

SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE

APRIL 2010 NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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Don't miss the following inside...

- Fundraising for our Chilean twin schools;
- Sign up to Parent-Mail;
- Textile recycling

Integrated Education Week

The theme for this year was Kites, and this suited us perfectly. It has been a tradition over the last three years, that the students who come to the barbecue for new year 8s, each make themselves a kite. So, when our artist in residence Martin McParland brought the kite making workshop to one lucky year 10 class, they knew what they were doing and could see real progress in their kite



making, and reflect on their three years at Shimna. Integrated Education Week is an essential landmark in the year, which draws together all the integrated schools and colleges and celebrates our ethos.

We've Done It

We have received the fantastic news that Shimna Integrated College has been successfully redesignated as Northern Ireland's first Specialist School with a specialism in languages and the International dimension. Redesignation comes as a result of rigorous inspection by the Department of Education of our success in languages and the international dimension, our success across the whole curriculum and our successful work with our partner schools and our community partners. Redeisgnation is a tribute to the work of our wonderful students and staff and the unstinting support of parents and our Board of Governors.

Languages Exchange Visits

French Exchange Visit

This month saw the return of our French exchange partners from the Lycee Amiral Ronarc'h in Brest. The French students, after horrible flight delays, settled in and set about their work in Shimna, in All Children's and in the Slieve Donard Hotel. They were a fantastic bunch and threw themselves into every activity our students had planned. The two groups set up a special blog covering the Brest and Newcastle legs of the trip, which you can read on the French Blog on our website. The improvement in our students' French was obvious, as was the quality of the relationships formed. This is a very successful partnership which we hope our students will benefit from for years to come. Huge thanks go to Florence at the Brest end and Janet and Vanessa at our end for setting up and seeing through the project.



Spanish Exchange Visit

While our French exchange partners were here, our students of Spanish were off in Madrid. Seven students and Miguel Navarrete led the pioneering GCSE Spanish Language Exchange Programme. Our students studied in a mainstream, post-primary school, Cagrade Corazon PP Capuchinos Usera. The students studied Spanish language and also spent a week living with a Spanish family. They attended regular lessons, had a taste of Spanish culture and cuisine. They improved all aspects of their Spanish so much that some of them have already bought a return ticket to spend more time with their Spanish family and friends during the summer. This is the first time this unique opportunity has been offered to students and due to the success of the trip, we hope it will be repeated next year. Shimna Integrated College would like to thank Capuchinos Usera, especially the Principal Mari Angeles Fernandez Santillana and all the Spanish students who made us feel so welcome.



Careers Events

Year 10 students took part in presentations and activities promoting careers in languages. Students heard from our 6th form students who are already studying languages. In particular, we were very glad to welcome back Aisling Kearney, OldScholar, to tell them all how her career is working out. Our wonderful OldScholars are one of our very best resources. Keep up with their news through the OldScholars blog on our website. So that parents could also see the message, a display on careers with languages was set up at the year 10 consultation evening.



Year 9 on the other hand hosted a workshop and careers presentation from W5 on careers in science. The students got to watch demonstrations, and vote Eamonn Burns onto the Segway! They then got to work in groups on a science and technology activity and go for prizes.

6th Form students headed up to the King's Hall to the UCAS Fair, attended by all the universities and colleges in the British Isles. Everyone came home with bags of prospectuses, new ideas and inspiration.

Seven of our **6th Form** students also attended an Oxford and Cambridge University Open Day, and will travel over to visit the colleges in the summer term.

Year 12 students attended a careers fair in the Slieve Donard Hotel.



Textile Recycling Day

Get ready for textile recycling day on 15th and 16th April. Bring in unwanted clothes, bedding, belts, hats, shoes in pairs. Items from Lost and Found will be recycled too, so collect your stuff asap!

ArtyFacts Macbeth

Students of year 8 and year 10 welcomed the ArtyFacts Theatre Company and their performance of 'Macbeth', which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

I'm a Scientist, Get me out of Here!

