



SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE

NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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Consultation Evening for Parents / Guardians
 yr 13 and 14
 11.11.09
 and for yr 12 on
 03.11.09

Our Brainy Students

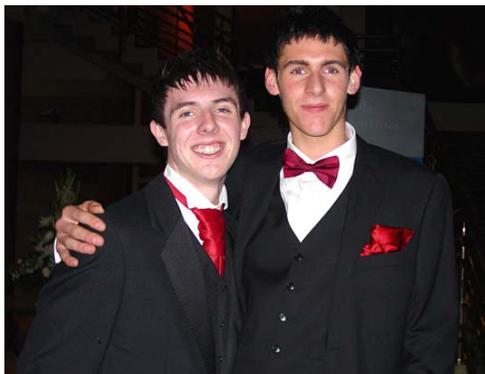


Callum Henderson has come third in the entire Northern Ireland A level entry in Moving Image Arts. This is a terrific achievement, in our very first year of offering the subject. Callum is now studying Film and TV Production at Westminster University, having clocked up A grades in his Moving Image Arts, Media Studies, Business Studies and Art.

Ryan Cairns, Samantha Parke and Stephen Polland have been chosen to take part in Mathematics Master classes at Queens University in Belfast. Fantastic news, and really well done!

Our Cabaret is coming... Our Gorgeous Students

Callie was definitely the most gorgeous of course, but everyone looked fantastic at their glamorous formal in the Hilton Hotel in Belfast. It is always wonderful to welcome back students who have moved on, and to catch up with their gossip and news.



An Evening of Wishes and Dreams with Shimna.

Date: 06/11/09
 Time: 19.00

The cabaret will start at 7pm
 (students involved must be at school at 6.30, Friday 6th Nov)

Tickets are £4 for adults
 £2 for children and concessions

Tickets will be available from the office from the 1st November.

Tribute to Mick



On Wednesday 30th September, staff at Shimna Integrated College gathered to celebrate the career of Mick Jordan, facilities manager at the college, who retired in July. Mick was presented with a mirror bearing the Jordan crest and the Mayo crest. Mick had been facilities manager since Shimna moved into the Lawnfield site and is fondly remembered by fifteen generations of students. Staff were not to know that Mick would have just a few days to enjoy his gift. Those fifteen generations of students were

strongly represented at Mick's funeral just one week later on Wednesday 7th October. Every class this week has been full of stories of Mick's great good humour, his tricks, his generosity and his relationship with our students. Mick had brains to burn and was wonderfully well read. He had a lateral thought to bring to bear on every situation, and a day won't go by without somebody, somewhere in Shimna quoting him with a smile.

Eco Quiz Launch

You're going to notice the new EcoBox in the front hall. It's the box that takes the entries for the EcoQuiz with the Fair-trade chocolate prizes. The quiz is based on the new BBC nature documentary "Life", which airs on BBC One on Monday nights at 10:30pm. That might be a bit late, so you can always watch it on BBC

player. The first three correct answers drawn each win a Fair-trade Chocolate bar, and any unclaimed bars I get to eat, so I hope you all get a few questions wrong!

How to enter: go to the school website, click on the EcoBlog and you will find the questions for the week. Write your answers with your name and form class and post

them in the EcoBox. Winners will be announced and presented each Friday. NB At the minute you can't access our Blogs in school, but you can get onto them easily at home. Any problem, collect a copy of the questions from the college office.

Ceili Time for Irish Classes

Our year 10 Irish and Gaeilge classes headed off for the craic and dancing of the Gael Linn quiz and ceili in Newry.

A Really International October

We had two sets of visitors this month. First came Sagrado Corazón P.P. Capuchinos from Madrid Spain. The visitors were led by Miguel's teacher from his own school days in Madrid. The visitors stayed with the families of our students. They took part in classes, went walking around our beautiful area and headed up to see the Giant's Causeway. The students were friendly and certainly took the initiative in seeking out opportunities to practice their English. Thanks to the families of our students who did the hosting. We know our students will be equally well looked after when they head to Spain.



Then came our Dutch visitors from Vader Rijn in Utrecht, all from new Dutch communities with roots in Turkey, Somalia and Morocco. The Dutch students spent a day with us in school and then a large group of our students took up the invitation to head out to the Kinderhaus for dinner. The Dutch students hope to learn from peace processes and integration in Northern Ireland, and we certainly have a huge amount to learn about racial integration.

