



# SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR LANGUAGES

## JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

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# Teacher of the Year

Excitement mounts as our nominees reach the finals at the Waterfront Hall. We are tremendously proud of head of chemistry Alan McDonnell and classroom assistant Joan McAllister, and no matter what the outcome at the ceremony, we all know they are both winners. Reaching the finals represents a tremendous achievement in itself, as teams of judges visit the schools across Northern Ireland where nominations have been made. They have examined the evidence and interviewed staff, students, governors and parents in each of the schools.

## Exams, Exams, Exams

Our GCSE and A level students are already sitting their all important exams. On 7th June, years 8-11 begin their assessment week. Every student now has an examination timetable, and you can find copies of timetables and anti-stress advice all at our Examinations Office

on our website. Year 11 students also have real GCSEs in science, maths and geography. Check out the Month Ahead section of this letter, or on the website. It is important to realise that these exams are THE REAL THING. The last day of assessment week, 11th June, is Sports Day,

with the real competition for our athletes and form soccer and netball competitions. Also on the day our Students' Council has organised fun and fundraising activities for us all, in aid of local charity PapaDown and the International Childcare Trust.

**Sign up to  
Parentmail via  
our website!  
Check out our  
blogs!**

## Fantastically Green News

Shimna Eco Warriors have won second place in the Tesco Green School of the Year competition. This is a fantastic achievement, as 430 entries were received. The judges checked out that we really do all we say we are going to do by reading our EcoBlog on the college website. Why don't you have a look too? We have a whole series of blogs, which will keep you up to date with all sorts of our activities. Good news for parents is that our prize is 2000 Tesco vouchers. We always really appreciate all the vouchers Shimna families collect, and adding 2000 to the total will really help ensure that we can invest in stuff that will be really useful to our students. We intend to donate our prize to the ICT equipment appeal.



## Music and Dancing

Age Concern Newcastle held a recent event in St John's Hall, and Niomi O'Rourke and Brendan O'Neill accepted an invitation to provide the lunchtime musical interlude. Katie Paryag and Elle Breteche then amazed their audience with their dance routines. The girls presented pieces they had devised themselves and performed in full costume. Gordon Grahame, organiser of the event and good friend of Shimna, particularly wanted student input to provide a bit of intergenerational chat, and our students and Age Concern members all greatly enjoyed the event. A lovely thankyou card arrived from Gordon.

# A Green Update

Remember all your votes to help Mary Murray House build a sensory garden for all the residents to enjoy? Work is about to start on the project, and we are really looking forward to seeing the garden develop, and seeing what our green fingered students can do to help.

Emma Wallace of the Ulster Wildlife Trust came in to work with science classes. The Ulster Wildlife Trust has been a great support to us, particularly planning the work on our grounds.



**THE ECO FACTOR**

**CALLING ALL YEAR NINES**

Do you want to be crowned this year's person / group that has the eco factor?

Simply prepare a presentation to be given in front of a panel of judges on the theme

**HOW WOULD YOU MAKE SHIMNA MORE SUSTAINABLE? PRIZES:**

- 1st—£50
- 2nd—£30
- 3rd—£20

## Mourne Grange Open Day

Kevin was very pleased to be invited to the Mourne Grange Open Day. We are very proud of our connection with the Mourne Grange community, and it was fascinating to visit and learn more about the way of life. We are also very pleased to receive the DVD featuring the work and philosophy of the community. Long may those links continue.

## New Business Links



We have been delighted with our new links with BE Aerospace. We have already benefited in kind, and we will shortly be meeting with Business in the Community to create an action plan so that our links will benefit both Shimna and the company. Watch this space.

## Track and Field Championships

We had an excellent showing in the Down Schools Athletics Championships. Have a look at the SportsBlog for all the results and the names of all our many athletes who qualified for the Ulsters. The icing on the cake was our success in the Year 9 Athletics competition, in which our girls came first and our boys squad third.

## Girls Triumphant



Our wonderful year 8 netball team, which trains so regularly and hard, has brought home the East Down Year 8 Plate, having beaten St Colmcille's in the final. This is a great result for a very hardworking squad with a great future.

## Cricket and Gaelic Football

While the boys have been working with their cricket coach and preparing for their first match at Down High, the girls have been honing their gaelic football skills ready for their first match against St Mary's in Downpatrick.

## Athletics Through the Evening

We are thrilled that every Monday and Wednesday, athletics training now happens at Shimna, organised through coach Jim Patterson. On Mondays the numbers are huge, with many athletics club members who already love to run. On Wednesdays, the numbers are smaller and there is a special opportunity for beginners as well as more experienced junior athletes. Both evening sessions begin at 7.30pm and are open to everyone between the ages of 9 and 13. Just come along.

# Great Big History Month

We are delighted to announce the results of our annual local history competition. We are very grateful to our sponsors, First Trust Bank, the Northern Bank, Essence , H.F. Law and our very own Parents Council. The range of histories was fascinating as ever, and congratulations are due to the prize winners and to everyone else who submitted an entry. Our sponsors came to our assembly to present the prizes and certificates.



## Castles Visit

This is also the season for history trips, and year 8 headed off to visit the castles of Co Down, including sword fighting demonstrations at Dundrum. Year 9 in their turn headed farther afield to the Boyne valley, and explored all sorts of sites they recognised from their historical studies through the year.



