



SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE

JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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A Delicious Multilingual Christmas



Language classes have been pigging out on fantastic Christmas food. Have a look at the French and German blogs for the full menu: buche de noel, tarte aux pommes and that's just for starters.



Latin In the Spotlight

Three cohorts of Latin scholars took the next stage of the Cambridge Latin course. Latin is fascinating in its own right, and also explains the origins of English and so many of the other languages studied and spoken in the college.

Links with Soria

Rory Friel travelled back to our partner school in Soria, where he gave rugby coaching sessions - all in Spanish! His own Spanish language coach was Ekaitz Sterne, of year 10, who taught him all he needed to know to communicate with his teams in Spain. He came back with lots of exciting plans for an exchange programme with our English department.

Thanks

Even more thanks go to all the parents/ guardians who have made their annual contribution either through the website or to the money office. Your support is deeply appreciated, and all the money will go directly towards enhancing education for our students.



Thanks to Newcastle

Shimna always receives generous support from the Newcastle business community, and we make every effort to support local businesses. If every Shimna family made a commitment to buy at least one Christmas gift in one of Newcastle's shops, it would make a real difference. We are lucky to have a vibrant and varied range of shops in our own town, and it benefits all of us when they thrive.

Support us

Don't forget the **Support Shimna button** on the new website will take you to **GiveNow** where you can make your contribution and to **Buy.At** where you can browse our shopping mall, where every retailer makes a contribution to Shimna for every purchase made through the website. Think of Copenhagen and pay a special visit to eco-friendly retailers at the mall, Natural Collection and Ethical Superstore.

Christmas is for Giving

First there was our Amnesty International group's bun sale, always popular and raising funds for mailing campaigns in support of prisoners of conscience everywhere.

Then there was year 11, who selected an Oxfam gift they would like to raise money for. This year they have raised £47 to give a gift of 'Care for a vulnerable child', chosen from the Oxfam unwrapped catalogue

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/shop/oxfam-unwrapped>



Enterprising Ahead

There has been so much Enterprise activity this month! First of all Quirky Creations, the enterprise company run by a management committee of our 6th form, have designed their product and welcomed contributions to the design from every class in the college. The hilarious tea towel will be on sale in January - watch out for the posters!

The Q.C management team joined A level business students at an excellent Enterprise Day at La Mon House Hotel, working with other enterprises and learning from their experience.

A level Travel and Tourism students headed out to visit local environmentally friendly enterprise, Tory Bush Cottages, founded by Shimna founder parent David Maginn. This particular enterprise shows how a successful business has been built from a thoroughly local heritage.

The 6th form formal committee have got a few of their own enterprising ideas underway to raise money for their do. So far they have held a guess the number of sweets in the jar, and will hold a penalty shootout competition on the last day of term.

Then the GCSE students got their turn, heading to the "Bring IT On" ICT careers event in Armagh.

The most successful InnoTaytors from the first round of competition in June will be meeting again on Thursday 17th to work on their products. If you need a reminder of the shortlisted flavours:

Popcorn Flavour

Alexander Crory, Joshua
Bartley & Aimee Forde

Luck of the Irish

Ruben Mills, Cade
Douthwaite & Aaron Latus

Ribs in Peking Sauce

Emma, Addis, Lauren Sloan,
Hannah Croman & Kirsten Diamond

Twist, turn, taste it on you tongue Ellie May Jennings, Faidhnait
Brady & Jessica Lauren Taylor

Spicy Chicken Kebab

Dieter Cunningham, Ryan
Johnston & Ryan Maguire

Ham & Cheese

Matthew O'Sullivan, Ryan
McVeigh & Shannon Kennedy

Russian Club Celebrations



Here is a picture of (most of) the Russianists celebrating their completion of their first term. They've been phenomenally diligent, hardly any absences all term, 3.30 to 4.30 or 5 on dark winter nights, and amazingly sponge-like learners.

Russian Club Русский кружок



15-17 students of Russian had a Christmas party on the last Wednesday of term. They have completed a brilliant term, coming to after-school classes every week all term, and simply soaking up new learning. The teacher, Chris Skillen, has had fantastic help from honorary assistants, Gemma Crane and Shannon White (year 11) who studied Russian last year. Peer education seems to be catching, with this term's beginners already sharing their learning with others. Simply the best!

Shimna Integrated College

ДИПЛОМ

Important Opportunity to Have Your Say

The Department of Education has published a very important document, "Every School a Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion". A public consultation has been going on about the proposals made in the document and has been extended until 31st January. The document proposes some very wide ranging changes, and it is really important that every parent has their say.

The consultation document, Equality Impact Assessment and consultation response booklet can be viewed at www.deni.gov.uk, under the 'Consultations' section. Word and PDF versions are available to download, in both English and Irish. Hard copies of all of the consultation documents can be obtained by contacting the Special Education and Inclusion Review Team on 028 9127 9762.

Church Visits

Our year 8 students are steaming ahead in their encounters with each other's religious traditions. After bringing a rousing African chant to our annual harvest service in Newcastle Presbyterian Church, the programme of visits has kept moving forward. 32 students turned out on a beautiful November Sunday morning to lay our wreath at the war memorial. Afterwards they helped to lead a service at the Methodist Church, followed by sausage rolls and ice-cream at the Strand.

The last week of term saw year 8 classes visiting Mary of the Assumption Church, and again

all the students were impeccably behaved. Our groups included students who belong to the tradition we visited, as well as students from other backgrounds. No matter which church we visit, it is always a pleasure to hear the students asking sensible questions, and others coming up with explanations. All of us, staff and students alike are enriched by our visits together.