Science students from Shimna Integrated College have been selected to take part in I'm a Scientist, Get me out of Here! This is a science dialogue event where students talk to real scientists online for two weeks from 15th to 26th March 2010. The teenagers then decide which scientist gets £500 in the form of an X Factor style competition. The scientist will then use the prize money to communicate their work.

For two weeks students read about the scientists' work, ask them questions, and engage in live text chats with them. The students vote for the scientist they want to get the money. The scientists with the fewest votes are evicted until only one is left to be crowned the winner. The event is supported by resources which develop students' skills and deepen their scientific understanding.

There are 100 classes in 70 schools across the UK and Shimna is the only school in Northern Ireland taking part. There are also 25 scientists taking part from PhD students to Professors,

from academia, research institutes, hospitals, and industry. Shimna will be working with the following scientists: Emily Cook, Barts Hospital; Martin Coath, Centre for Robotic and Neural Studies; Natalie Stanford, University of Manchester; Chris Cooper, University of Essex and Tamsin Gray, British Antarctic Survey.

'I'm a Scientist' brings people together, gives young people a voice and teaches them about science and scientists in a fun, memorable and engaging way. It's a fantastic science enrichment event for teaching How Science Works in schools, but more than that, it truly engages young people with real live science. Every single scientist and teacher who has taken part in the event says they would recommend it to a colleague. The website is <http://imascientist.org.uk> and you can look around and read what is being said but you can only talk on the site if you are one of the students, teachers or scientists who are taking part. From the main log in page, just pick a zone and browse around!



Our Amnesty group led two assemblies for us to raise awareness of their current campaign. They then staffed a staff at the dining hall for everyone who wanted to sign up to the campaign and to send a postcard to show their support. The current campaign supports the local community of the Niger Delta who have been so badly served by the Shell oil extraction there. During the assembly, graphic images of the damage done to the community and the environment baldly contradicted the cheery voice over in which Shell tried to persuade us that it was a responsible company working in partnership with the people of the Niger Delta.



Scottish Gaelic in Tune

Year 8 and 9 students of Irish hosted a great workshop of Scottish Gaelic language and culture, and were fascinated to experience how close the Irish of Ulster is to the Scottish Gaelic. The event gave a real sense of living Gaelic languages across the regions.

History Trips

Year 10 students headed off to Bangor to the Somme Heritage Centre to see for themselves some of the artefacts and documents that tell the story of the battle in which so many people from all parts of Ireland lost their lives.

Then comes the big one, our GCSE students head to Berlin for a very special joint history and German trip.

Netball Success

Our minor team won 14:0 in our tournament with St Mary's, a terrific score which bodes well for the future of this hard practising squad. The intermediate team lost narrowly 9:7 and in the year 10 competition, with our team mostly in year 9, lost 18:9. The minor team is the one that trains two afternoons a week and deserved their great victory.

It's the Taking Part

Our sports report this month is of heroism, but without the scoreline we would have liked to have. In the Schools' Cup, our squad went down in the semi-finals to Dromore, who have after all lifted the cup for the last ten years. In soccer, our year 8s were unlucky to go down 2:0 at the end of a closely fought match against Nendrum College.

Shimna's Outstanding Science Awards

Shimna Integrated College students of A level biology have carried off outstanding awards in the British Biology Olympiad. Orla O'Connor won a Bronze Medal and Laura Scott won High Commendation. The students will attend the award ceremony at Imperial College London in June.



The Olympiad is a prestigious international competition to find the most talented young biologists.

Over 1800 students entered this year's stimulating and challenging British Olympiad from schools across the country and very high scores were recorded.

The British Biology Olympiad aims to stimulate and challenge thousands of aspiring young scientists in Year 13 and Year 14 with an interest in Biology to expand and extend their talents. Competing in the Olympiad will encourage the students already interested in this valuable, wide-ranging and rewarding subject to continue their study beyond A-level.

Entrants take part in three rounds of the competition comprising both theory and practical examinations, which began in January 2010. From these a team of four students have been selected to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad which will take place in South Korea between the 11th and 18th July 2010.



Earth Hour

Shimna Integrated College is raising awareness of the WWF's global Earth Hour campaign this month by 'carrying' the torch in the Earth Hour relay which is virtually travelling over 100 miles from Dublin to Belfast.

