



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

Head Teacher Friday Blog (33) – 15 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important Dates

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

S5 Transition Day - Employer workshops

Following the success of our senior mock-interviews, McLaren High School is currently planning an upcoming **Skills Day** for our new S5 pupils on **Monday 1st June**, centred around the development of key **meta-skills** such as communication, collaboration, resilience, adaptability, creativity, and problem-solving.

As part of the event, we are looking to involve local employers like yourself, and industry partners who may be interested in delivering a workshop to groups of approximately 18–20 students throughout the day. We are keen that they hear about the world of work from actual employers like yourself instead of us.

We would be particularly interested in workshops that:

- provide insight into the skills used within your workplace or industry
- allow students to experience and practice these skills through an interactive activity or challenge
- help young people understand the importance of transferable skills in future employment

Each workshop session would run for approximately **50 minutes** and would be delivered to **six different groups** across the course of the day. We are happy to support with planning and logistics where required and there will be a member of teaching staff present to support.

This event aims to give students meaningful, real-world experiences and help them better understand the skills valued by employers and future pathways.

If this is something you or your organisation may be interested in supporting, or if you'd like to know more, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Mr Lynch or Miss Burrell on lynchj04s@glow.sch.uk or burrella04s@glow.sch.uk

Supporting Our Pupils Through Bereavement

At times, members of our school community may experience the loss of someone important to them. Bereavement can affect children and young people in many different ways and as a school, we want every pupil and family to know that support is available. Talking to a trusted adult or accessing specialist guidance can make a real difference during difficult times.

Below are some organisations and resources that pupils, parents, and carers may find helpful:

- [Child Bereavement UK](#) Support for children, young people, parents, and families coping with bereavement.
- [Hope Again \(for young people\)](#) A youth-focused website from Cruse with personal stories, advice, and coping strategies.
- [Young Minds](#) Mental health support and guidance for young people experiencing difficult emotions.

We encourage pupils to also speak to their Pupil Support Leader or other trusted adult in school if they are struggling. We also have counselling services available in school. Pupils can self-refer via the tile on Glow or can ask to make an appointment via their Pupil Support Leader.

Callander Kirk Junior Choir present The Little Mermaid

On Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 May Callander Kirk Junior Choir will perform the Little Mermaid at Callander Kirk. Saturday's performance takes place at 6pm and there are two performances on Sunday at 3pm and 6pm. Tickets are available from members and staff of Callander Kirk Junior Choir.

Pupil Shout Outs

It has been a busy and rewarding two days for our S3 pupils undertaking their Bronze Qualifying Expedition as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Covering an impressive 17km each day, our young people demonstrated resilience, teamwork and determination throughout the challenge, safely pitching their tents at Gartmore last night after a long day on the trail.

Experiences such as these are an important part of life at McLaren High School. The Duke of Edinburgh Award encourages our pupils to step outside of their comfort zones, develop independence, build confidence and strengthen their ability to work collaboratively with others. These are invaluable life skills which support young people not only in school, but also as they prepare for future study, training and employment. It is wonderful to see our pupils rise to the challenge and support one another so positively throughout the expedition.

My sincere thanks go to Mr Richardson, Mr Milligan, Dr Gorman and Miss Clarke for kindly volunteering their time and expertise to make the expedition possible. Without the commitment and enthusiasm of staff, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme would not continue to be the success that it is at McLaren High 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

'The secret of getting ahead is getting started.'

Mark Twain

Kind regards,

Marc Fleming
Head Teacher