

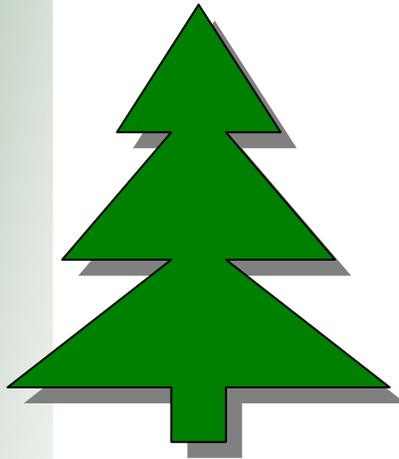


# SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR LANGUAGES

## JANUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

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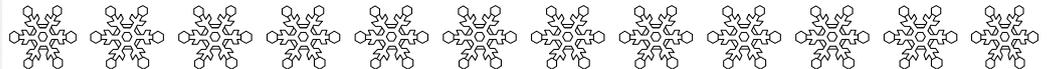
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# The Big Freeze

**Parents' Council Meeting**  
12th January 7pm  
Please Come

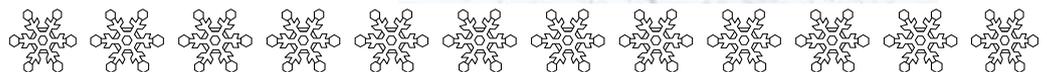
Sign up to  
Parentmail via  
our website! Check  
out our blogs!



Shimna starred on BBC Newsline when the big freeze set in and looked absolutely beautiful. We were forced to close twice, but otherwise students and staff performed feats of heroism getting themselves in and kept the learning going. We discovered that neither King Street nor the approach to our back gate through Donard Park is on the gritter route and conditions were truly treacherous. We have been lobbying Roads Service and everyone else we can think of, and are very grateful to the group of parents who put together a petition which allows everyone to sign up to our cam-

paign. If you are at the Shimna office for any reason in the near future, please ask to sign the petition if you are willing.

A big casualty of the snow was "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory".



## Bus Shelters At Last – thank you BE Aerospace!

In December, we received a piece of wonderful news we never thought we would hear. You will know that our Students' Council has long been asking for bus shelters at our very exposed bus circle at the top of the hill. The Parents' Council has been working away over the years to raise the money, and this year the voluntary contributions have been added to the fund. However, it was going to be a long time before we made the total required to start work on shelters. That was until our wonderful business partners, BE Aerospace in Kilkeel chipped in with £5,000 which is just enough, when added to the Parents' Council funds to start work very soon. We are very, very grateful.



For illustration purposes only

## Rock Climbing Club

I suppose it stands to reason that the climbers carried on climbing undeterred by bad weather. Of course the HotRock climbing wall is a perfectly sheltered place to learn the ropes! It is great to see the Climbing Club in action again. For further information see Campbell Mayers in the technology department.



We had a very un-international month when the air traffic controllers strike put paid to our Spanish visitors getting here. The trip is postponed until the Spring, which may be a blessing in disguise because the weather was at its worst during the week the trip should have taken place. Lots of international plans are underway though. Our first ever work experience trip to Sweden is booked and students will also be doing work experience in Brest in France and in Madrid in Spain. In January we will also be welcoming Anne Dyer from the US who will be spending a term with us.

## Farewell to Joelle

We say goodbye to Joelle who has been here with us for a term from Germany. She has made a fantastic contribution to the college. In particular laying our wreath at the Cenotaph and playing a central part in our Remembrance Day assembly. She also made a great contribution to class and make many, many friends. We hope she will always keep in touch and will be back to see us.



## Exams and Careers

The rest of December was taken up with assessment week for years 8-11 and mock GCSEs for year 12. Careers interviews are underway for all year 12 students, and continue into the new term. UCAS offers have been pouring in and nervous sixth years have been heading off for interviews. All year 14 students and their parents should have a look at the 12 Questions of Christmas on the 6<sup>th</sup> form blog on our website to keep up to date with what happens next.



# P7 Day

We were delighted to host our wonderful P7 day for pupils from our feeder primary schools. Many of our students were in acting as guides and hosts and helping out in the subject departments. All the P7s followed a mini-timetable which will give them a flavour of post-primary school before they make the move next September. They were a pleasure to teach and we look forward to welcoming them again with their families on our Open Day on 8<sup>th</sup> January.





Our year 14 drama class produced stunning performances as part of their A level assessment. Just look...



## The Very Most Important Thing

It is of course our Presentation Evening on 20<sup>th</sup> December, when we get to catch up with all our returning students who come to be presented with their A level and GCSE certificates. This year our guest speaker is an OldScholar who has just received a very special presentation herself. We also have another very special guest, who will be presented with the Frank Kerr Award. This is the first time the Award has been made since Mo Mowlam MP and Senator George Mitchell. We can promise you this year's recipient is a very worthy winner. We will be joined on the night by our friends from the Communication Workers Union and from the Integrated Education Fund.

# Welcome to Shimna Integrated College Specialist School



**ANNUAL PRESENTATION  
EVENING  
MONDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2010  
7:30PM**

"Learning from each other"

Adapted by  
Richard George and  
presented by  
Shimna Colleege



# CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SHOWING IN THE SCHOOL  
HALL ON THE 27th  
DECEMBER

Dates changed to 27 and 28 January 2011



27th and 28th—January 2011 — starting at 7.30 pm.

Tickets in advance from the office. Adults £3 Students £2



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# The Month Ahead

## Last Day of Term

Is always a very special day. We have form parties and chill out, then gather in St John's Church for our carol service and then leave together from the church at 12.00 for Christmas.

## The Month Ahead

- 4.01.11 Staff training day
- 5.01.11 First day back for all students
- 6.01.11 5.30pm Meeting for the parents/guardians of students on the German trip.
- 7.01.11 School ends at 12.30 to allow for preparations for Open Day.
- 8.01.11 Our Open Day, one of the most important days in our year.
- 12.01.11 Parents' Council meeting @ 7pm - Please come
- 17.01.11 Our students of German head off to Bielefeld.
- 24.01.11 Twelve year 9 students take part in the LET programme
- 25.01.11 Year 8 students go to a presentation by the PSNI.
- 26.01.11 A level French and Spanish students go to a Study Skills day at Queen's University.

## Planning Ahead

- 1.02.11 Consultation evening for parents/guardians of year 9 students.

Check for the new term that all your contact details are up to date!

## Special Notices

A new order of Shimna tracksuits has arrived in JJ Donnelly's in Downpatrick, and is available from the shop or through the WebShop on the Shimna website.

Please use the holiday opportunity to smarten up your uniform for the coming, very long, term. A Shimna coat is essential, as are comfortable, black, school shoes that will last the year.

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