



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

Head Teacher Friday Blog (32) – 8 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important Dates

11 May – Parent Council Meeting in person and online - meet.google.com/smr-osfe-ccw (1800-1930)

Callander Mental Health Matters – Promotional Video

Please see the link to the SLOSH challenge undertaken by pupils and staff in support of Callander Mental Health Matters. We hope you enjoy the film and help raise awareness of this important cause. <https://we.tl/t-h4OZUEliO5V84FS9>

Due to the improved weather forecast, the CMHM fundraising event in Ancaster Square will now take place on Sunday rather than Saturday. Throughout the week, we are also encouraging pupils to wear a green ribbon to show their support for this worthwhile initiative. Ribbons can be collected from Main Reception. My sincere thanks to all of the pupils and staff who took part and supported the event.

Our Approach to Bullying

At McLaren High School, we are committed to creating a culture where every young person feels safe, respected and valued. This commitment reflects our core values of *inclusivity and kindness*, which guide how we treat one another every day. Bullying has no place in our school community, and we work hard to ensure that all pupils feel supported, listened to and included.

Bullying is not tolerated at McLaren High School. It includes behaviour that causes someone to feel hurt, excluded, threatened or powerless — whether in person or online.

Our approach is rooted in fairness, compassion and restorative practice, helping pupils to understand the impact of their actions while ensuring the safety and dignity of everyone involved.

Key features of our approach include:

- Incidents are recorded in our tracking system (SEEMiS) and discussed regularly at Senior Leadership Team meetings.
- Both the parents/carers of the pupil raising the concern and the parents/carers of the pupil accused of bullying are contacted.
- Updates are provided to both families, including how the concern has been resolved and what steps are being taken to prevent recurrence.
- Restorative conversations are used, where appropriate, to repair relationships and rebuild trust.
- Repeated or serious incidents are escalated to the relevant Depute Head:
 - **S1–S2:** Mrs Heel
 - **S3–S4:** Mr Macmillan

○ **S5–S6: Mr Campbell**

Our aim is always to resolve concerns promptly, fairly and with compassion. By promoting kindness, empathy and inclusion, we want every young person at McLaren High School to feel a strong sense of belonging and confidence that their voice will be heard.

New Pilot Bus Services

Stirling Council has recently introduced two new pilot bus services — the C61 and C62 — aimed at providing vital transport links for communities across the western part of the Council area. These services have the potential to make a significant difference for young people, families and residents in our rural communities by improving access to education, employment, activities and local services.

C61 Service: Callander – Thornhill – Aberfoyle – Kinlochard

The section of the route between Kinlochard and Aberfoyle operates *on demand* and at the times shown in the timetable. Further information, including the timetable and route details, can be found here:

[Stirling Council – C61 Route and Timetable](#)

At present, uptake of the service has been relatively low. If we want to see services like this continue and develop in the future, it is important that communities make use of them where possible. Reliable rural transport is essential in helping our young people stay connected and ensuring that our communities remain accessible and sustainable. We would encourage families and local residents to consider using the service and supporting this valuable initiative.

Callander & District Guides

They are celebrating a very special milestone this year and are warmly inviting the community to join them for their **Centenary Family Ceilidh**.

The event will take place on **Saturday 9th May**, from **6.00–10.00pm** at **Torrie Barn, Callander**, and promises to be a fantastic evening for all ages. Alongside traditional ceilidh dancing, there will be a range of activities including s'mores, a BBQ, a raffle, and other fundraising opportunities. Please note this is a **bring your own bottle** event.

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate 100 years of guiding in the local area while supporting their ongoing work with young people.

Ticket prices:

- Adults: £5
- Children (10–16 years): £2
- Children under 10: Free

Tickets can be purchased here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1st-callander-guides-centenary-ceilidh-tickets-1984831593727?aff=oddtcreator>

For further information, please contact: callanderguides@icloud.com

I hope many of our families will be able to support this special community event.

Pupil Shout Outs

Alex Hart – S3



We are delighted to celebrate Alex's outstanding success in Austria, where she represented Scotland in table tennis with great determination and skill. Alex was the only member of the Scotland team to progress to Championship level, reaching the semi-finals before narrowly losing to the eventual tournament winner — a tremendous achievement at such a high standard of competition.

Alex now has another exciting opportunity ahead as she travels to Wembley to attend the ITTF World Team Event, where she will watch some of the world's top table tennis players compete. This promises to be an inspiring experience and a fantastic opportunity to learn from the very best in the sport. We are incredibly proud of her achievements and the commitment she continues to show both in her sport and in school.

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

'Extraordinary people survive under the most terrible circumstances and they become more extraordinary because of it.'

Robertson Davies

Kind regards,

Marc Fleming
Head Teacher