Finally, we all went to St. John's Church of Ireland to sing carols. St. John's adjoins our college grounds and we have held our carol service there for many years. A big thank you to the rector, Canon Ian Ellis for welcoming us, and also to the clergy of the Presbyterian,

Methodist and Catholic Churches who have all made our students welcome this term.



Mary Murray House

Millions of thanks to everyone who responded to the campaign to vote for Mary Murray House to win a share of the People's Millions to fund a sensory garden in their grounds. Shimna students and staff appeared in the UTV programme to promote the project, and will be thoroughly involved in planting when work on the garden gets underway. We have been delighted at our blossoming relationship with our neighbours. We have already been able to help fix a broken music centre, and 8M are going carol singing for the residents on the second last day of term.

Garden Tools Please!



Some of the year elevens are working towards their volunteer section of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, by helping the Eco-warriors of the school. However they are in need of some garden equipment to help conclude the section, such as shovels, spades etc. So if you have any old tools or have tools you no longer need they would happily be put to work by the team.



Gingerbread houses

Our ICT class have made ginger bread houses. This is part of our project management; we sold tickets to teachers and students in order to raise money for Children's Kidney Fund NI. We then raffled the houses off.

World Aids Day

So many students bought red ribbons to raise awareness of the HIV / AIDS epidemic that our supplies ran out! The rate of new infections across the world has fallen for the first time in many years, but in the UK, someone is diagnosed with the infection every seven minutes. It was good to be reminded about the dangers.



Year 8 Geography Leaflet Winner

Luke Angell 8D. He was the overall Year 8 winner of our competition to design a tourist leaflet promoting our local area.



Year 13 Travel and Tourism students from Shimna Integrated College on a recent visit to Tory Bush Cottages. The students are studying sustainable tourism and eco tourism as part of their advanced level studies.

Tory Bush Cottages provide a good local example of both. The cottages have been

constructed using a range of environmentally friendly and sustainable materials, such as, insulation in the walls provided by sheep wool. The cottages also have solar panels and make full use of captured rainwater. A very informative talk and tour was provided by Mr David Maginn.

Drama Drama!



14th December was a special night for all those A level drama students you will have seen rehearsing in all sorts of unlikely places round the school. On 14th the three groups each presented their drama for their audience of friends and family and also for the chief examiner...

Nanowrimo

Every student in 10B has written a novel in November. The whole first draft had to be done in a month, as the class joined the American educational charity The Office of Letters and Light in its annual online project – National Write a Novel in November Month, or NANOWRIMO for short. Each person who signs up gets tips and daily emails of encouragement from real professional writers. The class champions for word count are Ben Lovell at 6727 words and Rebekah Boardman at 6085 words.

Great Cross Country



Cailin Cunningham is the Northern Ireland, year 8 Integrated Schools Cross Country Champion. Her year 8 team came overall second. Katie Paryag ran a very good race coming in seventh; Anna Monteith was 13th; Dara Herron 14th; Katie Ireland 21st; Heather Kelly 22nd; Sara Lynn 26th; Amy McCullough 34th; Rebecca McKeaveny 43rd.

In the Junior Section, our team won the overall trophy with a great performance from the following team members: Shannon McKibben 2nd; Clarissa Murphy 4th; Rebecca Horrox 7th; Gerogia Reid 9th; Emma Addis 12th; Lauren Sloan 13th; Ellie-May Jennings 15th; Meghan Crawford 14th and Sarah Dorman 25th.

We also won the Intermediate Girls Trophy, with Hannah Stevens 2nd; Rebecca Stevens 3rd; Alana O'Hare 4th and Shauna Cartwright 8th.



Results for Shimna

Joanne Mills has clearly inspired our girls, through she did not compete herself this year as she has to gear her running for international competition this year

The Minor Boys team won their trophy and Nathan Allen won the Junior section with a very convincing performance. More boys results soon.





Shimna Integrated College
Specialist School
The Lawnfield
King Street
Newcastle
BT330HD

Phone: 02843726107
Fax: 02843726109
E-mail: info@shimna.newcastle.ni.sch.uk



What's Ahead in the New Year

4.01.10 Staff training day

A level geography coursework at Murlough sand dunes.

6.01.10 Year 10 Latin day.

12.01.10 Department of Education inspection. We are very proud indeed of all our students, and trust that everyone will look good in perfect uniform, speak up well for themselves and do themselves proud.

13.01.10 A level French Masterclass, 3.30-4.30.

14.01.10 Year 12 GCSE science examinations, the real thing!

15.01.10 8Donard take part in Science Expressions, our link programme with our local primary schools.

18.01.10 Year 12 GCSE science modules, the real thing!

19.01.10 Action Cancer speakers come in to talk to year 12 groups.

20.01.10 Year 12 GCSE science modules, the real thing!

A level French Masterclass. 3.30-4.30.

22.01.10 Our fundraising non-uniform day this term is in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

25.01.10 Ian McMillan and Matthew Martin, ex-Shimna now Queens University Belfast, head off to the Netherlands to launch our new international link, which lots of our students will benefit from.

27.01.10 A Level French Masterclass, 3.30-4.30

28.10.01 Our year 8 students, and primary partner schools head to W5 to take part in Science Expressions.

30.01.10 The most important day of the year, our Open Day. All of our students will have contributed, and many will be taking part on the day.

1.02.10 Holiday

Planning Ahead

02.02.10 Consultation evening for parents/guardians of year 9 students, 5.30-7.30. Down Schools Cross-Country Championships.

03.02.10 Key Stage 3 mock examinations begin for year 10 students.

A full colour version of this newsletter is available on our website, where you can also read our blogs.