

November newsletter

Welcome to our last newsletter before the Christmas break. November is a long and challenging month for both pupils and staff within schools. As the days get shorter and the weather turns much colder it results in higher rates of absence for pupils and staff. For us, as with all schools nowadays, getting supply staff to cover for teacher absence is becoming increasingly difficult so the pressure on our existing staff is greater. Notwithstanding these challenges it has, once again, been a very busy and productive month within the school and our young people remain committed and focused on their studies.

In this month's newsletter there is a sample of the wide range of activities and events going on across the school. As a school we are about to enter into the busy Christmas period in the run up to the start of the holidays on Friday 22 December. This will be a very busy time for all families but we hope you can find the time to read the November newsletter. Full details on all the Christmas events will appear in the December newsletter which will be issued in early-mid January.

Throughout November I had the pleasure of attending our annual 'Young Musician of the Year' competition and we had many outstanding contributions from our musicians and singers – further details can be read within the newsletter. I also visited our S1 pupils who spent three days at our 'residential' in Lockerbie Manor. I watched as our pupils engaged in abseiling, kayaking, raft building and a wide array of team-building activities. Our pupils and staff had a great time at the venue and more information is included within this newsletter. Some of our senior pupils devised and presented the annual Remembrance assemblies and this is always a poignant occasion, again further details within the newsletter. As I write this newsletter introduction I am looking forward to our Christmas Concert on Monday 11 December as well as all of our Christmas dances.

On behalf of all the staff within the school, teaching and non-teaching, may we wish you and your families a restful and pleasant break over the festive period.

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EDC Quality Review

In the last newsletter I outlined details of the EDC Quality Review team who visited the school and gave some provisional findings. The team have since drafted a report and met with the Senior Leadership Team within the school to discuss the report. After some fine tuning we have now received a copy of the final report which highlighted a huge number of strengths across the school as well as highlighting some points for consideration. We are very grateful to the EDC Review team for the time they spent with us and for highlighting a few areas where we can do even better.

In terms of parental survey results there were two areas where the responses from parents/carers was such that we will need to investigate these areas in more detail. We only received 242 parental responses in total so this is a relatively low response rate. Nonetheless we will look at these areas to see if we can facilitate improvements. There is an important caveat on the parental survey and this related to the parents/carers of S1 pupils, many of whom understandably had to complete a number of the survey responses with 'Don't know' as their experience of secondary school in many cases was less than three months. The two areas where some concerns were expressed related to – **communication** and **family learning**.

Communications

This did come as a surprise to us as previous feedback on school communications had been very positive. We had a full consultation with parents/carers pre-COVID that praised the school's communication strategy. Similarly, we had a 'Parental Strategy Group' that operated during COVID and after COVID restrictions had been lifted and feedback from this group reported very positively on the school's communications with parents/carers. We will engage with the Parent Council on the best way to take this area forward and this may be to replicate the work of the Parental Engagement Group again or invite those parents/carers who have concerns related to this area to come into school and work with us in parental focus groups. Further details will be issued in due course.

Family Learning

We recognise that there will have been an issue related to timing of the survey that will have impacted on some of the responses expressed by parents/carers in relation to family learning as a number of the things that we normally do in this regard hadn't taken place yet. Two weeks after the review team left the school we had our **"SQA Family Learning Event"** for the parents/carers of all S4-6 pupils within the school on 16 November where teaching staff held sessions with parents/carers to outline and explain how they could help and support their children leading up to the January assessments and the SQA exams in May. We introduced this event last year and parental attendance was very good and feedback on the evening hugely positive. Similarly, we held our **"S1 Family Open Evening"** just before the October break for parents/carers of S1 to see how their children learn within a secondary context – again, with very positive feedback from the parents/carers who attended. Most parental comments were very positive and I've included a sample of comments below

Some comments from parents/carers about the SQA Family Learning Event

- *Good handouts and tips about online resources. Excellent all round.*
- *Useful to hear about the elements of the course and the % breakdown of the marking scheme. The insight into the exam processes was an eye opener. This will help us as parents in trying to assist our kids.*
- *Great information on coursework/exams/study plans and processes.*
- *It was reassuring knowing how well teachers are preparing my son for his exams and how TEAMS is such a useful tool for all. It was all very reassuring.*
- *It was very reassuring to hear about how much support is available for exam preparation.*

In addition to the above, our Family Learning Committee have recently sent out a **"Family Learning booklet"** with suggested activities for S1 parents/carers to work with their child on various tasks within various

curricular areas. An S2 booklet should be coming out soon and we will also be providing important information for the parents/carers of S3-6 pupils on how they can help support their child's learning in the New Year.

