



SHOWCASE SERIES: CARMYLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ahead of Scotland Rocks, taking place from the 20th to the 23rd September, we spoke to one of our Scottish schools about their experience with TT Rock Stars so far.

Based in Glasgow, Carmyle Primary School have achieved celebrity status at TT Rock Stars after they were selected to appear on BT Sport's All Stars Vs Rock Stars TV programme back in April and May. If you didn't get the chance to watch, All Stars VS Rock Stars was a televised series of times tables head-to-heads between TT Rock Stars schools and a host of celebrities. The Rock Stars at Carmyle Primary School played against (and beat!) none other than Scottish rugby legend, Huw Jones!

Carmyle Primary School is one of 70 schools that have signed up for Scotland Rocks so far. This is a four-day long competition, exclusively for Scottish schools, to find the ultimate Scottish times tables legends! Here's what Alison Booth, had to say about TT Rock Stars at Carmyle Primary School.



SCOTLAND ROCKS

Alison Says:

The kids can't wait for Scotland Rocks. It definitely increases engagement. I get challenged all the time by individuals and they are constantly asking to battle other classes. I've even set up battles within the class which gets really competitive. It's great because it's a win, win for me.

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We Say:

We are running Scotland Rocks from the 20th September to the 23rd September which is free for any school in Scotland to enter. Our mission? To find the most dedicated TTRS school, classes and pupils in Scotland!

Every correct answer that a pupil gives (between the hours of 7:30 and 19:30), in any game type, will contribute to their class' and their school's overall score. At the end of the competition, the top 3 classes overall (based on average score) will receive an Amazon voucher and the glory of becoming Scotland's finest TT Rock Star classes. Certificates are also available for every single participant to download, with special certificates for the top 3 schools overall, top 3 pupils overall and the top 3 pupils and classes in each school. The competitive and fun nature of this tournament is a great way to motivate pupils to improve their times tables!



HOMework

“Most of them have downloaded the app on their phones.”

Alison Says:

I encourage the children to use TTRS mainly at home for homework. They are encouraged to complete a little each night. Most of them have downloaded the app on their phones. It is also a fast finisher activity in class, or used as an activity for one group while I work with another. So it is definitely used in some way most weeks.

We Say:

A huge plus to using digital platforms is that the children can easily access their accounts from home and pick up where they left off at school and vice-versa. Using TT Rock Stars to set homework is a hugely popular feature (amongst teachers), made easier if the school has the Sessions Bolt-On. The Sessions Bolt-On allows teachers to set specific games to be played within a set time frame, and then easily monitor who has done what, making this an ideal feature for setting homework. However, even without the Bolt-On the children can still have access to their account at home, so practice out of school hours is very easy!

LITTLE AND OFTEN

Alison Says:

Maths lessons take place daily for over an hour. TTRS would be used as part of the lesson, for children who complete work or as an activity in itself. We encourage small bursts of practise.

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We Say:

Here it is again...the ‘Little and Often Approach’. If you have read any previous blog posts you will know that we encourage teachers to promote healthy attitudes when implementing TT Rock Stars into the classroom routine. One of these is to ensure that children are practising their times tables often, but in short bursts.

MOTIVATING BY COMPETITION

Alison Says:

Since I introduced this to the school 3 or 4 years ago, it has had a huge impact. It was always quite difficult to motivate the boys to learn their tables but they love this. They love the competitive element, they can challenge each other, play alongside each other. They love it. It takes very little effort on my part to encourage them.

I would also say that the competitions really motivate some children to get involved and almost tricks them into working on their tables. But I also love that they can track their own progress through the different levels. They know what it takes to be a rock hero, how fast they have to be and are motivated to get there.

Definitely get involved in competitions and set up battles in your school, that is a huge motivator. Allow the children to challenge the staff, they love this.

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We Say:

Although not for every child, the competitive element of TT Rock Stars works wonders in altering children’s attitudes to learning their times tables. Children begin to approach times tables learning with excitement, rather than seeing it as a bore, and this can be attributed to the competitive and game-like nature of the platform.

On the flip side, we’ve been working hard to ensure that all learning types are catered for. For those who find the competitions daunting, we introduced Jamming Mode, which allows children to play without a timer and any competition.

For more insight on how to engage students, why not read our first [Open Mic Article](#), written by a TTRS using Maths Teacher on how to sustain engagement and motivate your pupils on TTRS.

TIME-SAVER!

Alison Says:

What I loved about it was how easy it was to use. You get the kids logged on and off they go. You don't need to check up on things, set tables etc. It really felt like an app for the kids, not the teachers. Bonus is, the kids are practising a skill in a fun and motivating way without any extra work for staff.

"What I loved about it was how easy it was to use."

We Say:

We know only too well just how precious time is to teachers, so we make sure that our platforms are as easy to use and intuitive as possible to save many teacher hours! As Alison indicates, once the children are set up, teachers don't have to worry about any preparation. Homework for an entire year can be set at the click of a button. Teachers can very easily monitor pupil progress with data that is designed to spotlight things that need action, meaning that even the busiest teacher can quickly get the information they need. Setting up children is now easier than ever thanks to our integration partner, Wonde. Wonde allows you to sync your school database directly with TTRS, meaning you can save time on: uploading spreadsheets, making class changes during the year, adding individuals as they arrive, delete pupil accounts who have left and setting up classes again for the new year.