



SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR LANGUAGES

Shimna wins prestigious TES award.

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Shimna Wins the

TES Outstanding Community Partnership award.

Laura O'Hare and Ian McMillan headed off to London in July, already delighted that Shimna had been shortlisted for this national award. Laura currently teaches languages in our feeder primaries through our Sharing Education Programme, and Ian set up the programme, which has now been running successfully for four years. Every week, as part of their normal timetable, children in the Protestant and Catholic primaries join up to learn. It is the very normality and sustainability of the cross-community partnerships which makes our SEP special, but we were absolutely thrilled that the children's work together has been recognized with this high profile award.

Laura will be taking the beautiful glass trophy with her to show the children in every school in the partnership. We also want to celebrate the support we receive which funds the programme: Dr Gerard O'Hare; Atlantic Philanthropies; Queen's University Belfast. Between them, support from these three sources funds the project and helps us with thoroughgoing evaluation and making sure the success of the programme spreads into the community.



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Parentmail via
our website!
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blogs!**

Sad News



It is with great sadness that we have to tell you that Jean Forbes died on Saturday 27th August.

Jean has been a longtime member of our Board of Governors and her contribution to the college has been incalculable. We see her contribution every day in the plans she made for our grounds, and many students, staff, parents and other governors will remember the planting parties which gave us our grove of native species and our wee bendy fence.

Generations of A level students have benefited from her generous Book Prize, awarded each year to a student heading off to study

something environmental at university. Jean's contribution included many years as chair of the Estates Committee, and the routine, but essential, premises checks she carried out with her committee twice a year. Jean had worked closely with our geography department, initiating our annual street surveys and our monitoring of the dunes at Murlough. She initiated our red squirrel project, and encouraged generations of student Eco Groups. Above all, Jean was a passionate advocate of all-ability education, inspired by her experience of the Scottish system, and a passionate advocate of integration.

Jean's funeral was attended by friends from throughout her life. We already knew of her enormous contribution to Shimna and to the Newcastle community. From the contributions of her friends and colleagues, we learnt so much more about the whole of her life: her academic achievements; her world wide travel; her representative hockey; above all her friendships and family relationships. Jean will be very, very much missed.

Sporting Success

All Ireland Track and Field championships

Shimna College had two representatives at the All Ireland track and Field championships at Tullamore



Co Offally Ryan McTeer in the u15 boys high jump and Morisi James in the 250m hurdles. Ryan was first up at 9.40 am (early start from Newcastle) in heat 1 of 3 heats. He got off to a great start and won very comfortably in a new personal best of 36.78. The winners of heat 2 and 3 also

looked very comfortable and in times faster than Morisi's heat. In the final Morisi did not get the great start he got in the heat, however he ran a terrific bend and put himself in contention with the leaders as they made the transition onto the home straight, however he could not make up the ground on the leading two and had to be content with the bronze medal and a new PB of 36.42

In the High Jump Ryan was the overwhelming favourite as he was the defending champion from last year, and his excellent 4th place from the All Ireland schools competition in an older age group earlier in the season also enhancing his reputation. In a field of 15 he did not disappoint as he cleared his opening 3 heights with ease and for the first time this season his run up mark seemed to be almost perfect. The field was now reduced to 8 as the bar went to 1.63 Ryan cleared first time as the field was now reduced to 3. 1.65 was cleared with ease first time, and it proved to be the winning height as the last two competitors went out at this height. Ryan kept the large crowd entertained as he then went on to clear 1.68 and 1.70 first time. He then attempted 1.75 and had 3 very good attempts at this height and failed very narrowly especially on his final attempt. He received a terrific round of applause from the very knowledgeable crowd who appreciated the display of excellent high jumping that they had just witnessed. Two in a row for Ryan, three in a row next year !!!!!!!

Other news

Shimna Prepares for the Olympics with Playfair.



With all this sporting success under our belt, Shimna is also preparing for the 2012 Olympics. Our fundraising day this term for our students will be in support of the Special Olympics team. We are very proud to share our school with the local Shimna Stars basketball club, which dates from the Special Olympics coming to Ireland. On that occasion, we fundraised to support a Swedish Special Athlete and this time will support one of the local teams.

We are also putting our efforts behind a very important Olympic related project, Playfair. One of the blights on the world of sport is the means of production of most of the sports gear athletes wear. Playfair is a world wide campaign to demand a living wage and decent working conditions for those who manufacture sports gear everywhere. We will be researching how the gear is produced now, and what can be done to establish a fair trade.

NB Our A level Sports Studies students make a point of using Fair Trade footballs and will be actively seeking good suppliers of all their gear and equipment.

Keep up to date with the campaign on our website and through our newsletters.