I have raised the issue of family learning approaches with all principal teachers (curriculum) and whilst many have useful information related to family learning on the school website it may be that there are issues related to finding the appropriate information within the website. For example, on the school website you can follow the following:

- Go to Lenzie Academy website.
- Click on the **'Learning'** tab at the top for a drop down menu.
- Click on the **'Family Learning'** tab for 'general' information on our approaches to family learning. We may resurrect the 'Literacy' and 'Numeracy' workshops later in the session but we'll liaise with the Parent Council as attendance at these evening workshops was not good when we ran them in previous years.
- Click on the **'Departments'** tab for subject specific information. For example, if you click on **'Performing Arts'** and go down to **'useful resources'** tab and click on that it opens up and there is a wide variety of information related to Music and Drama e.g. copies of pupil booklets; revision guides; assessment type questions; homework guides at all levels within the department. If you click on any department and follow the same procedure you will find details related to course requirements; homework; assessments and useful websites.

We will look to enhance our website to ensure that there are more family learning activities incorporated within it to enable parents/carers to work alongside and help their child in all subject areas across the curriculum in all year groups.

School uniform

We have seen a noticeable deterioration in the standard of school uniform in recent weeks with a minority of our pupils. One of our values within the school relates to 'high expectations' and this relates not just to application to school work but also to our school uniform. A minority of our pupils are not adhering to our uniform policy and this manifests itself in a number of ways:

1. Wearing external jackets in the school building. We recognise that heavier jackets are required coming to and from school during the winter months but all jackets and hoodies must be removed within the school building so that we can see recognisable school uniform for all our pupils.
2. The wearing of crew neck jumpers instead of v neck or cardigans. This is often to disguise the fact that a young person is not wearing a school tie. If pupils have forgotten their tie they should speak to their guidance teacher and we can provide one for the day. If it's lost we can provide a tie until a new one can be purchased. If parents/carers would struggle financially to replace a tie please liaise with your child's guidance teacher or Miss Provan, PT PEF and we can provide assistance.
3. In recent weeks a number of boys in S3 and S4 have been wearing joggers instead of plain black trousers. This is unacceptable and if a pupil does not have a pair of plain black trousers please contact the school and we can provide assistance.
4. A number of female pupils wearing leggings on their own. Again, not acceptable school uniform. We are content for pupils to wear black tights OR leggings below their skirt should pupils wish to do so.

We would request that parents/carers support the school and our uniform policy by ensuring your child is suitably attired when attending school.

Aerosol Spray

In previous newsletters I have explained that aerosol spray is not allowed in school. We have had a number of fire alarms being set off either deliberately or by accident through the use of such sprays. This has happened again this term and is very disruptive to the work of 1355 pupils and over 130 staff. Please ensure your child does not leave for school with aerosol spray in their bag. Roll on deodorant is fine.

Art & Design

The annual Expressive Art and Photography exhibition is now live online! Please access the link, to view the excellent work achieved by Senior Phase pupils as part of their SQA folio assessments.

[Click here for virtual art and photography exhibition](#)



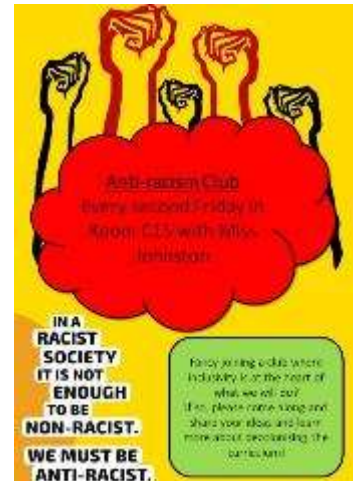
Congratulations to Niamh M in 2FL2, for being selected as a prize winner in the recent Thomas Muir Art competition. The theme focussed on challenges that children and young people faced during the Victorian period as inspiration for artwork. Niamh's work is on display at the Thomas Muir Coffee Shop in Bishopbriggs over the winter.

Congratulations to Jennifer G in 6IG1, who won the British Mycological Society photography competition. This was run to celebrate UK fungus day and the winning image will be used to promote the society across the UK.



