



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

Head Teacher Friday Blog (26) – 13 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important Dates

25 March – 3rd S4-S6 Report and SQA Estimated Grade Issued

2 April – Last Day of Term – Easter Break Begins (Normal School Day)

20 April – Term 4 Begins & S6 Graduation (11:15 – Assembly Hall) – Please confirm your attendance by email by **Friday 20 March**

Traffic Management – Thank You to Parents and Carers

I would like to thank parents and carers for your support with our updated traffic management arrangements at the school.

I am pleased to report that there has been a **significant improvement** in how traffic is flowing at the start and end of the school day. Your cooperation in following the guidance, using the designated drop-off areas, and helping to keep routes clear has made a real difference to the safety and efficiency of our site.

These improvements help ensure that pupils, staff and visitors can move around the campus more safely, particularly during our busiest times. Thank you again for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe and well-managed environment for everyone in our school community.

S4 Work Experience – June 2026

All current S4 students will have the opportunity to take part in a week-long Work Experience placement beginning **Monday 8th June**. This is a fantastic opportunity for our young people to gain first-hand insight into the world of work, develop important employability skills and begin building their CV.

The process is **student-led**, with all placements managed through the online **WorkIT** platform. Students have already been sent their login details via their **Glow email account**.

Pupils who are attending the **London trip** during this period will still have the opportunity to complete their Work Experience during an alternative week.

How to find a placement

Students can secure a placement in two ways:

- **WorkIT Search** – Pupils can browse opportunities already listed on the platform. Please note that students must **contact the employer directly to confirm availability before requesting the placement through WorkIT**.

- **Self-Found Placement** – Students are welcome to arrange their own placement with an employer not currently listed on the system. In this case, they will need to gather the necessary **contact details and health and safety information** to submit through WorkIT.

To allow the Council sufficient time to carry out the required health and safety checks, all placement requests must be submitted through WorkIT no later than **Friday 20th March**. Detailed guidance on the process is available in the S4 Google Classroom. If your child is finding it difficult to secure a placement, please encourage them to speak to **Miss Burrell or Mr Lynch**, who will be very happy to support them.

S6 Opportunity – Giving Blood

I would like to highlight a great opportunity for our senior pupils to make a real difference in their community.

A blood donation session will be taking place at **Callander Kirk Hall on Monday 23 March**, with appointments available **13:30–15:30** and **17:00–19:00**. As many of our S6 pupils are now 17 or older, they are eligible to give blood for the first time.

Giving blood is one of the simplest ways to help others. **Just one donation can help save up to three lives**, and donated blood is needed every day for people undergoing surgery, cancer treatment and in emergency situations. A single appointment takes a relatively short time, but the impact can be life-changing for patients who rely on blood transfusions.

I would encourage parents and carers to have a conversation at home with their young person about the possibility of donating. For many people, their first donation is something they remember doing with friends, and attending together can make the experience more relaxed and positive.

Becoming a blood donor is also a powerful way for our young people to contribute to their community and to recognise that even small actions can make a significant difference to the lives of others.

If your young person is eligible, it would be wonderful to see members of our S6 cohort supporting this important cause. Thank you for encouraging them to consider taking part.

Reminder: Informing the School of Pre-Arranged Appointments

From time to time pupils may need to leave school during the day for a medical or other pre-arranged appointment. When this happens, it is very important that parents and carers inform the school in advance.

Normally, pupils sign in and out at the school office when leaving or returning to the building. If the office staff are aware of an appointment beforehand, we can record this appropriately and ensure the absence is coded correctly on our attendance system.

From a safeguarding perspective, it is essential that the school always knows where our pupils are during the school day. Schools are required to keep accurate attendance records and account for every pupil on site or authorised to be elsewhere. If a pupil is absent or leaves school without prior notification, staff are expected to contact parents to confirm their whereabouts and ensure they are safe.

There have been a small number of occasions recently where a pupil has come to reception asking to sign out, but the school has had no prior notification of an appointment. When this happens, we must

try to contact parents or carers before allowing the pupil to leave. If we are unable to reach anyone, this places the school in a very difficult safeguarding position, as we cannot release a pupil without confirmation that a parent or carer is aware.

To help us keep all young people safe and ensure attendance is recorded accurately, we ask that parents and carers:

- Inform the school **in advance** of any planned appointments during the school day
- Provide a **note, email or message to the school office** where possible
- Remind pupils that they must **sign out at reception before leaving** and sign back in on their return

Your support with this helps us maintain robust safeguarding procedures and ensures that every pupil is properly accounted for throughout the school day.

School Transport

A reminder to parents and carers that pupils should be at their designated bus stop **at least five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time**. This helps ensure that school buses are able to run to schedule for the remainder of their journey.

This is particularly important for pupils travelling on **minibuses that connect with larger coaches**, as any delay at an early stop can impact the timing of the entire route.

Recently, late arrivals at bus stops have resulted in buses reaching school later than planned, which affects the smooth start to the school day. This is especially important at present as senior pupils are sitting exams at the start of the school day when the SQA exams begin after Easter, therefore punctual arrival is essential.

We would appreciate your support in reminding pupils to be ready and waiting at their stop in good time so that all services can run as planned. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

Pupil Shout Outs



Emily Watkin (S3) delivered an outstanding performance at the **Scottish National Indoor Athletics Championships**, earning a **silver medal in the Triple Jump** with an impressive leap of **9.56 metres**.

Competing on the national stage is a significant achievement in itself, and Emily's performance is a fantastic reflection of her dedication, hard work and commitment to her sport. To reach the podium at a national championship at such a young stage in her athletics journey is truly commendable.

Everyone at McLaren High School is incredibly proud of Emily's success. Her achievement is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished through determination, resilience and a willingness to push personal limits. We look forward to following her continued progress and celebrating many more successes in the future. **Congratulations, Emily — a superb achievement!**

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 struggle you're in today is developing the strength you need tomorrow.'

Robert Tew - Writer

Kind regards,
Marc Fleming

Head Teacher