



# SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR LANGUAGES

## MAY 2010 NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

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**Sign up to  
Parentmail via  
our website!**

**Check out our  
blogs!**

# Marathon Fever



Leading the way is our Joanne Mills, captaining the NI Schools Team in Sunday's London Marathon. Hoping for inspiration are the two teams of staff and the student team seeking your sponsorship for the Belfast Marathon. Our teams have swung into action to raise funds for additional computers for our students. Everyone can help with sponsorship.. Please give generously! Click onto the website and label your donation, or send a note of

your sponsorship into school. Thanks a million. See our website for a picture of our glamorous teams.

### Support Our Marathon Runners

In the most important fundraising effort we have launched in years, two teams of our staff, and a team of our 6th form will be running in the Belfast marathon in order to raise money for much needed additional ICT facilities for our students. Please,

please get in touch to sponsor any of the teams or individuals, or just to donate to the campaign. You can do this by contributing on our website - you can add a message to explain whether your donation is a regular parental contribution, a donation to our Chilean twin schools or a contribution to our sponsorship for the Belfast Marathon.

# Uniform



Thanks too for your support in starting off the new term with perfect uniform. Only a few pairs of trainers to be sorted out, and I have a promise that they are one their way.

I do my best not to leave a student without a tie, and do my best to lend or sell one to the student to get them through the day. Students either bring me back the borrowed tie the next morning or bring me the money if they need to buy one. As we come into the last term, I would be very grateful if anyone who owes me a tie or owes me the money could return or pay. The money will be recycled to make sure there is always a spare tie to be had, and no one is left looking scruffy.

May I take the opportunity to remind everyone of our uniform suppliers: Annett's and Bingham's in Newcastle; Rhoda Stewart in Ballynahinch; JJ Donnelly's in Downpatrick. Great news for families who find it hard to get to a shop is that JJ Donnelly's, now run by Shimna OldScholars Selena Northrup and Catherine McConkey, have just launched their webshop, which sells our Shimna uniform. See our website for the weblink.

Coming soon: our new tracksuit; unisex grey and navy cardigans for years 8-12 and 6th form; hoodies with embroidered initials. Also coming soon will be shirts etc. in a Fair Trade range, which means that the people who grow the cotton receive a fair price for the crop we benefit from.

## Mr and Madame Mayers



Everyone at Shimna wishes well our happy couple. At Easter time, French teacher Janet Moffett married technology teacher Campbell Mayers.

## Lottie Lahey

We also celebrated the birth of Lottie Lahey, daughter of Noreen Doran Lahey and her husband Barrett.

# Primary Links

Four of our year 11 students of GCSE technology undertook training in robotics and went to Newcastle Primary School to share their new expertise with the primary pupils. The event was part of the Sentinus programme promoting science and technology.



## Political Action

In our very own lead up to the Westminster elections, our year 14 A level politics class headed to Queens University for a series of lectures.

Our very own Charlene McKibben made her bid for influence and was selected to join the Northern Ireland Assembly

Youth Panel. She gained her place through a gruelling selection procedure having been short listed from three hundred applicants. Her success in the selection process of one hundred students, saw her selected for one of the thirty places on the Youth Panel.

Alexandra McCauley led our team of four to the NICIE Youth In Education Conference at Queens' University, to discuss the shape of education in our society, one of the hottest topics in the coming election.

## Textile Recycling Success

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to our textile recycling and fundraising. We raised £250.00, which is terrific for our first effort. We hope to make this an annual spring-cleaning event.



# Our Fantastic Staff

We are very proud that two of our staff were short listed as finalists in the Northern Ireland Teacher of the Year Award. On the teaching staff, head of chemistry, Alan

McDonnell, and on the support staff, Joan McAllister, classroom assistant. In each case, we hosted visits from teams of three judges, each member a former winner. So many students, staff,

parents and governors volunteered to be heard, that we had a hard time scheduling them all. Whatever the outcome in the final, we know we have an outstanding staff.

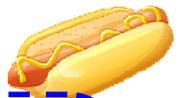
# Islamic Studies Visitors



Iraqi and Libyan students from RBAI and Methody joined Shimna's Easter programme for GCSE Islamic Studies this year. In recent years, we have been delighted to support Belfast students from Iraqi, Syrian, Palestinian, Jordanian, Egyptian and Bangladeshi families. Our own students, who choose to take a GCSE in Islamic Studies are usually from Catholic and Protestant families, and simply wish to broaden their understanding of other people's world-view. They also like to earn a GCSE a year early.

**Help!**

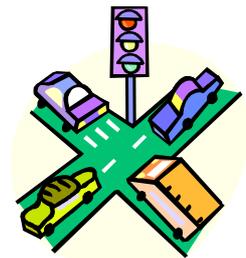
# Barbecue for New Year 8s



One of the best things our parents do is to organise the barbecue for the incoming year 8s and their families. This year's barbecue will be on Saturday 19th June. Help is needed with the uniform SwapShop, with the barbecue, with serving the food, with organising the activities for the P7s and most of all with just being friendly and welcoming. Please contact Heather Cirefice if you can help in any way. 028437 63362

# Dramatic Interlude

Year 8 were impressed and thoughtful after the Road Safety drama road show.



