

SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR LANGUAGES

FEBRUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

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Fantastic Achievement

We are very proud that Daisy Dillon has been offered a place to read veterinary medicine at Queen's College, the University of Cambridge. Daisy won her place from an enormous field of applicants through her excellent academic results, her performance at interview and her lifelong love of working with animals. We are very, very proud of her.



Our Kyle Award

Stanton Sloan, chief executive of the SEELB came to Shimna on a very special visit to make a presentation to Kyle Magee in recognition of his special courage and commitment. Kyle underwent a liver transplant last year. Everyone who knows Kyle in Shimna is impressed with his good humour and courage in the face of a traumatic period, living with his illness, waiting for a matching donor and undergoing the transplant itself. We are absolutely delighted to see his courage recognised.



Parents' Council Meeting
Wed 16th Feb 2011

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



Spectacular Fund Raising

Early in the year, the A level ICT class was split into two groups to choose two charities to raise funds for. One group chose the NI Cancer Fund for Children and the other Action MS. In the current economic climate, fundraising is doubly hard, and those two charities were really feeling the pinch.

The two groups began with a target of £200.00 each, then decided to push the boat out and go for £700.00 each. In practice what happened was that both groups showed huge commitment and energy. Both groups have walked round Castlewellan Forest Park/Tollymore Forest Park.

One group has held a very successful table quiz in the Harbour Inn and another group has attended numerous staff parties at the Slieve Donard to winkle money out of the revellers. To date both groups have in fact made £600.00 each and in the coming weeks these totals will rise to £1,000. Everyone has worked hard, and the following students deserve to be picked out for their extra leadership and commitment: Rachel

McMath; Philip Crookes; Oliver Bass; Suzannah Dunn; Emma Bissenden.

In February the two groups will make presentations to the KS3 assembly, both to highlight the work of the two charities and also to promote fundraising. We are really, really proud of the class and everything the students have achieved.

Their teachers Irene Mathieu and James Magee are even more proud of them as they have seen the effort at close hand. In January, representatives of the NI Cancer Fund for Children came in to talk to the class, to explain the vital role of fundraising for the work the charity does. Very well done to both groups.



BE Aerospace Partnership

We had an excellent preliminary meeting with the BE Aerospace mentors who will be working with our year 10 students. The projects have been developed with the aim of engaging our students in approaches from the workplace, and learning how their own building and organisation work. The projects include: designing the layout of the new bus shelter; surveying the building to ensure best use of space; researching our purchasing approaches so that we get best value for money; looking into fuel economy.

As well as the four mentor projects, Niamh from BE Aerospace will be working directly with 10Donard as they take on their task as this year's eco class, lead-

ing the way for staff and students to save money and save the planet. 10Donard look forward to learning from the experience of the factory in reducing their own carbon footprint.

STOP PRESS

One of the classes is finally going to get our parent email database going, and this maybe your last non eco paper copy of our newsletter



Car Wash for South Africa

Clare Gould, and lots of other Goulds and Shimna OldScholars set up a very successful staff car wash to raise funds for the community in South Africa where Clare, and lots of other Goulds, spent their gap year. Clare has made a special link between the community and Shimna by coming in to talk to our students about the work she took part in, and to show how the funds are spent. Thanks to everyone who contributed.



Open Day

Our Open Day, one of the most important days in our school year, was a great success, with our staff and students in all year groups giving their time to make sure that visiting P6s and P7s saw the very best of our life and work at Shimna. We were delighted that some primary pupils had brought their parents along because they had so much enjoyed P7 Day last term.



A Great Sporting Start to the Year

After weeks of not even being able to go outdoors, except for a bit of sliding about, our teams made a great start to the year:

Soccer: the Under 13 boys' soccer squad defeated Rathfriland to go through to the next round of the South Down League. Goals from Jack Graham (5) and Tyrone Poland (2);

Cross Country:

Great results for the girls at the Integrated Schools Cross Country Championships. Both the Minor and Junior teams won their sections. Individuals who contributed to team prizes were,

in year 8: Julia McCabe 2nd; Chloe Rooney 3rd; April Fitzpatrick 4th; Sa-

oirse Hastings 6th. Other runners who performed well were: Grace Leneghan 7th; Chloe McDonald 10th; Niamh Davies 14th; in year 9; Dara Herron 4th; Shannon McKibben 5th; Katie Paryag 11th; Clarissa Murphy 13th; Anna Monteith; 21st; Emma Addis 31st.



Great results for the boys who lifted four of the six team titles on offer and had 3 individual wins. Year 8 boys: Aidan Hawkins 1st; Jack Quinn 2nd; Chris Ogle 4th; team prize Shimna. Junior boys: Aaron Latus 1st; Jonathan Mills 2nd; Alastair Baron 4th; team prize Shimna. Intermediate boys: Nathan Allen 1st.

Two Sporting Firsts

The climbing club got their new season underway on Thursdays.



Our swimming squad had their first outing on 8th January, and put in an excellent performance. The swimmers came back full of enthusiasm having acquitted themselves well.

Our hockey squad too had a first fixture on 19th January. They have been practising away for months now, and were eager to put their new-found skills into practice. It is great to see girls' hockey underway in the school, as Newcastle Nomads play closeby on the Astroturf in Donard Park and our girls can graduate to the club to keep up their sport.



