

SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE

MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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Consultation Evenings

11.03.10 - Yr 10

24.03.10 - Yr 8

Both at 5.30 to 7.30

Please remember to update your contact details with us if you have moved house or changed phone number.

Updates to the calendar are always available on our website.

Science Expressions

Our year 8 students and our primary partners in All Children's, St Mary's and Newcastle PS all took part in a terrific presentation by W5 on flight. The whole project is part of our tribute to Harry Ferguson as part of Newcastle's celebration of his connection with the town.



Back came Newcastle PS on one of our training days, and the primary pupils, along with the year 8 mentors, could be seen out in the sunshine trying out their very own flying machines. The other two partner schools will be back to try flying at a later date.

Sentinus Robotics

As part of our Primary Links, Shimna Year 11 Technology students had a very rewarding day mentoring All Children's pupils during their Sentinus Robotics activities last Wednesday.



Sport Round up

Down Schools Cross Country Championships

Our results this year saw some fantastic individual performances, and lots of qualifiers for the Ulster Schools Championships.

Running in a field of 175, our boys qualified for the Ulsters on 24th February: minor boys - Jack Graham 4th and Alastair Baron 15th; junior boys - Nathan Allen 3rd and Aaron Latus 22nd (a terrific performance given that he is a year young); intermediate boys - Stephen Sweeney 11th.

Our girls clocked up very good places in their section.: Joanne Mills came 2nd in the senior girls' race and qualified for the Ulsters. In the massive fields of 150, Hannah Stevens came 24th, Rebecca Stevens 27th; Cailin Cunningham 26th, Clarissa Murphy 48th and Shannon McKibben 1st. Huge congratulations all round.

Rugby

We had to go to press last month without the result of the Cup match against Fivemiletown. The match was a real cliffhanger, in more ways than one. First of all, the match had to be cancelled three times because of the terrible weather. Then the fire alarm went off and we had to very carefully evacuate the whole school along the side of the pitch without disturbing the last five minutes of the match. THEN, just as the whole school assembled on the grassy slope, Luc Bonnargent flew through with the winning try. Best of luck in the next round.

STOP PRESS : We're through to the semi finals, beating Ballynahinch 16 - 10.

Soccer

Our girls' soccer squad went down 1:0 to St Colmcilles, Crossgar on Tuesday, but the girls played well. Emma Addis scored a goal set up by Naoibh Murphy Dawes. The whole team played very well together, considering this was the first time the year 9s and year 10s had played on the same team. Rachel Robinson was in nets and many goals were saved. Everyone is looking forward to their next fixture, and with a few more training sessions, this squad should do really well.



Work Experience Sans Frontieres

Those of us left behind in work experience week were particularly conscious of losing out. One group of A level students headed off to Brittany for a week's work experience honing their French language skills. Have a look at their special reports on the French blog on our website. Another group, the history and politics A level groups, headed to London, to Westminster in particular, and managed to wangle tickets into Prime Minister's Question Time among other coups. Have a look at Charlene's review of 'Wicked' on the Journalist blog, to see what else they got up to. Lastly, and including students across the year groups, our ski trip headed to Italy and all came back thrilled and unbroken.



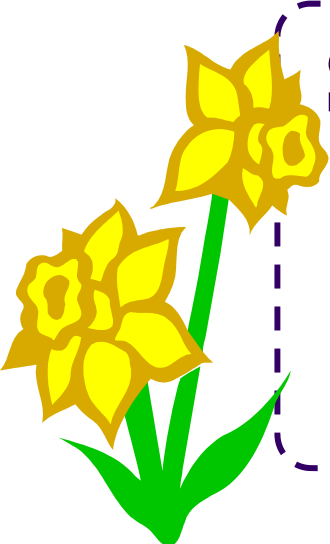
History and Politics trip



Students in Brest, France

Examination Opportunities

French A level and GCSE master classes have been going on after school for weeks now. A level music students had the opportunity to spend a day at Queen's University for a specially tailored revision day, focused on the set works on their syllabus. The luckiest ones are our A level Irish students who go off to the Gaeltacht for an overnight to brush up their oral and listening skills.



Spring is Springing

The Ulster Wildlife Trust came in to work with all our year 9 classes. 9 Commedagh are also this year's Eco Class, taking the lead in our work for our Eco Schools Award. Previous year groups have achieved our Bronze and our Silver, and this year we need to make the big push to achieve our Green Flag. Now that the weather is warming up and drying out at last, lots more volunteers will be inspired to come out on Tuesdays after school for a bit of planting and bird box and squirrel feeder maintenance. The bug hotel needs to be finished too.

The International Dimension

Six principal teachers, five from Germany and one from Romania came to visit. They all have a strong interest in all-ability education, and were very impressed with our wonderful, friendly students who achieve their best in all-ability classrooms. Then, more visitors from France, our work experience partners from Brittany on the return leg of the trip which allowed our A level student to spend their work experience week in France. The very same week sees our own

GCSE Spanish students heading to Madrid to brush up their skills before GCSE. Our students will join the families of the Spanish students who visited us last term.

To crown all, a Spanish Interactive Theatre Company came to perform for all our students of Spanish.