Anti-Racism Club

If taking part in inclusive and educational discussions on race and ethnicity sounds like something you would enjoy, then please come and join us at the Anti-Racism club. The club takes place every second Friday in room C15 with Miss Johnston. There is plenty of opportunity to showcase your leadership skills too, by hosting sessions. Everyone is welcome to attend, so come along and check it out!"



Business Management Visit to Cameron House Hotel

On Tuesday 4th October, the S4 N5 Business Management classes visited Cameron House, a luxurious 5 star hotel located in Balloch, Loch Lomond, for a chance to learn more about the hotel and their Marketing Mix (Product, Price, Place, Promotion).

This visit allowed pupils to consider what they have learned in the Marketing unit, and further develop this by looking at a real-life case study. Emma Mullen, Marketing Manager at Cameron House taught them about what exactly they sell, where they are located, the prices their goods and services go for, and how they market themselves to a variety of customers, national and internationally.



Pupils prepared for this visit by preparing questions to ask and researching the company. This visit allowed pupils to draw direct links between their classroom learning and the wider business world around them. Pupils also had a chance to tour around the exclusive rooms Cameron House offers, along with other areas like their restaurant, wedding venues and Loch Lomond where Cameron House provides a variety of services like jet-skiing, paddle-boarding and kayaking.



Pupils also were able to partake in a number of team-building activities, and also engage in other enjoyable experiences like archery. Pupils were able to taste the delicious baked goods their kitchen staff had prepared, which had positive feedback overall. The Business Management Department kindly thank Cameron House and their staff for taking the time to teach and tour the pupils around, and our S4 pupils for representing the school so impressively.

Anam S4

Future Assets

In September, S3 girls got to participate in 'Future Assets' where they try to encourage girls to understand investment, values, skills and benefits of jobs. For us, they gave us a challenge on trying to find a company that would make a good investment and we chose Greggs.



This first started on September 15th where we first got introduced to this project. We were very interested and amused by how much of a challenge this would be and how good this would be for our future. There's 5 of us on the team, Tracy, Aashna, Maria, Elona and Rosie. First, we chose the company we were going to be pitching, which in our case was Greggs. We were then told that we will have to make a PowerPoint, answering questions like "why would this company be a good investment?" We got introduced to our Investment mentor, Kathleen Dewandeleer. She was a great at helping us understand on what we are supposed to do and gave us ideas on how we could improve our PowerPoint slides. We broke all the questions down into one question a week which gave us time to research as you can see the SWOT analysis we completed. Every week we would go up at lunch time to have a meeting online discussing the PowerPoint slides. Everything was then gathered at the end to be summarized and put into a 3-minute elevator pitch video, which some of us stayed after school to record. The deadline for everything was December 1st which was very nerve wracking because that would be the date where our S3 exams but we all managed in the end. We are all thankful for this business opportunity and we are glad we were able to join. This competition gave us the opportunity to learn about investment and put our knowledge of business into practise. It is now time to wait to see if we reach the final out of all the schools taking part! Wish us luck.

A screenshot of a PowerPoint presentation titled 'Q3 SWOT ANALYSIS'. The slide features the 'Future Assets' logo at the top left. The main content is a SWOT analysis for Greggs, organized into four quadrants around a central graphic. The central graphic consists of four overlapping circles labeled S (Strength), W (Weakness), O (Opportunity), and T (Threats).

Strength	Weakness
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Diverse product range – even though Greggs is mostly known for its pastries, they also sell different products such as sandwiches, salads and drinks.Pricing – Greggs offers goods for a fair/affordable price which can attract customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited global presence – Greggs only operates in the UK while some of its rivals are already worldwide which limits its potential.Perceived as less healthy – Greggs has always been associated with pastries and baked goods which aren't always the healthiest. While they have introduced new healthier products, overcoming this stereotype can be challenging.
Opportunity	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">In 2022, Greggs launched their first fashion line with Primark, this will be an additional boost of profit and people will acknowledge them more.International expansion – with Greggs already being popular in the UK, it could expand into other countries which would result in more sales and popularity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lots of competition – the UK has a range of big and small businesses offering similar products, like Subway, where customers can have their sandwiches custom made while in Greggs customers don't have as much freedom with their choices.Rising prices from suppliers – as a food retailer, Greggs is to increasing commodity prices like wheat and dairy. If the rises are significant, it can affect the profitability of the business.

