



# SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE

## SPECIALIST SCHOOL



SOME OF THE AUDIENCE WERE AS PHOTOGENIC AS THE TALENT!

## Shimna's Got Talent

The last day of the Easter term was the date for the finals of our Shimna's Got Talent show, all organised by our very own Students' Council. Auditions had been going on for months, and the final programme showcased a rich variety: Ellie May Jennings, singer; John Paul Killyleagh, guitarist; Jenny Drummond, pianist; Dermot Beattie, hardstylist; Jade Thompson, singer; Meghan Simpson, singer; Jack Torrens and Moira Rolston, musicians; Lesley Anne Kearney, singer;

Cian McGrory, breakdancer; Amy Donald, singer; Kevin Lambe, guitarist. On the day, the audience voted and the hugely popular winner was breakdancer Cian McGrory. He performed an encore to a delighted crowd, as did runners up Ellie May and Jack and Moira. Kevin keeps on bravely strumming away, year after year. When will his turn come? But he got a great round of applause as well. The show was a fantastic way to end the term,

and also raised much appreciated funds which go to the Students' Council solar panel project, which will some day see us that bit more eco friendly. Very special thanks go to accompanists Ryan McQuitty and Daniel Irwin and comperes Ryan Cairns and Stephen Polland and of course Jo Rodgers. Cian does look as if he's demonstrating yoga, but the camera just couldn't keep up with his leaps, bounds, moonwalks, cartwheels and handstands .....



MOIRA AND JACK



ELLIE MAY



RYAN AND MEGAN



# ECO ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY



OUR ECO GROUP, ABLY ASSISTED BY OUR BE AEROSPACE MENTOR LOUISE, GARVEY AND BY ROBBIE UP THE LADDER, REFURBISHED AND RELOCATED OUR BAT BOXES. THEY ALSO REPLACED AND RE-SITED OUR BIRD BOXES AND BEE HOUSE. OUR BIODIVERSITY SURVEY HAS DISCOVERED DEER OVERNIGHTING IN THE GROUNDS, WAITING PATIENTLY BY THE GATE TO BE LET OUT IN THE MORNING, AND WE REALLY HAVE HEARD THAT WOODPECKER FROM WALES.



## Year 10 Prizewinners

The careers leaflet competition for year 10 was a great success in its own right, and also launched our new Careers Blog on the college website. Careers information moves fast and it is essential that what you read is up to date. The Blog will be updated regularly to support year 10 in choosing their GCSEs, year 12 in choosing their A levels and 6th form in planning the rest of their lives. Check it out!



### MY DREAM CAREER

WE ANNOUNCED THE WINNERS OF THE CAREERS COMPETITION IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER, BUT WE HAVE NOW MANAGED TO ROUND THEM UP FOR A PHOTO. THEIR LEAFLETS MADE A FANTASTIC DISPLAY FOR OUR CAREERS WEEK IN MARCH. APOLOGIES TO THE SQUASHED PRIZE WINNER!

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## OUR XL CLUB AND THE NEW CHILL OUT ROOM

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### What are they up to?

When Jamie Oliver had his way, and the vending machines were led away, an interesting wee space was left within the canteen area. Our xl Club decided to focus their Easter term project on refurbishing the space to create a Chill Out room. They fully intend to make good use of the space themselves, but they also realised that there are plenty of other uses. They will make the room available to our counsellors, tutors, small afterschool clubs and anyone else who could make good use of it.

### Bring on the artists.

The xl Clubbers have already painted the room. They have chosen their carpet - and deciding between the blue and the stripy brown was a very long process. They are very grateful indeed to Mr Taylor who has very kindly offered to lay the carpet for free. The room has a good big noticeboard, which the group has refurbished ready for action, and they have negotiated a table and some chairs. This term they have enlisted the help of our artist in residence, Martin McPartland, whom they have asked to help them design a jigsaw mural in ten pieces, so that each of the ten xl Club members can give their own personal input.



### HEATHER AND LAUREN AT WORK

HEATHER AND LAUREN ARE HARD AT WORK PAINTING THE NEW CHILL OUT ROOM.