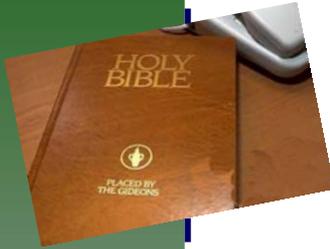


Council of the European Union

CarolAnne Magennis, Daniel Mallon and Aisling Murray flew the flag for Poland, the country they represented at the Mock Council of the European Union at Stormont. Shimna has a great record in this annual event, having represented Germany and Leichtenstein and two years ago having had the opportunity to chair the event.

Year 12 GCSE students of history followed them up to Stormont the following week for their guided tour of our seat of government.

Gideons Visit Goes International



The Gideons Society came on their annual visit to our year 8 students, to talk about the Bible and to present a copy of the New Testament to all those students who wanted to have one. The Integrated and Religious Studies department is inspired now to have an International Testament day, when we present Testaments to our students with other languages. In this year's first year we have represented: French; Spanish; Icelandic; German; Chinese; Irish. One student is getting a Hebrew/English Tanakh.

Sweeties
Marshmallows are much like people.
Small and chewy in posh coffee shops,
massive avant-garde pink flumps,
loopy ones stuck together
like floozies on an overcrowded train,
manly truck-driving lumps singing opera,
balgy bellies, obscene white and pink.
Marshmallows with plastic surgery faces.

Amnesty International.

Our Amnesty group Workplace Week, which we planned a week of awareness raising marked with posters and a to draw attention to injustice and false imprisonment world wide. Amnesty's "Protect the Human" week coincided with Anti-Racist



Our Creative Students

A performance poet, Craig Bradley, came to give a presentation and a poetry workshop sponsored by the SEELB library service. Only 9D and 9M were invited as places were limited, but anyone who wants to get in touch with the poet can reach him through his website at www.thatpoetrybloke.com. The event was a huge success. Craig Bradley turned out to be an affable enthusiastic Yorkshireman. He got both students and staff singing the poems the groups wrote with him and everyone came out of the workshops smiling.

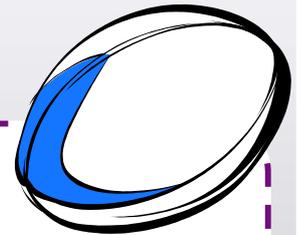
A level students of drama took in a bit of vicarious creativity at the Barrow Square production of Macbeth.

Pretty Good Showing in the Pollock Cup

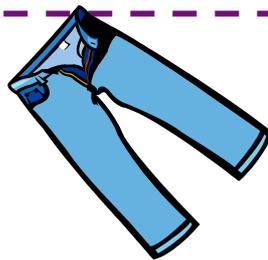
Our rugby squad stormed through to the semi-finals of the Pollock Cup only to be felled in the last few minutes by the eventual winners, Dromore. On the way up we beat Ashfield and Cookstown both 15:0. The semi-

final was a very close game with Shimna just edging the first half in terms of possession with the score at 0:0 at half time. A defensive error let in Dromore for a simple try late in the game. Dromore also managed a pushover try right

on the final whistle to win by two tries. This was however, a fine performance from Shimna. Dromore went on to defeat Ballymoney in the final.



Short Snippets



Jeans for Genes Day

Our fundraising day took on a special meaning as we celebrate Ronan's successful bone marrow transplant, and look forward to a successful transplant for Kyle. The whole school contributed, and Kyle's nurse made sure we understood what is at stake with a presentation in assembly.

Intensive Orienteering

Year 11 and 12 students of GCSE PE learnt their stuff and completed their assessment over three intensive days in Tollymore.

Our Stephen, International Climate Champion!

Since August, the British Council and Action Renewables have been searching for the first International Climate Champions from Northern Ireland and today they unveiled the five successful champions, and our Stephen is one of them. They share a passionate interest in climate change and have innovative ideas for projects that could make a lasting impact on their community and Northern Ireland. Stephen has done wonderful work with Shimna's Eco Group already, and this project will allow him to make an even greater Ecolmpact. Pictured are Robert, Stephen and James.



Parents' Council News

Shimna was founded by parents, and every parent/guardian is a member of the Parents' Council. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month and everyone is welcome. Not everyone can get to meetings, and your help in other ways is much appreciated. Please have a look at the dates we need volunteers and sign up if you can. The signing sheet should be addressed to the Parents' Council and returned to the college office. **Next Meeting Wed 11/11/09 7.30 PM**

Piece written by our Journalism students
Aaron Rogan and Charlene McKibben

European Day of languages!