Geography-rivers assignment



Recently my classmates and I who are studying higher geography went to the Nineteenth Times Burn located in Clachan of Campsie. We went on this trip to gather data for our higher S.Q.A assignment, every pupil studying higher geography and who picked the rivers topic went on the trip at different intervals during the day. Once we were fully suited in wellie boots and waterproofs, we jumped on the bus and Mr Cameron and Miss Ellis drove us up to near the river. We then walked up to the riverbank with our equipment consisting of clinometers, measuring sticks and tapes, wading poles, and a couples of tangerines. My group was in the middle course of the river which was an excellent spot to carry out numerous

tests to gather the data needed for our assignment. The first brutal test was acclimating to the freezing cold water soaking our feet as we waded through the river. I must admit I did question if I was going to get hypothermia at points, but you could say this was good character building.

We began my measuring the river width by twisting wading poles into either side of the riverbank and using our measuring tapes to measure this distance. This went smoothly for the most part, although measuring river depth was another story. One of my peers dropped one of the measuring sticks into the river and it began to rapidly flow downstream, of course I was the one to retrieve it and had to courageously meander down the river and grab it. Once I had saved the day, we resumed taking our measurements. We had to measure the shape and size of the bedload (rocks) which we did by closing our eyes and randomly grabbing rocks from the riverbed. The rocks were home to a couple of creepy crawlies which some of my peers welcomed more than others. Once we finished up the last of our measurements, such as measuring the speed of the river using tangerines and stopwatches we returned to the bus with our clinometers, measuring sticks and tapes, wading poles and a slightly depleted number of tangerines, along with wellies full to the brim with river water, but also a plethora of information for our assignment and a fun, hands on experience.

By Cara, S5



Lenzie Academy Scores Special Guest for Book Week Scotland!

Undoubtedly the school's most popular author, Matt Oldfield talked about his book series Ultimate Football Heroes, with over 70 books! Explaining how boring facts could be turned into an exciting story that celebrates the success of football legends.



Matt captured the attention of all by sharing his formula for writing; *passion + knowledge = success*. Just as footballers face obstacles in their careers, so to does Matt, who must work with tight deadlines and carry out lengthy research to write his books and achieve his own goals. A revolution in the world of football books, Matt transformed plain and unimaginative books into exciting, eye-catching works that has everyone reading them. (Francesca)

Matt Oldfield presenting the winners of the Ultimate Football Heroes competition with signed copies of his books.

Congratulations boys.

Advanced Higher Chemistry Pupils Visit -Glasgow Caledonian University



The Advanced Higher Chemistry pupils were provided with an amazing experience by Glasgow Caledonian University. The pupils attended the University for an afternoon to learn about various analytical chemistry techniques and their relation to forensic science. These techniques will also benefit them greatly in their studies.

Kaitlin Ramsay, Lecturer at the University, put together a schedule that allowed the pupils to gain great practical experience using the high-tech equipment to explore techniques such as HPLC, TLC and FT-IR.

As well as all the pupils, Mr McDowell, Mr McGinley & Dr Tippen all

thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The staff at the University gave great feedback about the pupils' enthusiasm and ability to carry out experimental work.

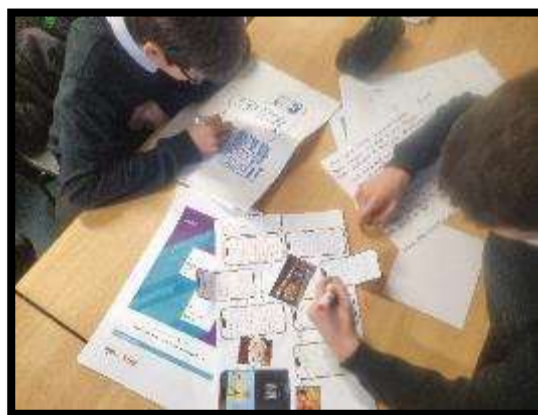
We hope to continue the partnership with the University in the future to allow more of Lenzie Academy's pupils to gain such a great experience. We would like to thank the staff at the University who put together a fantastic afternoon for our pupils, Thank you!