STOP PRESS - Victory, Shimna 1 Slemish 0

International Students



We welcomed two visiting international students this term. Anna has joined us from Maine in the US, and Frauke is the latest student from the Waldorf School in Germany to join us. Both girls have thrown themselves into the strange experience of wearing a uniform, and taking on a curriculum that is very different from the more broad based curriculum in their respective home countries.

International Exchange

Our students of German set off on the return leg of the Comenius trip to Germany, to join the students from Italy and Holland who visited us here in Newcastle last term. The students will all be taking part in a writing development project in Bielefeld in Germany and rebuilding the relationships begun on the Northern Ireland leg of the project.



LET Programme

International to some and intranational to others within an integrated school, 12 year 9s went on the second of their LET Programme residential, where they joined our partner schools, one from Northern Ireland and one from the Republic of Ireland. The LET programme is a dynamic mix of outdoor activities, enterprise activities and integration.

Being International closer to home, our year 13 linguists in French and Spanish spent at day at a study skills conference at Queen's University in Belfast.

More Drama than we Bargained For!

After the huge disappointment of postponement because of the snow, followed by a skylight blowing off on the morning of the matinee, followed by illness crisis among the stars – Shimna Drama Club finally gave their successful performances of their wonderful production.

Director	Jo Rodgers
Lighting	Sean Keenan and Jamie Brannigan
Backstage crew	Naoise McCabe; Philip Pickering; Katie and Hollie Graham; Alida Ward; Melissa Sanchez-Leneghan

The drama club gave a huge thank you to All Children's IPS for the loan of the stage, for all their support and hope that they all enjoyed the show.

The cast included:

Jade McCartan; Adam Smyth; Eimear Cunningham; Dara Herron; Lauren Sloan; Megan Simpson; Kirsten Diamond; Ruairi Leckey; Jack McCurry; Megan Ferguson; Emma Louise McCabe; Cailin Cunningham; Aimee Forde; Conor Leckey; Kyle Johnston; Ellie-May Jennings; Emma Addis; Clarissa Murphy; Amy McDonald; Leanne Ferguson; April Fitzpatrick; Grace Leneghan; Kerry Valentine; Tyrone Poland; Sarah Magee; Moira Roulston; Megan Rodgers, Rebecca McKeaveney; Ciara Murphy; Heather Kelly.

Huge thanks also to Shimna support staff for all the sewing and making, and for front of house duties and the fundraising ballot which will finance the clubs next production.



Parents' Council Fundraising Drive

We are delighted to announce that a magnificent oil painting has been donated to the college by artist Victor Cirefice. Victor Cirefice's work has well known for his action portrayal of sport in action, from hurlers to rugby players. The painting he has donated is a large canvas entitled "The Tackle".

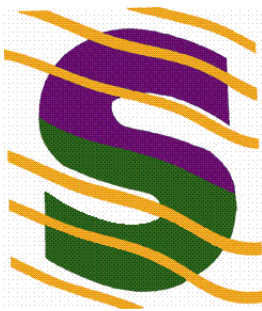


The painting is to be the main prize in the Parents' Council fundraising draw. This year has seen a wonderful donation of £5,000 from BE Aerospace to build, at last, a bus shelter for our students. Year 10 students are also hard at work with their mentors from BEAe, planning the siting of the shelter and its impact on traffic flow etc. The Parents' Council has worked hard to make up the cost of the project, and is also keen to boost the coffers once more in order to continue the Council's work of supporting the college.

The painting currently hangs in the office area, and you are very welcome to view it. Tickets will be sold at the college and at all forthcoming college events. Your help in selling tickets will also be appreciated as many people beyond the college would also appreciate the opportunity to win the painting. Every family will received tickets to sell, and if everyone does their bit, we will make our total.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support Shimna fundraising and at the same time, bid for a valuable and magnificent art work.

The draw will be made at a special event to be held in March.



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

The Month Ahead

- 1.2.11 Consultation evening for parents/guardians of year 9 students.
- 3.2.11 Down Schools Cross Country Championships
Year 12 students visit a careers convention in the Slieve Donard Hotel.
A level ICT students carry on fundraising with their very popular bun sale.
- 5.2.11 Our ski trip sets off.
- 7.2.11 Year 13 students set off on work experience, including groups heading to France, to Spain and, for the first time, to Sweden.
- 9.2.11 Staff development day. Study day for students.
- 10.2.11 Staff development day. Study day for students.
- 11.2.11 Half term begins.
- 16.2.11 First day back from half term.
Meeting of the Parents' Council, 7.00pm All welcome.
- 23.2.11 Ulster Schools Cross Country Championships
Consultation evening for parents/guardians of year 11 students.
- 24.2.11 Year 8 go off to a PSNI event entitled "It's My Life"
- Planning Ahead
2.3.11 Year 11 GCSE science module – the real thing!

Special Notices

At the start of the year, we sent out a letter to the parents/guardians of all GCSE students, alerting them to the changes in the syllabus which mean that full attendance is absolutely essential. Coursework has been replaced in most subjects by Controlled Conditions Assessment, which means that the assessments must be completed with teacher supervision on a certain date. We really appreciate the support of parents/guardians in ensuring that students achieve full attendance so that no one misses out on the opportunity to achieve their grade.