrive at school ready to learn, with the right mind-set, equipment, and uniform.
- **Be Ambitious** – We encourage pupils to set high standards for themselves, work hard, and take pride in their achievements.
- **Be Respectful** – Respect for staff, peers, and the school environment is key to fostering a positive and inclusive community.

Alongside these expectations, we also recognise the importance of **building resilience**. Challenges are a natural part of learning and growing, and we want our pupils to develop the confidence to overcome setbacks, learn from mistakes, and keep striving for success. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or in everyday interactions, resilience is a skill that will serve them well throughout life.

Active Challenge: McLaren to Eswatini



This term, our school community is taking on an exciting challenge — to **run, walk or cycle all the way to Eswatini** in support of our upcoming **World Challenge expedition in June**.

Using the **Strava app**, we are aiming to collectively cover **10,300 km**, the distance from McLaren High School to Eswatini. Every step, cycle and run logged by pupils, staff and families will contribute to our shared total.

We would love as many people as possible to get involved, particularly after the Christmas break. Simply join our **McLaren Strava Group** on your phone and log your activities to help us reach our goal.

Along the way, we'll be setting **mini challenges** with opportunities to earn **house points**, so pupils should keep an eye on **daily announcements** and their **year group Google Classroom** for updates.

Let's work together, stay active, and see how quickly we can make our way to Eswatini! **Strava Group link:** <https://www.strava.com/clubs/1825085>

Good luck, McLaren — **let's do this!**

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

'Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it'

Charles R. Swindoll.

Kind regards,

Marc Fleming
Head Teacher