## Balmoral Show

Not to be outdone, year 8 geography classes also had a trip to Balmoral Show and had a great time, linking in of course with their study of farming. Here is a picture they took of an amazing robot they saw at the show.



# Local History Competition winners

		Name	Local History Study
<b>WINNERS</b>			
Overall winner	H. F Law Plaque	Stephen George 10M	Tollymore Forest Park
Year 8 winner	First Trust Cup	Ellie Breteche 8D	The French Resistance
Year 9 winner	Northern Bank Cup	Cashel Poland 9M	Silent Valley
Year 10 winner	Essence Cup	Jamie Brannigan 10D	History of Annesley Hall
<b>RUNNERS UP</b>			
Year 8		Louise Rooney 8C	Chocolate and Hans Sloane
Year 9		Erin Shields 9M	Frank McAlinden
Year 10		Darragh Roulston 10M	Queen
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
8		Sarah Green 8B	The Home Guard
		Callum Taylor 8B	WWII Plane crash
		Aaron McCord 8M	James Canning
		Adam Smyth 8D	Belfast and County Down Railway
		Kyle Magee 8M	Annalong Cornmill
		Kirsten Diamond 9D	RAF Bishopscourt
		Lauren Taylor 9C	Kingdom Halls
		Stephen Power 10C	St. John's Point Lighthouse
<b>Commended</b>			
14		Kerri Coffey 8D	Phantom ship
		Aoife O'Toole 8M	James Trainor
		Fiona Nellis 8M	Family History
		Fiadhait Brady 9C	An Bhunscoil
		Nadia Rodgers 9M	Nadia Comaneci
		Adam Lynn 9M	John Dunlop
		Autumn Jennings 10C	Mo Mowlem
		Nathan Burden 10C	My Great Grandad
		Emma McAllister 10D	Cranfield and Greencastle
		Martin Fitzpatrick 10D	Francis Ledwidge
		James Green 10D	My grandmother in WW II
		Sinead Murray 10M	Silent Valley
		Jamie Torrens 10D	Bloody Friday
		Anna Haughian 10D	Thomas Wilson

# History Winners



**Baby Sensory Class** at Shimna from 20th July, details in the next newsletter

Jayne Drummond T:02843725778

M:07780823918

E:down@babysensory.co.uk



## End of Term Reminders

We really appreciate the support of parents in helping make sure everything is sorted out for the end of term. During the summer, staff will be working hard to prepare books and equipment ready for the new term, and it is essential we have everything in.

- ◆ Please hand back all books before the end of term;
- ◆ Please check that, if your daughter/son has been given a replacement tie, that s/he has paid for it;
- ◆ Please clear out all lockers and hand in your key before the end of term;
- ◆ Please send in any uniform items you wish to donate to the Parents' Council SwapShop;
- ◆ Please check that your daughter/son has paid back any money borrowed to pay for lunch.
- ◆ Please send in the enclosed data capture form to update your contact details.

We are really grateful for your support in making sure the term ends well for all of us.



**Shimna Integrated College**  
**Specialist School**  
**The Lawnfield**  
**King Street**  
**Newcastle**  
**BT330HD**

**Phone: 02843726107**

**Fax: 02843726109**

**E-mail: info@shimna.newcastle.ni.sch.uk**



# The Month Ahead

**We are collecting**

- 27-28.05.10 Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award practice.  
7.00pm, AS drama production for the moderator. Everyone is very welcome to join the audience. Please ring in and let us know you are coming so that we can plan the numbers.
- 28.05.10 Year 8s' first cricket match.
- 31.05.10 May bank holiday.
- 01.06.10 Year 11 maths GCSE - THE REAL THING! FULL PERFECT UNIFORM!  
Study day at home for all other students.
- 02.06.10 5.30pm, information evening for parents/guardians of students going on the Barcelona trip.
- 05.06.10 Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award real expedition.
- 07.05.10 Assessment week begins for years 8-11. Every student has her/his timetable, and one has been posted home for you too, or see the copy on our website.
- 10.06.10 Six of our year 10 students will represent Shimna at a Citizenship Youth Conference.
- 11.06.10 SPORTS DAY! As with last year, pride of place goes to the competitive track and field events. However, as with last year, the Students' Council is taking the opportunity to run all sorts of stalls and fun activities and to do some important fundraising. This year the charities chosen are local group PapaDown and the International Childcare Trust.  
Year 11 students of business studies head to the Tayto factory.
- 12.06.10 Our Barcelona bound students head off.
- 14.06.10 Year 10 go to Newry for some urban fieldwork, assessing disabled access to all the Newry shopping facilities.  
Year 11 geography students sit their GCSE, THE REAL THING!
- 16.06.10 Ten of our lucky students get to go to the opening event of the wonderful new Tollymore Mountain Centre. The students will have the opportunity to try out all the new facilities.
- 18.06.10 P6 day, on which we invite talented linguists from our feeder primaries to take part in languages activities.  
8D head off for a trip to W5.
- 19.06.10 12.00-2.00pm, welcome barbecue for our incoming year 8 students.
- 25 and 28.06.10 UCAS careers day for all of year 13. Each student needs to attend on ONE of these days. Details from Alicia Rooney.
- 28.06.10 Year 11 GCSE science examination - THE REAL THING!
- 30.06.10 Last day of term, and of the school year.

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