Digital Day 2023

The Design Technology & Computing Department challenged our S4 Engineers with the design brief set by BIMA and their business sponsors (VUE Cinemas) for Digital Day 2023. In previous years this competition has been entered with our Digital business friends at DOG Digital but this year we were flying solo!

The S4 engineers met the challenge with great enthusiasm and thanks to the fantastic resources offered by BIMA, learned a great deal about the Digital sector and some of the career pathways on offer. The groups had very innovative and diverse ideas in line with current sector trends. Every group really pushed themselves to provide solutions to the design challenge. Importantly, our pupils had the opportunity to hone their creative thinking and team working skills.



A word from the organisers...

BIMA Digital Day is a day that brings digital to life. And if previous years are anything to go by, it's a day that changes lives. Not so long ago, 95% of BIMA members told us a lack of skills was holding back their growth. The Centre for Economics and Business Research agreed, saying the shortage of tech and digital talent is costing the UK £21.8bn.

The digital sector has been growing at twice the rate of the broader economy. But unless we fix the skills shortage, that can't continue. Digital Day works for schools. It works for students. It works for the sector as a whole in encouraging more young people to discover the potential of a digital career. And with every passing year, it matters more than ever.

Lockerbie Manor!

After a long yet enjoyable bus ride, the S1's arrived at Lockerbie Manor on Monday 6 November 2023. The scenery was breathtaking as it is in the countryside. You immediately feel relaxed away from the city. We got to enjoy 2 nights and 3 days of activities which allowed us to bond as house groups and develop our skills.

There were so many activities, including abseiling, climbing, kayaking, canoeing and raft building. One of the most popular was the blind trail where the participant had trusted their team mates to lead them through a trail while they were blind folded. This was fun and really required you to have trust in the person. I hit my head a few times from the trees, but it was still one of my favorite activities. Students were also allowed to explore the area for orienteering, it was beautiful and had amazing views! During these activities, we developed a variety of skills such as communication, teamwork, leadership and resilience. Skills we can then use when we go back to school.



The other wonderful thing about the manor is that you can find what you feel is best suited to your interests. I was very keen on climbing. It is now an activity I want to do more often. The instructors were excellent and really paid attention to the safety of the students and were also very funny, which made the more tiring activities manageable. Time flies when you are having fun!

Lockerbie manor had excellent accommodation, dorms were well allocated, and you had your own bathroom which was also clean. Sharing rooms provided a fantastic opportunity to get to know friends better, the dorms were lovely and thankfully did not have many insects.

Finally, I would like to mention the food, usually children will miss homemade food, but I am happy to say the food was of excellent taste and I heard lots of compliments about the food! The only drawback is the midges, but it went hand and hand with exploring! Overall, everything was amazing!!

T. Primrose







Pupil Success

Young Musician of the Year

Our *Young Musician winners* were: 



- Evans Chou in S6 on violin 
- Eilidh Reid in S6 with voice 

- Fraser Cay in S3 on saxophone 
- Rory Gilmour in S1 on piano (runner up) 



Swimming Success

Well done to the 16 pupils from Lenzie Academy who took part in the Scottish Schools Swimming Time trials last month. The swimmers were up against the clock to try and qualify for the Finals in January.

A special congratulations and good luck to Jordy (S2) who has made it through to the final for the boys 13-14 100m breaststroke.



Remembrance Day



Friday 10th November 2023 saw Lenzie Academy mark Remembrance Day for 2023. House assemblies took place in the morning and were led by S6 Ethics Ambassadors – Jason M, Ines O and Hannah C, Mr Paterson and the Captaincy teams. Ethics Ambassadors did an excellent job in sharing a message on the importance of Remembrance Day. Pupils made it clear that this was not to glorify war or killing but to acknowledge the sacrifice made by previous generations so that we can enjoy the rights and freedoms that we do today. The School captains, Arran and Dilraj, laid the wreath before we observed a minute's silence.

Pupils from the Music department played some fantastic music while pupils arrived and left the assembly hall – huge credit to Francesca J and Evans C in S6 for their outstanding violin and flute playing and Mrs Edwards and Miss Donaldson for the piano! All pupils were very reflective and respectful throughout the assemblies, upholding the school values of Respect and Compassion.

In the afternoon, three of the Ethics Ambassadors not involved in the assembly – Olivia N, Ellis I and Linda T, accompanied Ms Byres to the Woodlee War Memorial to lay a poppy wreath on behalf of the school and partake in a two minute silence. This has become an annual tradition at Lenzie Academy and is an excellent way for pupils to feel part of the wider community.