Celebrating our Students' Results

August is the month when we get to celebrate with our students. Daisy's success in gaining her place at Cambridge University to read Veterinary Medicine was the highlight of course, because the course is so competitive.



Daisy's own hard work and commitment, her teachers' good teaching and the support of her family and friends won the place. All our students deserve equal celebration, with people heading off to study, for example,; French,; civil engineering; history and politics; hospitality and management; biomedical sciences; mathematics and sports studies; chemistry with a year in Australia and many, many more.

As well as Cambridge, our students will be in: Durham; Newcastle upon Tyne; Belfast; Coleraine; London; Edinburgh, and many many more. However, the most exciting and far-flung is Ben Cullen, who has already started his degree in history and Spanish at St Scholastica's University College in Duluth, Minnesota. In these straightened times, one of the best things about Ben's achievement is that he is studying there on a soccer scholarship.

Our GCSE students who received their results a week later, have every reason to be inspired by those who have gone before, as they settle into their induction programme and their A level courses.

Thank you, Thank you,

Thanks for the Bus Shelters

As a result of a wonderful collaboration between our Parents' Council and our business partners BE Aerospace, we have finally achieved the funds we needed to provide the long awaited bus shelters. You will be getting a message about when the work will take place, and any changes to our access arrangements while the work is completed.



Thanks to the Volunteers

Shimna was built by parents, and it is wonderful to see that practical involvement by parents and students continues. We asked for volunteers to help with painting a couple of our classrooms. Volunteers from BE Aerospace, two groups of our students and a couple of our teaching staff all rallied round and did the job.

RHS Campaign for School Gardening



Royal Horticultural Society

We have just received the good news that Shimna is one of the 2,000 schools nationwide taking part in this year's RHS 'Get Your Grown-Ups Growing' project.

The point of the project is to make good use of skills, volunteer time and knowledge of gardening within our Shimna community. As you will know, students, parents, governors and staff have worked hard in our grounds since Shimna opened. One of the things we would love to do now is to start growing our own vegetables. We plan to start small, and to start where everyone can see our garden grow, by starting a small vegetable patch right at the front of the college.

We hope to attract a volunteer(s) to teach us how to do it! We would love to try out a small raised bed and/or growing in sacks.

We have a donation of £50.00 from the meditation group for our volunteer(s) to spend. We have some tools, some gardening gloves, some seeds, two wormeries for compost, some grow sacks and a wheelbarrow.

This is a totally new venture for us, and we need a volunteer(s) who can tell us what to do and show us how to do it. Any offers to Ellen McVea please.

The Next Big Asks

1. Our next big ask is that you come along to support our car boot sale in **Donard Park on Saturday 17th September**. All the proceeds from the gate will go to college funds and will be used for the benefit of our students.
2. Our next wee ask is that, if you have regular and easy access to email, that you sign up to receive our monthly newsletter by email. You can do this through the link on the Parent Update page of the college website. The newsletter is our main channel of communication by which we can let you know what is happening, and the more people to whom we can deliver electronically, the greener we will be.
3. We will also be sending out to you our request for the annual Parental Contribution. We recognize that many families are under real financial pressure, and we keep our minimum requested sum low. We are always very grateful to those who are able and willing to give a little more. Please, if you can, make your payment through the Support Shimna button on the website, and GiftAid is collected automatically, making your donation even more valuable at no cost to you.

Shimna Show Jumping Team

As it is the start of a new school year, we are once again seeking more students to take part in the Shimna Show jumping team.

There are many enjoyable competitions, including Saturday nights at Mossvale and early starts at Balmoral.



If you would be interested in joining the Showing jumping team please leave your name and class in an envelope addressed to the Show jumping team into the school office.

Please note that members of the team have to own their own pony and have their own transport. Members also must be able to jump 85cm+



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The Month Ahead

- 17.09.11 Car boot sale in Donard Park in aid of Shimna. Please come!
- 19.09.11 We welcome Roberta McKee to work in our office. Welcome.
- 5.10.11 Ten year 9 students set off on the LET programme.
- 28.10.11 Fund raising day, £1.00 to wear non uniform, in aid of the Special Olympics.
- 31.10.11-4.11.11 - Halloween holidays

Winter Uniform

Please bear in mind that the Shimna coat is the ONLY coat allowed with our uniform. Make sure you are kitted out, and have your name sewn in securely well before the winter sets in.

Winter underwear is perfectly sensible. Please ensure that T shirts etc worn for extra warmth do not show at the neck or sleeves of your uniform.

We have a good choice of Shimna uniform top layers: jumper; cardigan; track top; coat; blazer; hoodie.

All students need to be wearing full school uniform in school and on the journey to and from school.

Thanks a million for your support in this.

'Learning from each other'