Chris Addis - Super Chef

We are delighted to read about the graduation of Chris Addis from the Junior Chef's Academy. Chris was presented with his medal and certificate by Kevin Smith, General Manager of Ten Square Hotel, Belfast. Over a ten week period on Saturday mornings the students learnt about basic cookery, while creating fresh dishes and gaining knowledge of nutrition, hygiene, health and safety, team work, communications skills and appreciation of real food and healthy eating. Chris spotted the advertisement for the course on the Shimna Student Noticeboard. That's where we post all the opportunities for students that are posted in to the college, so keep an eye out! Millions of congratulations to Chris. We are very proud of you.



Shake Ripple and Roll

The Shimna Musical Society's production of "Shake, Ripple and Roll" by J Toksvig and D Perkins, got off to an energetic start on Wednesday 17th February in the Annesley Hall. This frothy confection of a musical, a spoof detective story set in an American fifties ice cream parlour, was a great choice for a student show as the script offered good tunes, good fun, a cast of dozens and the chance to wear wonderful costumes. It was the first day back after half term and there were plenty of first night glitches, but both the actors and the audience really enjoyed the evening. (The raffled Easter eggs were won by two delighted fathers.)

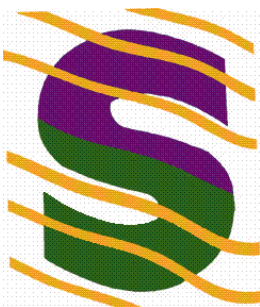
The plot concerns a threat to the ice cream parlour. A wicked film starlet has inherited the business and is planning to demolish it and build a shopping mall. However, you will not be surprised to hear that a mysterious case of mistaken identity is solved and the day is saved in traditional fashion.

As always, the show allowed us to see a new side of people we thought we knew well – for instance, Naoise Davey as the farcical, Sam-Spade-a-like Dirk Manley, Private Detective and Jana Rodgers as the flirtiest of all the flirty waitresses in red and white 1950s circular satin skirts with rustling petticoats. Adam Smith of 8D clearly enjoyed the chance to wear white gloves, carry a purse, and be defiant with impunity as the bodyguard and dogsbody for the wicked starlet Deanna le Dome, a Jean Harlow type beautifully played by Carol Ann Magennis. Roma Cunningham was an excellent Cinderella figure as Josie Nobody, the amnesiac waitress with a secret past. Matthew McAvoy was 'sooo dreamy' as Chuck the local heart-throb. The Men in Black chorus boys played their parts with aplomb.

Claire Galligan stepped in heroically as the company pianist at a couple of hours notice, rising to a challenge as usual. The young actors and stagehands organised a heartfelt bouquet for her. Jo Rodgers, of Shimna College and Newcastle Glee Singers, was magnificently patient as the prime mover of the whole event and will sleep well on Friday after the last performance.

PS Friday performance, and all of the above with the glitches gone, the revs up and the energy glowing Fionnuala stalked about as Mrs Cohen, and the dancers whirled. Special mention has to be made of the backroom boys, Nathan, Jamie and Ryan who apprenticed themselves to the wonderful Sean Keenan, and have taken big steps forward in learning the ropes on the lighting rig and the sound deck. Caroline and Gordon were gracious ballot callers and the parents' council and the tea twins Harrison provided us with refueling at the interval.

PPS All Children's pupils loved the matinee show. They particularly loved spotting the AC past pupils among the cast, and spotting the wonderful props made by Jack and Kate Lenny.



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The Month Ahead

We are collecting



- 01.03.10 Integrated Education Week begins. This year's theme is kites.
Our French exchange students arrive for a week's work experience.
Year 10 hold a European careers event, focusing on the value of language learning.
Arty Facts Theatre Company Co perform 'Macbeth' for us.
Year 11 GCSE science revision classes, 3.30-4.30
Year 9 students set off on the LET programme.
- 02.03.10 Our French work experience exchange partners head to a special reception at the St Patrick's Centre in Downpatrick.
- 03.03.10 Year 11 sit GCSE science modules, the real thing.
The history department holds a fundraising bun sale in aid of the local history competition.
Year 12 visit a careers fair.
GCSE French masterclass take place 3.30-4.30.
- 04.03.10 The history department holds a fundraising bun sale in aid of the local history competition.
- 05.03.10 Year 10 students visit the Somme Heritage Centre.
Awareness raising assembly by our Amnesty Group.
- 08.03.10 Awareness raising assembly by our Amnesty Group.
French Film Night - Coco before Chanel - all welcome!
- 10.03.10 Year 13 students visit the UCAS fair at the King's hall in Belfast.
W5 bring a year 9 science careers fair to visit our students.
GCSE French masterclass, 3.30-4.30.
- 11.03.10 Consultation evening for parents/guardians of year 10, 5.30-7.30pm.
- 12.03.10 Assembly by the RNLI at which they will receive the proceeds of our fundraising day.
- 17.03.10 St Patrick's Day holiday.
- 19.03.10 A group of A level students visit an Oxbridge Open Day.
- 22.01.10 Year 11 students head to the Key Programme
- 23.03.10 GCSE students set off on a history trip to Berlin.
- 24.03.10 GCSE French masterclass, 3.30-4.30
GCSE PE students complete their orienteering assessment.
Consultation evening for parents/guardians of year 8, 5.30-7.30pm
- 25.03.10 GCSE Drama performance examination, 10.00am.
- 29.03.10 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver group set off on their practice expedition.
Last day of term.
Planning Ahead
- 12.04.10 First day back.

A full colour version of this newsletter is available on our website, where you can also read our blogs.