



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

Head Teacher Friday Blog (29) – 2 April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the Easter break, I want to take a moment to thank you for your ongoing partnership and support of the school. It has been a pleasure keeping you up to date each week with all that has been happening at McLaren High School, and I hope you have enjoyed the updates. In particular, I would like to express my appreciation for the lovely responses to our *Celebrating Success* merit emails. Recognising the positive efforts of our young people is so important, and it has been heartening to hear how much these acknowledgements have meant to you and your children.

As we head into the break, I want to extend my very best wishes to our senior pupils. This is an important time for them, and I encourage them to strike a healthy balance between study and rest. I hope they make the best use of the holiday period—studying hard but also taking time outdoors to recharge.

I would encourage all pupils and families to take note of our Easter Supported Study programme, kindly offered by staff during the holiday period.

Sessions will run from Wednesday 8th to Wednesday 15th April. Please refer to the timetable for full details of when each subject session is available - [Easter Supported Study](#). Pupils attending are asked to sign in and out at Main Reception.

This programme provides an important final opportunity for focused revision and support, helping to ensure that our young people are as well prepared as possible for their forthcoming exams. My sincere thanks go to our staff for giving their time so generously to support our pupils in this way.

Important Dates

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

20 April – Term 4 Begins (0845) & S6 Graduation (1115 – Assembly Hall)

21 April – Study leave begins for S4-S6 pupils

Apprenticeships Live

Please check out the apprenticeship opportunities currently available with Stirling Council:

[Modern Apprentice - Roofer- Allan Water House/ Mobile - 101873 - 466070 | Stirling Council | myjobscotland](#)

[Modern Apprentice - Plumber- Allan Water/Mobile Work - 101874 - 466072 | Stirling Council | myjobscotland](#)

[Modern Apprentice - Joiner- Allan Water House/ Mobile Work - 101865 - 465977 | Stirling Council | myjobscotland](#)

Water Bottles

We would like to make you aware of a recent increase in the number of pupils requesting cups of water from Main Reception or asking for water bottles from the Pupil Support Hub during the school day.

To ensure that learning and teaching time is protected, our expectation is that pupils come to school prepared. This includes either purchasing water from the vending machines before the start of the school day, at interval, or at lunchtime. Our preferred approach is that pupils bring a reusable water bottle, which can be filled during appropriate times of the day and not during class time.

We have found that, in some cases, requests for water are being used as a reason to leave class, which disrupts learning and reduces valuable time in the classroom. We would appreciate your support in reinforcing this expectation with your child to help ensure that all pupils are fully engaged in their learning. Thank you for your continued support.

Learning & Teaching Update

At McLaren High School, our core business is learning and teaching, and we remain fully committed to ensuring the highest quality experiences for all of our young people. Throughout this session, staff have been engaging in professional reflection and evaluation of their classroom practice. This has involved looking carefully at what works well, identifying areas for development, and sharing approaches with colleagues to continually improve outcomes for learners.

A key focus for us this year has been **adaptive teaching**. In simple terms, adaptive teaching is about responding to the different needs of learners within the classroom. Rather than a 'one-size-fits-all' approach, teachers plan and deliver lessons that provide appropriate levels of support and challenge so that every pupil can make progress.

In practice, this can look like:

- Using a range of questioning techniques to check understanding and deepen thinking
- Providing different levels of support, such as scaffolds, prompts or visual aids, where needed
- Adjusting the pace of learning to ensure all pupils can keep up and are appropriately challenged
- Offering choice in tasks or outcomes to allow learners to demonstrate their understanding in different ways
- Giving targeted feedback that helps pupils understand their next steps in learning

Our staff have been working hard to develop and embed these approaches, ensuring that all learners feel supported, challenged, and successful in their learning. As part of this ongoing work, Mrs Heel will be leading a session during our upcoming INSET days. This will provide an opportunity for staff to showcase the approaches they have been developing and to learn from one another's practice. This collaborative work is a key strength of our school and helps us continue to improve together.

Duke of Edinburgh Fund Raising Update

Thank you so much for the immediate and generous support shown through donations to our DofE JustGiving page (see link below) and the bucket collection at Tuesday's Spring Concert. It is clear that the Duke of Edinburgh Award is a highly valued and important part of life at McLaren High School.

The DofE programme plays a vital role in developing our young people beyond the classroom. Through their participation, pupils build resilience, independence and confidence, while also developing teamwork, leadership and problem-solving skills. The experience of planning and completing expeditions, volunteering in the community, and committing to physical and personal challenges has a lasting impact on their character and future aspirations.

Fundraising is therefore essential in ensuring that all pupils have the opportunity to take part, regardless of financial circumstances. Your support helps us provide equipment, training and access to experiences that many of our young people would otherwise not be able to access.

We are steadily working towards our £1,000 target and would greatly appreciate any further support—whether through donations or by sharing our fundraising link with others. Thank you once again for your continued support. Help raise £1000 to support the Duke of Edinburgh scheme at McLaren High School – JustGiving Crowdfunding:

[Help raise £1000 to support Duke of Edinburgh at McLaren High School](#)

Pupil Shout Outs



On Sunday 15th March, Annika Latimer proudly represented McLaren High School at the Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships, held at Highfield at Howe Equestrian Centre in Fife.

Competing with her horse, Kali, Annika delivered an outstanding performance, achieving clear rounds in both the 90cm and 1m classes. This marks a particularly significant milestone, as it is their first clear round at the 1m level—an excellent accomplishment and a testament to Annika's dedication and skill.

It is wonderful to see McLaren pupils once again taking part in this prestigious event, and we look forward to building on this success with even greater participation from teams and individuals in future competitions.

My sincere thanks, as always, go to the parents and carers whose continued support enables our young people to access and succeed in these valuable opportunities.

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. Please use the google form if you want to keep the school updated with any achievements: [Celebrating Success - Google Form](#)

Quote for the Weekend

‘We do not need magic to transform our world. We carry all the power we need inside ourselves already.’

J.K. Rowling

Kind regards,

Marc Fleming
Head Teacher