Shimna celebrated its fourth year of European Day of Languages on Friday 25th September, an eventful day for years 8, 9 and 10. The students participated in the International Soccer tournament, quiz and badge, poster and project competitions. The worthy winners of the soccer were France. All teams played with great enthusiasm. The quiz champions were Lithuania, who only won by

a few points, but their knowledge of Europe proved wider than other teams. Lithuania were overjoyed with their win. Everyone tried their very best in their year's competitions, the winners were Rowan 8D, Niamh 9M and Autumn 10C. An assembly took place for these year groups where prizes for the competitions were awarded.

The canteen staff served International food to give the

day a more European feel, including spaghetti-bolognese, Irish stew and croissants. The dishes were all impressive and very delicious. Thank you to the staff for their hard work.

Shimna is a part of the British Council 'Connecting Classrooms' scheme with five schools in Chile. Events of the day were recorded and the recording is being sent to the Chileans. The tape will show them how a Specialist Language school celebrates languages overseas.



Senorita Anne!



International food



How to Have a Nag Free Life

Remember that the person who nags you is the one you didn't listen to the first time!

I hope that this sheet will be useful to you as a reminder of things all students know, but which can be forgotten as the year goes on:

Coats

Can the last few people please sort out your uniform for winter. The ONLY coat to be worn with our uniform is the Shimna coat. This is the uniform for all year groups, including sixth form. We live in a place which is often wet and windy. Don't put staff in the horrible position of having to nag you about your coat when the weather is bad. Plan ahead. Get your coat and be prepared, whatever the weather.

Vests (don't laugh!)

If you feel the cold, buy a white vest. Please do not ever come to school with a coloured T shirt showing at the neck of your shirt or below short sleeves.

Shoes

Please make sure that you have BLACK school shoes which fit and are comfortable, even if you have sprained your ankle.

All students are asked to wear their uniform well, their shirt tucked in and their tie up.

Remember that our stockists are Bingham's and Annetts in Newcastle, JJ Donnelly's in Downpatrick and Rhoda Stewart in Ballynahinch. Remember also that Shimna hoodies and tracksuits can now be bought from our stockists and no longer need to be ordered through school.

Debts

A few people own some money for borrowed dinner money or bought ties!

An Important Message from the Maths Department

ALL students from **year 9 up** should have a scientific calculator with them each day for Maths. They are holding back their learning if they do not get to practice the new keys. A solar powered one is best (no risk of battery failure in an exam, and very eco friendly!).

An Important Message for our Neighbours

Don't ever, ever, ever climb over the fence to retrieve a football. We have made a solemn promise to our neighbours and it is up to everyone to make sure we keep it.



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The Month Ahead

- 2.11.09** First day back
- 3.11.09** **Consultation evening for parents/guardians of year 12 students.**
- 4.11.09** A level travel and tourism students head to Castlewellan Forest as part of their coursework assignment.
The nurse comes to see girls in years 9, 11 and 12.
- 5.11.09** Our year 12, 13 and 14 students sit the UK Senior Mathematics Challenge.
Year 9 take part in Young Enterprise Employability and Personal Development day.
- 6.11.09** Our wonderful Cabaret Evening, showcasing the work of our A level and GCSE music students, and raising funds for our musical for the spring term. Be there!
- 11.11.09** Our Remembrance Day assembly.
Consultation Evening for parents/guardians of year 13 and 14.
Parents' Council AGM 7.30pm
- 13.11.09** Very Important Visitors - be the best of your very best.
- 19.11.09** **GCSE science modules for all students in year 11. The real thing.**
- 20.11.09** Athletics trip to our partner school in Soria, Spain.
- 21.11.09** Astronomy group meets at Spelga for the International Moon Watch.
- 27.11.09** **P7 Day - many of our year 8 students will be helping out on the day.**
Work shadowing day for all of year 12.
Study day for all other students.
- 30.11.09** Students of A level politics visit Stormont.

Planning Ahead

- 2.12.09** Mock examinations begin for all GCSE students.
- 7.12.09** Assessment week begins for all students in years 8-11.
LET programme students leave for their residential.
- 17.12.09** Presentation Evening, when our wonderful students receive their A level and GCSE certificates.
- 18.12.09** Form parties, carol service. Term ends at 12.00

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