PTA

WHAT AN AMAZING NIGHT! AND WHAT A FANTASTIC TURNOUT! We had so many people coming along to our Quiz Night, we had to bring in more tables! Thank you to everyone for coming to Lenzie Academy PTA's Quiz Night. We hope you all had a great night.



Thanks again to our Sponsors

Open Hearing Solutions – www.openhearing.scot

MZN Consultancy – <https://www.mznconsultancy.co.uk/>

And thanks to all the businesses who donated amazing prizes

Pacitti Jones • Rameken & Rolling Pin • Taste Indian Cuisine • Scentsations Beauty Therapy • Moss Flowers • Caledonia Gladiators Basketball Club • Tina Fraser Fitness • Dullatur Golf Club • Lenzie Fairtrade Group • Lenzie Local Premier • Bodyshop • Locavore • Hazel's Wax Melts

The Physics department would like to thank the Lenzie Academy PTA, for supplying funds to the Physics department. We will use the money to enhance the experience of the senior pupils in Advanced Higher Physics.

Find out more about the PTA using the contact details below:

PTA Contact Details

Website - <https://www.lenzieacademypta.org.uk/>

Facebook - Lenzie Academy PTA

Email - lenzieacademypta@gmail.com

X (formerly Twitter) - @PTA_LenzieAcad

PEF – Equity

Pupil Equity Funding Background

Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) is additional funding from the Scottish Government allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the attainment gap. This funding aims to ensure that all young people have equal access to educational opportunities. Funding can be used at the discretion of the school to provide targeted support for young people within the Broad General Education (S1-S3) who are living in SIMD areas 1-4.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a tool the Scottish Government use to identify the geographical areas in Scotland where people are most likely to experience disadvantage across different aspects of their lives including income, employment, health, education, access to services, crime and housing. It is important to note that SIMD ranking is based on geographical postcode and thus identifies deprived areas, not people.

Lenzie Academy has used some of this additional funding to purchase uniform items, stationery/organisational materials and hygiene products. There is a QR code outside of the upper and lower offices in the school. Pupils can scan this code and it will take them to a Microsoft Form that they can complete if they require any of these materials. Alternatively, pupils can request this support directly from their Guidance Teacher. Materials will then be issued discreetly to pupils where appropriate. Whilst these materials are primarily there for S1-S3 pupils living in SIMD areas 1-4, we appreciate the current economic climate is challenging for many families. Your child should speak to their Guidance Teacher in the first instance if any additional supports are required and we will try to accommodate this where possible. Parents can also make contact with the Guidance teacher to discuss potential supports.

Applications for Free School Meals & School Clothing Grants

Applications for Free School Meals & School Clothing Grants for academic year 2023-24 are now open. You can submit an application at any time throughout the academic year if your circumstances change. East Dunbartonshire Council has been allocated additional monies from the Scottish Government which means they have been able to double the School Clothing Grant to £300 per eligible secondary school child. This increase is aimed at helping families cope with the current cost of living increase and will be applicable only for the current academic year. Those in receipt of Free School Meals will also receive additional financial support during five holiday periods over the coming academic year – October mid-term 2023, Christmas 2023, February mid-term 2024, Easter 2024 and Summer 2024.

Please note that you must submit a new application for Free School Meals and/or School Clothing Grants each year. The application form can be found on the East Dunbartonshire Council website or by clicking the following link: <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/grants/school-clothing-grant>

Please see our school website or the following link to access a support guide which talks you through the application form: <http://www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/media/18116/fsm-and-clothing-grant-support-website-2023-24.pdf>

Blazer Swap Shop

We continue to run our 'Blazer Swap Shop'. We accept donations of blazers that no longer fit at any time throughout the academic year. These blazers can be handed in to the school office at any time.

Recycled blazers can be ordered at any time via the online form, accessed [here](#). You will receive a confirmation email to advise if we have your requested blazer size available, or to offer an alternative size.

Pupils can then collect their recycled blazers at the end of the school day each Thursday from the lower office. If donating a blazer, this can be handed in to the office at the same time.

Request for application support

If you'd like more information on PEF or SIMD, please see the relevant section of the school website - <http://www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/school-info/pupil-equity/> or contact Miss Provan – lprovan@lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk