



SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE

OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

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Tanya's Triple Celebration

On A level results day, Tanya received the straight As she needed to claim her place at Oriel College Oxford to read French. A week later she received the A* in German, which she had taken up from scratch as an additional subject. On 14th September she was presented with the Barbara Graham Bursary for music, in recognition of her achievement in music, and to support her in continuing to play when she heads off to university later this month. We are delighted that Rev.



Gordon Graham was able to come in to our assembly to present the bursary to Tanya. Barbara and Gordon have both been loyal friends to Shimna, for years playing a leading role on our interview skills day, and attending college events. It is a pleasure to see the bursary unfold which will continue Barbara's commitment to music, which was so central to her.

Integration, ages 3-18

We are absolutely delighted that All Children's Integrated Primary School have published their development proposal for a nursery class. This development will mean that Newcastle will have integrated, academically excellent, all-ability education from age 3 to age 18. All Children's contributed mightily to Shimna's wonderful results this year, as every year, and each year brings news of successful graduation from university



by students who have had a fully Integrated Education at the two schools. We wish All Children's continued success with their new pupils in their beautiful building and trust that Shimna's building will be just as beautiful some day very soon!

22.09.09

Year 8

Induction Evening

Huge Thanks for Frames

Huge thanks are due to the parents/guardians who made contributions through the website to our appeal to provide frames for our students' artwork. Next time you are in, take a walk through the corridors to view the displays. There will be more to come as we are able to make use of contributions made over the summer. It is wonderful to see the artwork on display, and we are very grateful to everyone who contributed.

Sign Language Successes

British/Irish Sign Language entered our curriculum last year, with a dedicated group studying in an after school group. This summer they achieved level 102, and learning

will continue throughout the next term taking them to level 103. As an exciting new development we are working on the possibility of offering B/I Sign Language as a

GCSE subject next year. We feel that this would be a very important addition to what we offer as a Specialist Language School.

Gaeilge Stars

Our students of Irish achieved outstanding results with early entries at GCSE and A level, with A*'s and A's across the board. Our thriving Irish Medium group now stretches right through to Year 12. Meadbh had a special surprise when her grade A at AS level, achieved in year 11, was presented to her in Irish by Caitriona Ruane, Minister for Education.



Environmental Issues

Eco Loo

You will remember that last year, we were awarded a valuable bursary to enable us to install a composting toilet at Haughian House, the cottage we have use of in the Mournes. After months of research and planning, the composting toilet has finally arrived and been installed. The cottage has for years hosted our Duke of Edinburgh's Award groups, and will now be available to any groups of students, staff, parents' council or governors. We have the use of the cottage in exchange for maintenance work to keep the cottage in good shape. Over the years, generations of the Parents' Council have helped with this work. Any offers from the current generation of parents who would like to volunteer their skills will be much appreciated.

What we've done so far

- Our sixth form students have completed their induction programme, including, for year 14, a gruelling, but very successful Interview Skills process. All the students completed a first draft UCAS form, completed an interview with our wonderful panel of interviewers and are now acting on the feedback. Many, many thanks are due to our interviewers, Isobel Jones, Dick Keag, Joan McCombe, Bronagh Crilly, Bridget Nugent, Jean Forbes and Adele Chambers.
- Our year 8 had a wonderful time at Ardnabannon on their induction residential. We received excellent reports from the centre staff about their enthusiasm, their courage in attempting scary things and their commitment to looking after each other.
- Our Year 12 PE GCSE class performed well on their hill walking training and expedition. They had a very energetic start to the term, and have successfully covered a major element of their course.
- Students of A level Irish spent a very productive study day at the University of Ulster.
- Year 9 geography students completed their river study.



Building Work Progresses

You will see from the scaffolding around our building that work on the new roof is underway. You may also glimpse the four mobile classrooms we will be using to house classes for a few days each as the work progresses across our building. The next job of work will start almost as soon as the roof is finished, as at long last our new home economics department is built on to the end of the canteen area. Next week we will be visited by inspectors from the Department of Education, who will be assessing our science and technology labs in preparation for major refurbishment of our facilities. This is wonderful news, which will bring enormous benefits for all our students. We are grateful to the Department of Education.



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The Month Ahead

- 22.09.09 Induction evening for incoming year 8 students and their parents/guardians – 7.30pm.
- 25.09.09 European Day of Languages is on Saturday 26th, and we are celebrating on Friday 25th with an international soccer and quiz tournament for years 8-10. All through the week, there will be competitions and activities in all our language classes.
- 28.09.09 Theatre & come with a drama presentation for all of year 12. The performance will be on careers related topics and will provide an excellent preparation for careers work in year 12, leading to choices for next year.
- 02.10.09 Jeans for Genes Day, our fundraising and awareness raising day.
- 05.10.09 The first LET Programme residential for twelve year 9 students.
- 07.10.09 Our girls' soccer team take part in a blitz tournament.
- 15.10.09 The sixth form formal.
- 16.10.09 Craig Bradley, our visiting author, comes to work with students.
- Our students take part in the Mock Council of European Union at Stormont.
- 20.10.09 The school photographer comes. Look your very best in your uniform.
- 23.10.09 GCSE history students visit Stormont.
- 26.10.09 – 30.10.09 Half term holiday. Enjoy and stay safe.

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