



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

Head Teacher Friday Blog (22) – 6 February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important Dates

9 – 13 February – Half Term Holiday

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

As we approach the February half-term, I would like to wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable break. I hope you make the most of the slightly extended evenings as we move steadily towards spring.

Thank you to everyone who attended the targeted S4–S6 Parents' Evening on Wednesday. I hope the feedback and agreed next steps were helpful and will support your child in shaping a focused and effective revision programme in the lead-up to the final examinations in May.

May I also ask parents and carers of our S6 pupils to keep **20 April** free in your diaries. You are warmly invited to attend our S6 Graduation Ceremony at **11.00am**, a very special occasion marking the culmination of six years at McLaren High School.

This event celebrates not only our young people's academic achievements, but also their personal growth, resilience and character. It marks the end of a significant chapter in their lives — one that began when many of them were first walked into primary school by proud parents and carers some thirteen years ago. How quickly that time has flown.

We very much hope you will join us to share in this important milestone, just as you did at the beginning of their educational journey, and to celebrate all that they have achieved and all that lies ahead. More information will follow in due course.

Traffic Management and Pupil Safety – Important Request to Parents and Carers

Each morning, I make a point of meeting our young people as they arrive at school. In recent weeks, I have become increasingly concerned by the growing number of parents and carers dropping pupils off directly at the front of the school.

The area at the front of McLaren High School is extremely limited in space. At peak times, it must safely accommodate:

- Staff arriving to park
- School buses and taxis
- ASN transport for Katrine House
- Pedestrians and pupils arriving on foot

When additional private vehicles use this space for drop-off and collection, it creates significant congestion and, more importantly, increases the risk to pupil and staff safety. For this reason, I am asking for your full cooperation with the following request.

Unless there is a genuine medical or mobility-related need, parents and carers should not drop off pupils at the front of the school. Instead, please use the Leisure Centre Car Park for morning drop-off. This will significantly reduce congestion and help us to keep everyone safe.

The same arrangement should apply at the end of the school day. If you are collecting your child by car, please arrange to meet them at the Leisure Centre Car Park rather than at the front of the school. These measures are not about inconvenience. They are about ensuring that our school environment is safe, calm, and well-managed for all members of our community.

Looking ahead, the new Plaza as part of the Primary School build will include an improved drop-off zone. I am confident that this will further enhance traffic management and safety in the future. Until then, we must all play our part.

I am asking parents and carers to support us by:

- Avoiding the front entrance for routine drop-off and collection
- Using the Leisure Centre Car Park instead
- Modelling safe and responsible behaviour for our young people

Your cooperation with this request is essential. By working together, we can reduce congestion, minimise risk, and ensure that our pupils and staff arrive and leave school safely each day. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Messages from the Head of Education – Bryony Monaghan

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our recent consultation on the proposed Education Admissions Policy. Your views and feedback are greatly valued and play an important role in shaping future educational provision.

The Consultation Report has now been published on the Engage Platform. If you would like to read the full report, it can be accessed using the following link:

<https://engage.stirling.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/education-admissions-consultation>

Also, there is just over a week left to take part in the consultation regarding Stirling's new Children's Services Plan. We want to make Stirling the best place to grow-up and have worked with a group of young people to understand what is important to them. We now need your ideas on which of these are the most important to work on and how life can be made better for you and your family. Your views are important and will help us develop a plan that will make a real difference.

Information on the current Children's Services Plan can be found on the Stirling Council Website at: [Children's Services Plan | Stirling Council](#)

Have your say here:

- Young people – [HAVE YOUR SAY – Stirling Children's Services Plan – Young Scot](#)
- Parents/carers - [\(1\) Project: Stirling's Children's Services Plan 2026-29 - ... | Stirling Council](#)

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.

Pupil Shout Outs

Huge congratulations to Emily Stanford (400m) and Dara Clark (High Jump) on winning bronze medals at the Scottish Schools Athletics Championships — a fantastic achievement! Dara also narrowly missed out on the podium with an impressive 4th place in the Long Jump.

Well done too to Emily Watkin (1500m and High Jump) and Fia Watkin (400m), who proudly represented the school at this prestigious event, fresh from their recent successes at the Stirling Schools Cross Country Championships. An outstanding effort from all involved — you are excellent ambassadors for McLaren High School.

Breanna Stoddart (S2) and Sophie Edwards (S3) raised £49.80 by baking and selling cakes to family and friends over the New Year holidays. They have generously chosen to donate the money to Katrine House.

Well done to both girls for living one of our core values of *Kindness*. I am sure that the money raised will be put to very good use, and their efforts are a wonderful example to others in our school community.

Stirling Schools Cross Country – It's a RUNderful Life

What a fantastic performance **from our** 17 Cross Country athletes at last week's Stirling Schools Cross Country event! Every runner showed determination, resilience and team spirit, and we are incredibly proud of everyone who took part.



A huge **congratulations to our five medal winners**, including **three gold medals** – an outstanding achievement.

Medal Winners:

- **S1 Boys – Logan Scoular**
- **S1 Boys – Bene Elkes**
- **S3 Girls – Emily Watkin**
- **S4 Boys – Angus Jones**
- **S5/6 Girls – Fia Watkin**

Well done to all our athletes for representing McLaren High School so positively. Your commitment and hard work truly reflect our school values – keep running towards success!

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

‘Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.’

Marie Curie

Kind regards,

Marc Fleming
Head Teacher