



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

Head Teacher Friday Blog (25) – 6 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

It was a pleasure today to welcome Stirling Council's Chief Executive, Brian Roberts, and Chief Education Officer, Bryony Monaghan, to McLaren High School. I am very grateful that they were able to take some time from their busy schedules to visit us and spend time speaking with both pupils and staff.



Our visitors were given a tour of the school led by Anya and Adah our School Captains, supported by our excellent team of School Ambassadors: Eddie Brook, Seonaidh Logan, Euan Macintosh, Lewis Campbell, Grace Leishman, Susanna Horsburgh and Artemis McIntyre. We also had James and Rebecca give our guests a tour of Katrine House. They did a fantastic job showcasing our school and speaking confidently about life and learning at McLaren and Katrine House.

My thanks to all involved for representing the school so well. It was a wonderful opportunity to highlight the positive work taking place across our school community.

Important Dates

S5 to S6 Option Choices

Below are the deadlines for option choices for next year for our current S4 to S5 pupils:

- Tuesday 10 March - Anticipated date for issue of S4/5 into S5/6 Options Form
- Wednesday 11 March, 5pm - Anticipated date/time for online Options Information Session for S4/5 Parents.

Supporting Your Child with Revision

As we move further into the academic year, regular revision becomes increasingly important in helping students strengthen their understanding and build confidence for Qualifications Scotland assessments.

To support this, a **school study planner** is available via each **Year Group Google Classroom (S4-S6)**. This allows students to create their own personalised revision timetable to help organise their time and ensure all subjects are revisited regularly.

We encourage parents and carers to ask their child about their revision plans and support them in using the planner to build consistent study habits at home. Small, regular revision sessions can make a significant difference to students' progress and confidence.

This [presentation](#) includes some key revision resources and websites that students have access to. There is also a video demonstration on how to create a personalised revision routine using the study planner available on Google Classroom. Please encourage your young person to take advantage of these resources and seek support from staff if they need subject specific revision advice.

My thanks to Mr Lynch for taking the time to create this really valuable and useful resource.

Supporting Literacy

As part of our continued commitment at McLaren High School to developing literacy in dynamic, engaging and meaningful ways, our S2 pupils recently enjoyed an outstanding storytelling workshop with storyteller Cheef Chebe. We specifically invited Cheef to focus on oral storytelling — helping pupils explore how voice, expression, pacing and performance can bring a story vividly to life. From the very first moment, he had the room captivated.



Drawing on his childhood in Ghana, Cheef performed two traditional tales from his hometown with infectious energy, warmth and humour — and even a little music. The session was highly interactive, with pupils joining in through song, sound effects and performance, fully immersing themselves in the experience of live storytelling. It was literacy brought to life.

The impact was clear from the enthusiastic feedback:

- *'He was really happy and enthusiastic about the whole thing and he was funny too — he was fire'*
- *'It was fun. He was so expressive and knew exactly what he was doing, and taught things without it feeling like a lesson. He interacted with the listeners, and I'm apparently an English poet now. Hell yeah.'*
- *'It was really fun. I liked the part where he made us join in with the story by singing and making sound effects. I didn't like the part when Grandpa Parrot died and he put him behind the piano. There was so much emotion for Grandpa's funeral.'*

Experiences like this reinforce our belief that literacy development extends far beyond the written page. At McLaren, we are committed to nurturing confident communicators — young people who can listen critically, speak expressively and engage creatively with language in all its forms.

Our sincere thanks to the Parent Council for their support in making this inspiring experience possible for our pupils.

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/authors/frank-mcchebe>

Junior Conservatoire Filmmaking – Applications Open

Students who will be in S3 or above in the 2026/27 session may be interested in applying for the Junior Conservatoire Filmmaking programme at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow.

This exciting programme gives young people the opportunity to explore filmmaking, storytelling and the wider film industry, while developing creative, technical and collaborative skills and gaining insight into potential careers in the creative industries.

More information, including how to register for the Open Day in April, is available on the Creative Opportunities Google Classroom (code: bthi6mf).

HPV vaccines and MMR catch-ups

HPV vaccines and MMR catch-ups will take place on Monday and Tuesday of next week for S1 pupils and S2 to S6 pupils who have not previously received either of these and have returned a consent form. Pupils receiving a vaccine should wear a short-sleeved shirt or a t-shirt under their shirt. Alternatively a loose fitting shirt in which they can roll the sleeve up to their shoulder. Please ask your child to bring a water bottle and mobile phone with them when receiving the vaccine. They will take place in the dance studio and a schedule has been posted in the social area.

Pupil Shout Outs

Netball Success



As part of the Stirling Schools Netball League, both our S2/3 and S4-6 teams played matches last week.

On Monday, both teams travelled to Queen Victoria School for away matches where S2/3 took to court first. This was a very close match throughout, with the defence getting good rebounds. Our team managed to gain a slight lead and scored several goals in the last quarter to finish with a 13-17 win for McLaren.

The S4-6 team played next with some of the team playing out of their normal positions. They did a fantastic job, with a strong final quarter and good communication. However, QV maintained their lead and took the win in this match.

The S3/2 team played again on Thursday, this time in a home match against Balfron. McLaren started very well, finishing the first quarter with a 7 goal lead. Transitions from centre pass to goal were fantastic, and it was a real team effort. McLaren maintained their lead and finished with a 28-21 win.

Players of the Match for each game were:

S3/2 QV Match

Opposition's choice - Amie

Coaches choice - Alex

S4-6 QV Match

Opposition's choice - Eva

Coaches choice - Mairi

S3/2 Balfron Match

Opposition's choice - Amie

Coaches choice – Amelie



Thanks to QVS and Balfron for great games. A special thanks to Eva for umpiring both S3/2 matches. Netball club continues to run on a Monday after school in the leisure centre, all welcome.

Ice Skating Success

Congratulations to Emily Guertin (S2), who is currently competing in Sheffield at an ice skating competition and has achieved an outstanding **2nd place finish**. English competitions are known to be fiercely competitive, drawing skaters from a much larger catchment area. This makes Emily's

achievement even more impressive and a significant accomplishment. Well done, Emily—we are incredibly proud of your success and wish you continued luck in the rest of your competition.

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

‘What you lack in talent can be made up with desire, hustle and giving 110% all the time.’

Don Zimmer

Kind regards,

Marc Fleming
Head Teacher