### BEN AND JOE TAKE THEIR TURN

THERE IS A REASON FOR THE CHOICE OF COOL, PLAIN COLOUR FOR THE BACKGROUND WALL PAINTING. YOU'LL FIND OUT WHAT THE REASON IS IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER.

# Congratulations to our LET Programme students who completed their residentials with a Gala Ball!

The LET programme is a scheme which gives ten of our students the opportunity to work over the course of a year with students from another school in Northern Ireland and a school from the Republic of Ireland. The programme is specifically a cross community one, and allows our students to take their Integrated Education out there and integrate with students from other sectors. The students went off on four residentials in different parts of the country, taking part in enterprise activities and lots of outdoor pursuits. They all cleaned up very well though for the final Gala Ball and prize giving. Leigh Moore carried off the top award for his contribution to the programme, but everyone was indeed a prize winner and we have Leigh's plaque and a LET Programme award certificate up in our school to prove it. Millions of thanks to Joan for

all her work with our students on the programme.

This year our students from previous LET groups have taken part in a major evaluation of the programme in the hope that funding will continue to be available for groups in the future. Some terrific stories were unearthed of students who really didn't see the point in learning and didn't have any career plan in mind until the LET programme showed them their own talents in group work, creative thinking and carrying a project through to success. We can think of at least one student who thought she would leave school as soon as possible, and is now completing the final year of her A level chemistry, which she never thought she could do. She certainly puts her inspiration down to the opportunity she had to take part in the programme.

**WATCH OUT FOR NEWS OF OUR NEW INTERFAITH GROUP WHICH GETS UNDERWAY THIS TERM.**

**SORRY ABOUT THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD, LEIGH!**



LET



CLUTCHING AWARDS



CHATTING UP JOAN



SPARKS OF CREATIVITY



MOST OF LEIGH



# STAFF AND STUDENTS TRAIN TOGETHER ON OUR SUICIDE PREVENTION COURSE

So many families and friends have faced the terrible circumstance when someone they love takes their own life. Community response in Newcastle has resulted in an active Down District Suicide Prevention Group including community groups, churches, schools, social services, counselling services, drop-ins, PSNI etc. The group, coordinated by Kevin Bailey, the Down District Suicide Prevention Officer, has been working hard, dealing with all the individual experiences of group members themselves and offering training at all sorts of different levels, aiming to create a support network across

our community to prevent suicide and to develop a response plan should we have to face the worst again. On 16th April, a group of twenty nine Shimna staff and students took the SafeTALK course together. The response has been very heartening, with many of the group planning to take the next step, the ASSIST qualification, which three Shimna staff already hold. We hope to build capacity and confidence across the Shimna community so that there will be a critical mass of staff and students who will know what to do in the face of another's despair. We hope that our work in the school will reflect the excellent work that Kevin's group is undertaking across the Down District community as a whole.

**THE PHOTO SHOWS -  
PREVENTION IS POSITIVE!**



## RETURN TRIPS



US IN SPAIN



THAT'S COFFEE- HONEST



FRENCH PARTNERS



US IN FRANCE

# GET SET FOR EXAM SEASON

Exam season is challenging and scary, but it is also exciting and rewarding, and the time when you pull all your learning together and achieve the grades you deserve for all your hard work.

## TimeTables

First up are the **Year 10s** who complete their Key Stage 3 exams at the end of April. Timetables have been given out to students, sent out to parents and are also posted on the website.

Then come the **GCSE, AS and A level** exams according to the published timetable. **Make sure you have a copy of your timetable**, which you can download from the college website, or ask at the office for a hard copy. Make good use of the timetable to plan how to organise your revision. You will be getting a personalised timetable giving the exact times and rooms, but those timetables are not available until much nearer the start date. However, you can use the current timetable from the website to plan your revision, so you can decide the order in which to revise your subjects.

### Don't forget to:

- eat well
- sleep well
- accept a bit of help
- be good to yourself
- work hard
- be the very best you can be.

## GCSE and A level Exams, Classes and Study Time

**The last day of classes for year 12 students is 11<sup>th</sup> May. From 14<sup>th</sup> May, students will follow their examination timetable. Please remember that students must be in full college uniform for every examination session. There will always be a room set aside in the college for students to study in if it is difficult for them to study at home, or to get home between exams. You don't need to be in uniform if you have come in to revise or to talk to one of your teachers.**

**Year 13 continue on timetable, and each student has a personal study planner to set out when they will be in class and when they will need time out for an exam. Once their exams are over, they complete their review with their form teacher, their careers review with Alicia and sign off on their summer contract.**

**Year 14 move onto their exam timetable on 14<sup>th</sup> May, using their personal study planner to set out when they still have classes or revision sessions and when they will be sitting an exam.**

## *Revision Sessions*

Many subject departments offer GCSE and A level revision materials and/or revision sessions during the examination period, and students are given the details in class. Many subject departments also post revision materials on the college VLC. Evening study sessions are available on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Ask Ellen McVea. Some subject departments provide students with a school email address on which they can contact teachers if they are stuck. Students should always use their own Shimna email to contact staff.

## **PS**

Sixth form application forms are available from the main office and EMA applications forms are available from Danella. Information on A level courses and 6th form enrichment are available on the website. Yr 12 parent interviews can still be arranged for Monday or Tuesday evenings

## *The Month Ahead*

- 1.5.12 Our French exchange visitors are with us from St Jean de Luz.
- 3.5.12 Down Schools Senior Track and Field Championships.
- 4.5.12 Our Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award group head off on their practice expedition.  
The Motor Caravaners Club come to visit.
- 5.5.12 Our French visitors head home.
- 7.5.12 Bank holiday, and Rory Friel will be at the UK School Games at the Olympic stadium.
- 10.5.12 The Moderator comes to view our GCSE art work.
- 11.5.12 Last day of normal timetabled classes for GCSE students. From this date on, students are on their examination timetable. However, many classes will continue, and revision sessions will be offered. There will always be a revision room set aside for students who find it difficult to revise at home, or who can't get home between exams.  
  
Down Schools Minor Track and Field Championships.
- 14.5.12 Year 9 athletics area heats in Newry.
- 15.5.12 Year 8 history trip to Co Down castles.  
  
Judging day for the local history essay competition. Hope you're in with a chance!
- 16.5.12 Parents' Council meeting 7.30pm - help get organised for the new year 8s barbecue.
- 17.5.12 We host visiting teachers from Germany and Greece who will come to see Integrated Education in action.
- 18.5.12 Ulster Schools Track and Field Championships  
  
Year 8 geography trip to Balmoral Show.
- 19.5.12 Start of WALK to SCHOOL week - try it if you can, but not if you live in Rostrevor or Ballynahinch possibly!
- 25.5.12 Presentation of prizes for the local history essay competition.
- 29.5.12 Assessment week begins for all year 8-11.

## *Plan Ahead*

- 2.6.12 Irish Schools Track and Field Championships.
- 4.&5.6.12 Holidays, followed by staff training day on Wednesday.
- 7.6.12 Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award real expedition gets underway.



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Don't forget to hand in your **TESCO** tokens

## SUMMER UNIFORM

1. STAY NEAT EVEN WHEN IT'S WARM OUT THERE
2. YOU MAY OF COURSE WEAR SANDALS, BUT NOT TRAINERS. THIS ISN'T BEING MEAN. TRAINERS AREN'T ANY MORE AIRY THAN SCHOOL SHOES
3. KEEP YOUR SHIMNA COAT HANDY IN CASE IT RAINS
4. PLAN TO MAKE SURE ALL YOUR UNIFORM BITS MAKE IT TO THE END OF THE YEAR! THANKS A MILLION.

## Building Work

We are absolutely delighted to announce that building work on our new home economics block and additional classroom begins on 23rd April. There will of course be disruption, but we want to assure you that it is written into the builder's contract that exams will not be disturbed.

Our back gate will be out of commission, but with the very kind permission of Pauline O'Hare, we will install a new temporary gate farther up the lane so that our

students and All Children's pupils and parents will still be able to walk and cycle to school.

May we take this opportunity to thank all the parents/guardians who contribute to fundraising through the annual contribution and by supporting fundraising events and activities organised by our Parents' Council. We really, really appreciate your support.

Keep up to date with any building work announcements through the website and through SchoolComms. Thanks a million.