

— The Winter Issue 2024 —

The Lornshill Quarterly



A LOOK INSIDE....

PE

Extracurricular
Clubs

Excursions

Creative Arts

Science

Wider School Life

Introduction

We are delighted to introduce this edition of the Lornshill Quarterly for session 2024/25.

Hopefully this provides an insight into some of the amazing work being undertaken by our staff and pupils this session.

We hope you enjoy.



PE Extra Curricular

Our wide ranging extra-curricular after school program continues to grow in numbers each week with many pupils using the opportunity to socially interact, develop their skills and improve their learning. Clubs run throughout the week and include Netball, Fitness, Badminton, Basketball and Rugby. Pupils can check details of sessions clearly displayed in the PE Faculty.

Football

After a successful first half of the season, our school football teams continue to go from strength to strength. This year sees representation from Boys at U13/U14/U16 and U18 with Girls represented at both U15 and U18. We're exceptionally proud of all our young people committing a great deal of their time developing their football performance each week through school football.





School Show

Our school Christmas concert was once again a notable event full of examples of dedication, hours of practice and talent. We were so pleased our Lornshill School of Dance pupils were able to wow the audience with two phenomenal dances. It was a special evening for our S1 dancers who performed for the first time as part of the Lornshill Dance Team. A thank you to both our senior dance leaders who helped choreograph the dances and have been exceptional help for our staff throughout academic and extra-curricular sessions.



Fit For Girls

Recently, our Fit For Girls leaders have been continuing with their leadership program working closely with Sports Development Clackmannanshire, teachers, and their peers to consider how to best increase the participation and meet the needs of girls in sport in our local area. The Fit For Girls trained staff have commented on the professionalism, creativity and commitment of all the pupils from Lornshill who are part of this program of work. We look forward to see what they produce in the near future.



Sports Leaders - Primary & ASN Event

Sports Leaders remains a core part of our curricular pathway in Lornshill Academy and offers young people a chance to gain a qualification whilst developing as a leader through sport. This has recently involved pupils leading sports sessions at some of our link primary schools which was incredibly successful.

Further to this, we were impressed with the diligence, organisation and delivery of the most recent inclusive sports event our leaders provided for young people with additional support needs.



Rugby Success

Congratulations to Lewis Roskilly for some recent rugby success on the big stage. Lewis, along with his Stirling County U18 squad, beat Curry Chieftan's to win the Scottish National Trophy. A special day for Lewis, being able to walk out at Murrayfield, the Scottish National Stadium.

International Athletes

Congratulations goes to Ruby Henderson, Kirstyn Orr and Max Mooney who have recently made the Taekwando Scotland National Squad for upcoming events next year. We are very proud of you. Further international recognition should be paid to Max Murphy and Leyton Williams who were recently called up to the Coerver coaching National Squad, representing the team abroad. If your child has been selected to compete nationally, please get in touch so we can share.

Social Faculty

The Devil's Porridge Museum visit September 2024

S3 historians visited the Devil's Porridge Museum in Gretna as part of their learning about the "Changing Role of Women" in the Era of the Great War topic.

The museum tells the story of HM Factory Gretna, the biggest munitions factory on earth in World War One, where the "Devil's Porridge" (cordite, an explosive) was mixed.



There were 30,000 workers: 12,000 of them were women. Their contribution to the war effort helped women to achieve the vote. The pupils were engaged in activities about the life in the trenches, changing role of women and the importance of the munition factory in the war effort. They were able to dress up in clothes from the era and spend time exploring the museum. There were a lot of posters and wall displays to capture the learners' interest. This was accompanied by photographs, artifacts, maps, and audio recordings of eyewitnesses to the events described throughout the museum. Pupils found the Devil's Porridge Museum very informative and fascinating.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum school visit October 2024

In October the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum education officer visited all S3 History pupils. She came with 4 boxes with some primary and secondary resources from WW1. Pupils had a chance to touch real history: helmets, a kilt, a jacket, a first aid kit, biscuits, chocolate, medals, gas mask, and cleaning products like a comb, shaving brush, and a razor. They had hands-on workshop to help them understand what was the life in the trenches like, and how Scottish soldiers coped in the trenches of the Great War.





Geography field trips

Higher pupils had the opportunity to take their knowledge of hydrosphere out into the real world as part of their data collection for Higher assignment. It involved a lot of walking up-hill and wading through the water which brought a lot of soggy feet . It was a great day for data collection as the weather stayed dry, meaning the pupils were able to see river processes at work.

The following week they headed to Dalmarnock and the city centre of Glasgow to see inner city regeneration in action. We met with the Clyde Gateway who offered the pupils lots of information about the changes that were brought to the area due to the commonwealth games. We also spent some time in the city centre looking at the quality of the area. Again, this allowed pupils to collect data on their case study areas which will help with both their assignments and final exam.

Both days were great and as usual the pupil's behaviour was excellent.



Future Chef

Well done to Joyce Dheedene from S3 for taking part in the Future Chef competition this year in Forth Valley College, Stirling. The competition was tough but Joyce cooked really well and got some great feedback and encouragement for next year from the judges and professional chefs. Graeme Strachan the Programme Manager from the Springboard charity organisers said he had eaten a lot of Chicken Kormas in his time and Joyce's was "one of the best I've ever tasted". Great work, and also well done to Aimee Lambert who made it through the School Heat but unfortunately couldn't make it on the day.

If anyone in S2 or S3 Home Economics would like to try out next year please speak to Miss Francis.



Period Warriors

The Period Warriors participated in and supported the facilitation of workshops on period education delivered to our S1 and S2 pupils in November. The aims of these sessions were to support our young people in their knowledge of products, particularly the use of sustainable products. The latter part of the day they invited senior boys to participate in a focus group to discuss the misconceptions and unconscious bias which many young men might have over menstrual health. All were a credit to the school as they demonstrated maturity and real engagement in the groups. The girls have also been out to provide donations of underwear and tights to our cluster primary schools after they reached out to local supermarkets to ask for donations of items for young people within the community.

Science faculty

Biology Week: 7th- 11th of October

To celebrate 'Biology Week' the Science department took part in a number of activities, including guess the weight of our resident skeleton, a biology spelling bee and our 'Biology Bake-Off'. The standard of bakes produced was beyond anything we could have hoped for. I think we have unlocked some secret talents in our senior pupils. It was such a hard decision but in the end we had to choose based both on the aesthetics and also the taste! Well done to our S4 winner Jasmine Gaizi, S5/6 second place winner Eilidh McBrier and first place Ava Wiseman.

A special thank you to everyone who got involved across the school! We hope to run something similar again next year following the success.



Crop Club

Last term we had great success in growing basil, chard and microgreens. Senior pupils are earning Saltire Awards through volunteering to run the group. The group Forth Environmental Link (FEL) Scotland who donated the hydroponic growth tower visited along with a professional photographer to take press photos for use in newspapers and the FEL website. We thoroughly enjoyed this experience and look forward to seeing the newspaper story soon!



Top of the Bench

Well done to our S2-S4 pupils who represented Lornshill at the annual Top of the Bench competition. Pupils took part in an evening of Chemistry problems at Forth Valley College. Unfortunately, we did not secure a win but the team work in the evening was exceptional!





Important News & Events

16 days of action

The 16 days of action campaign is an international initiative aimed at raising awareness, promoting education and calling for action to end violence against woman and girls. Our senior girls and boys have demonstrated great leadership traits in driving this campaign throughout recent weeks within our school community. We are very proud of them all taking responsibility in promoting such an important initiative.

Christmas concert

On Tuesday 10th December we hosted our annual Lornshill Christmas Concert. The evening began with a showcase of our impressive Advanced Higher artwork with the opportunity to buy a raffle ticket and a hot drink. The sold-out concert saw a huge variety of performances from S1 - S6, including choirs, wind groups, string groups, dancers and a number of soloists.

The audience were treated to some incredible performances which culminated in a rousing chorus of Last Christmas with all performers joining in. The night truly highlighted the wealth of talent we have at Lornshill and definitely got everyone in the festive spirit!



Creative Careers Week

As part of creative careers week 75 of our National, Higher and Advanced Higher pupils participated in an Expressive and Design masterclass delivered by artists Denise and Willie Nelson. Advanced Higher Art pupils benefitted from an Expressive Masterclass focussing on line, tone and colour using their early work to create expressive and experimental developments.



M&G Masterclass

In December 8 of our young people attended M&G Masterclass to learn about Cyber Security and creating websites. They all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and impressed the staff with their enthusiasm and questioning.



Graeme Armstrong Visit

In November we had the pleasure of welcoming Graeme Armstrong, author of The Young Team, to Lornshill to speak with our S3 year group as part of his Anti-Gang violence schools programme. It was a truly inspirational session with some powerful messages and stories shared and our young people were riveted throughout.





Careers and Pathways Event

In November we hosted a fantastic careers and pathways event that was co organised by Miss Gray and Mrs Taylor. The event was supported by a large number of education providers, local and national businesses and employers. It was fantastic to see so many of our young people and their families engage and interact in discussion with these partners. There was a genuine “buzz” around the school building and special thanks to the many staff and pupils who volunteered to support the event by providing hospitality and administrative assistance.



Reading Leadership Group

We're delighted to share that Lornshill Academy's Reading Leadership Group has received a £500 grant from the Scottish Book Trust to establish the Lornshill Family Lending Library in the school's reception area. This new community lending students, staff, and local families to explore books, borrow reading materials, and share the joy of stories.

The grant was awarded after the panel praised the group's strong case, noting the exceptional community support and a clear understanding of local needs. With this funding, the Reading Leaders aim to encourage reading for pleasure and promote a love of books across generations.

We can't wait to see the Lornshill Family Lending Library become a hub for inspiration, connection, and learning for everyone in our community!