# Eco Action

Fantastic news as, at long last, the composting toilet was installed at the Haughian Cottage. Now we can look forward to getting down there for expeditions, for climbing, for picnics and for sleepovers. Thank you to so many people for all the efforts which have brought our plans to this happy conclusion: Martin McParland who completed the installation; Robbie Mullholland who also contributed; Pat Lenny who did the ordering; all the students who provided the enthusiasm; and of course James Haughian for his constant encouragement to use the cottage.



## Amnesty's Mexican Campaign

Our Amnesty committee has been working on a campaign to free Raul Hernandez, who has been falsely imprisoned by the Mexican government. The committee has written to the Mexican government demanding Raul's immediate release. For those who do not read Spanish, the banner says "Raise your voice to demand his freedom".



## Off to Chile

Ian McMillan headed off to Chile. Given the devastation caused to our twin schools by the recent earthquake, Ian will probably not be able to visit. After all our twin schools have more on their minds than hosting visitors. However, he will be based in Santiago and will continue the exchange of ideas with Chilean staff. He has of course brought with him our good wishes, our cards and the money we have raised through our twin schools appeal. Money can still be donated through the college website. We will be happy to pass on your donations.

## Examination Arrangements

- Year 12** - last day of classes, 14th May.
- Year 13** - every student has their exam timetable, their planner and summer contract. Essential UCAS Days, 25th and 28th June.
- Year 14** - leavers breakfast, 14th May 2010. Every student has their exam timetable and their planner.

# International Connections

We were delighted to welcome back for the fourth year, a party of visiting staff and students from the Sunnarbo Gymnasiet in Ljungby in Sweden. As ever, our visitors were friendly and engaged and made excellent presentations to our students, in this year's case, A level students of Travel and Tourism. They also walked in the Mourne, sampled our local fare, visited Belfast for the open topped bus tour and headed off to Dublin to complete their trip. We are really determined to take up their invitation for work experience placements for next year's 6th form.



## Youth Community Awards

Students from Shimna Integrated College Young Enterprise Company "Quirky Creations". The students set up the company with the aim of making a profit and raising money for charity. They designed a Shimna tea towel with pen portraits of students from the college. They were successful in the N.Ireland competition with Stephanie Kirwan achieving a special commendation. They were also recognized by the Down District Volunteer Centre where they achieved the School's Youth and Community Award for the best group project.



# Sports Report

Pride of place goes to our fantastic Minor Girls' netball squad, who defeated all comers in the East Down League. Gaze on their gold medals.

Our year 8 rugby squad played game after game at the Integrated Colleges tournament, winning some, and building up their confidence and experience.

Our golfers very narrowly lost to St Columbans in the Darren Clarke tournament.

We scored a first for Shimna when our year 8 hockey squad took part in the Integrated Colleges hockey tournament, like our rugby players, clocking up lots of confidence and experience.



# ParentMail



Thanks a million to everyone who has signed up. Click on the Parent Update on the website to get yourself on the list.

Thanks a million to everyone who has signed up to Parent Mail. We will be able to email you our newsletter, and other important messages. We would love everyone who regularly uses email to sign up, but we are of course fully committed to communicating by post to everyone who doesn't use email.

It is important also at this time of year to thank everyone for their annual contribution. Families pay throughout the year when they can afford it. Some pay through the website, which reclaims tax for Shimna, and some by cheque or cash to the college office. Either way, we are hugely grateful, and commit to using your money for the benefit of all our students.



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## **The Month Ahead**    **We are collecting**

- 03.05.10**      **May Day Holiday**
  
- 04.05.10**      **GCSE orals begin in all languages.**
  
- 05.05.10**      **Years 8-10 ladies soccer squad play at the Lagan Valley Leisure Centre.**
  
- 06.05.10**      **Year 8 history trip to visit the castles of Co Down.**
  
- 07.05.10**      **Our Duke of Edinburgh's Sliver Award group set off on their final expedition.**
  
- 10.05.10**      **A level orals begin in all languages.**
  
- 12.05.10**      **Down Schools Track and Field Championships**
  
- 13.05.10**      **Prize giving for the History Department local history competition.**
  
- 14.05.10**      **Year 8 geography trip to Balmoral Show.  
Last day of timetabled class for GCSE classes.  
Leavers' breakfast for year 14.**
  
- 19.05.10**      **Fundraising day for the Cancer Fund for Children.  
Year 9 history trip to the Boyne Centre.  
Year 8 netball squad compete at St Mary's**
  
- 26.05.10**      **Recruiting meeting for this year's Let programme.**
  
- 27.05.10**      **Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award practice expedition sets off.**
  
- Planning Ahead**
- 01.06.10**      **Year 11 maths GCSE - the real thing.**
  
- 28.06.10**      **Year 11 science GCSE - the real thing.**
  
- 30.06.10**      **Last day of term.**

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