The relay, which was launched in Dublin on 09 March 2010 by the city's Mayor, is taking place in the lead up to Earth Hour - the world's largest mass participation event - where people all around the world are encouraged to switch off their lights for one hour on 27 March to show

they care about climate change. Last year over a billion people world wide joined the campaign.

The students in Shimna showed their support by keeping a special WWF wind up torch lit for an hour before passing it along to the next school on its journey north towards Belfast, where the Lord Mayor there will join children from one of the final schools, to welcome the virtual relay to the city.

Matthew Hanna who headed the participation at the school said, "Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing people and nature, and we wanted to take part in the torch relay to raise awareness of this to our pupils and to the local community. We are delighted to take part and generate some awareness locally for what is a global issue."

Prize Giving for Irish High Achievers

We are very proud indeed at the presentation of GCSE certificates to our students who achieved the very highest grades while still only in Year 9. Blathnaid Ní hÍr, Keeley Hastings, Rachel Robinson, Dearhail Brogan and Autumn Jennings are now hard at work towards their Key Stage 3 Gaeilge and plan to begin their A level course in September. The A* grades achieved are a tribute to the students' hard work and enthusiasm and teaching and support from head of Irish Robbie Keenan.



ParentMail

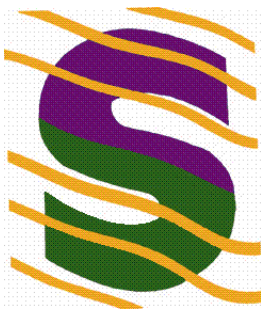
Please sign up on our website! By joining ParentMail, you can opt to receive your copy of our newsletter electronically and save a few trees. ParentMail also offers you to put your name onto the list of parents willing to volunteer to help out with some of the many activities of our Parents' Council: teas for consultation evenings; help at school functions; fundraising; being consulted on policy reviews; helping organize the year 8 barbecue; helping run the uniform SwapShop; helping run the Valentine's disco with the 6th Form Council; anything else you can offer...

Chilean Appeal

Our Chilean twin schools have been devastated by the earthquake. On the last day of term, 29th March, we will be collecting money to send to help. Please give generously. When we asked our students about fundraising, one of our year 12 students said, "No fundraising gimmicks this time, These are our twin schools. Just give." Please bring what you can on the day and/or make a donation on the Support Shimna button on our website. Any money donated through the website during March and April will be added to our Chilean donation. Donating through the website comes with GiftAid, which adds 25% to your donation if you are a tax payer. If you click on the news story about Chile on our website, you can click through to footage of just how serious things are. Thank you in advance for your support.

Cambodian Cycle

Year 12 student Aritz Sterne and his father Paul plan to take part in a gruelling fundraising cycle through Cambodia in aid of the International Childcare Trust. Click on their fundraising link to read more about it and offer your support. www.justgiving.com/paul-sterne



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The Month Ahead

We are collecting

- 22.03.10 Our 6th form Enterprise students graduate at La Mon Hotel.
Key Programme students begin their final residential.
- 23.03.10 GCSE students of history and German head to Berlin.
- 24.03.10 Consultation evening for parents/guardians of year 8.
GCSE French master class, room 244.
- 25.03.10 GCSE drama examination, the real thing.
Year 13 A level physics trip to Queens University.
- 29.03.10 Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award expeditions begins.
Leg waxing exhibition in support of Youth for Christ.
Last day of term, with a special collection for our stricken twin schools in Chile. Please give generously.
- 30.03.10 Staff training day
A level geography fieldwork.
- 12.04.10 First day back.
- 14.04.10 Year 14 A level politics students go to Queens.
- 15.04.10 Visitors arrive from our twin school in Sweden.
Our golf team play their first fixture.
Collection day for our Textile Recycling, see website for details.
- 19.04.10 Year 8 attend a road safety drama.
- 22.04.10 Year 8 history trip to Inch Abbey.
- 29.04.10 UK Mathematics Challenge, junior section for year 8s.
- 3.05.10 May Day holiday.

Check out our website regularly for news, examination timetables, calendar dates, all our blogs.