Habits of Attention

This session we have placed great emphasis within our school community on the importance of Habits of attention. These are purposeful routines designed to help students cultivate a deep and sustained focus. These routines often involve strategies such as eye tracking, where students actively follow the speaker or focal point of the discussion, and the adoption of attentive body language, which conveys engagement and readiness. Such habits serve as foundational tools for developing the vital skill of active listening—a cornerstone of effective communication in life, learning, and work. Active listening goes beyond merely hearing; it involves processing, understanding, and responding thoughtfully to what is being said. In fostering this skill, students are encouraged to adopt specific behaviors that promote attentiveness. These include sitting upright to convey readiness, maintaining eye contact to signal focus, and tracking the speaker's movements or gestures for contextual cues.

Additionally, pupils are taught to prepare themselves to answer questions actively, reinforcing comprehension, and, when appropriate, to paraphrase or rephrase what has been said. This rephrasing not only ensures clarity but also demonstrates a genuine effort to understand and internalize the message being communicated. By embedding these habits into daily practice, students gradually build the capacity to remain engaged and responsive in a variety of settings, laying the groundwork for academic success and effective interpersonal interactions in the broader world.

The ability to sustain focus and concentration is the unacknowledged source of many students' success, and the inability to attend is the undoing of others.



DOUG LEMOV

'STAR' TECHNIQUE

BUILDING HABITS OF ATTENTION

WHAT IS THE 'STAR' TECHNIQUE?

BUILD BEHAVIOURS AND ROUTINES FOR LEARNING
The 'STAR' technique is an acronym created by Doug Lemov that is designed to teach students the behaviours and routines to develop a more inclusive learning environment. The procedure helps to establish core attentional habits focused primarily on the main signals people send when they attend to someone else such as eye-tracking, and pro-social body language.

WHY IS 'STAR' AN EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUE?

USE 'STAR' TO PROMOTE A SENSE OF BELONGING
Lemov stresses that the subtle cues that make up 'STAR' are designed to communicate 'support for, and the belonging of speakers'. 'STAR' helps to build a classroom culture of encouragement and inclusivity where everyone's voice matters. It develops good habits for learning such as paying attention, actively listening to peers and active participation.

HOW DO I EMBED 'STAR' INTO MY PRACTICE?

S SIT UP to look interested and stay engaged.

T TRACK THE SPEAKER to show their ideas matter.

A APPRECIATE classmates' ideas when they speak.

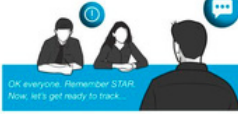
R REPHRASE others' words to acknowledge them.

BUILD STRONG HABITS OF ATTENTION
The 'STAR' technique only works if they become established as habits. This means encoding them into the DNA of your lessons so that they happen day-in-day-out.

REMINDE: Frequently remind students of the techniques to reinforce the language and expectations established for participation. Why is this an important point? Track Evie.

NARRATE: Narrate positive habits when they happen to make the norm visible: OK, Track Ava... [watches] Tom is tracking her. Abdul is tracking her...

PROJECT: Accompany reminders by projecting warm body language to communicate trust and confidence: [Quietly] Sam, make sure you're listening [smile].



OK, everyone. Remember STAR. Now, we're getting ready to track...

DESIGNED BY JAMIE CLARK | @XPTEducator

SIT UP
When students are slouching or leaning back in their chairs, their body language is not primed for learning. Good posture can help students stay alert and focused during class. It is essential to teach students how to sit in the optimal position for learning: straight, with their back against the seat, feet placed firmly on the ground and hands on the table.

TRACK THE SPEAKER
Following the movements and gestures of the speaker is a visual cue to be attentive. Tracking the speaker involves maintaining eye contact, observing body language, and paying attention to any visual aids or cues that are being used. By doing so, students visibly acknowledge the speaker, validate their ideas and show that they matter.

APPRECIATE
This component is focused on helping students to actively listen and appreciate their classmates' ideas and perspectives. Teach students that nodding is an effective non-verbal method to show agreement or understanding. Promote positive body language such as smiling and maintaining eye contact when a classmate is speaking.

REPHRASE
Get students into the habit of rephrasing the words of the previous person to show they were listening. This also helps students to acknowledge the person's response whilst offering their own opinions and ideas. Scaffold this with students in the beginning by using verbal prompts: I agree with Mark's main point when he said... I would like to add...

WHERE CAN I READ MORE?
Teach Like A Champion 3.0 by Doug Lemov

Planet Youth

In December, as part of our year group assembly programme, we shared with students information from the most recent Planet Youth survey. Planet Youth aims to support communities by working to tackle and reduce social issues affecting local communities and we are working with them as part of a joined up approach with Alloa and Alva Academies, as well as our local primary schools.

Some of the findings from this survey can be observed in the graphic to the side.

As a school, we will be focusing in on ensuring our school feels safe for all and promoting positive mental health. This is a direct response to some of the information gathered in the survey and we look forward to working with students to make progress in these areas.

