

13 February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Lornshill Academy. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- The headteacher's inspirational leadership which is helping senior and middle leaders, staff and young people to develop strong leadership skills. It is also supporting all people in the school community to be successful, aspire and belong.
- The newly revised vision, values and beliefs which are central to the school's work. They contribute well to the school ethos, which promotes diversity and seeks to ensure that all young people are included and encouraged to do their best.
- The positive start to improving young people's attainment in literacy.
- The supportive way in which young people are assisted to make informed decisions about their next steps in learning. A high number of young people leave school for a positive destination.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Clackmannanshire Council.

- Ensure that all self-evaluation evidence is of a good quality and used consistently by teachers to ensure they take account of learners' prior knowledge and progress when planning lessons. Self-evaluation evidence should be used more effectively to raise school attainment and achievement.
- Further improve experiences for young people at all stages by providing more opportunities for them to work collaboratively, lead their learning and increase their skills in working independently.
- Implement a wider range of accredited courses and programmes for young people who use the learning centre and learning hub. This will enhance their learning experiences and opportunities for attainment and achievement. The school should evaluate regularly the effectiveness of new approaches to improving personal support provision to ensure they lead to improved outcomes.
- Continue to review the range of learning pathways which young people can access. The school should ensure they lead to improved attainment and support young people into positive and sustained destinations, such as employment or further education.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Lornshill Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from How good is our school? (4th edition) , Appendix 3: The six-point scale .	

A more detailed document called summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://www.education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/clackmannanshire/5702631>.

What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Clackmannanshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Celia McArthur
HM Inspector