



SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR LANGUAGES

APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER

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An Equestrian Team that's Gorgeous as Well



Shimna Integrated College equestrian club is proving itself a force to be reckoned with in schools show jumping. Having achieved third place at Balmoral in October, they decided to enter the Ulster Schools Championships, which are run over four shows. Going into the finals of the league on Saturday 26th February, the team was lying in sixth place. Show jumpers Toni Quayle, Chloe Rooney, Ciara Collins and Primrose Dillon were determined to

take up the challenge to improve their league place. Getting through to the jump off, it was a difficult decision as to who would represent the team. Decision made, Chloe Rooney had a lovely clear round in a fast time which was the second fastest so far. She was followed by Primrose who did some nifty turns on Houdini to take her into first fastest and the only team on a double clear. Shimna College were to finish in second place when

last to go Belfast Royal Academy had the two fastest rounds of the day. This second place in the finals proved to be important for the placing in the league, as this put them into third overall spot, up from sixth. The girls were all looking forward to the Awards Ball, when they were to be presented with their thoroughly deserved prizes. As you can see above, they made a gorgeous line up of winners!

Visit from the Minister of Education

On 24th March, we hosted a very special visit from the Minister of Education, Caitriona Ruane. We are very proud that the Minister chose Shimna for the launch of a new booklet for teachers, advising on the importance of tackling bullying, and anti-homophobic bullying in particular. Our Gay/Straight Alliance met the Minister, and members of the Rainbow Project and GLYNI. The Rainbow Project has worked with Shimna governors, staff and students on anti-bullying work, and were very pleased to see that the GSA is up and running. Of course, bullying is something that is always with us, and reminders and awareness raising are the best weapons against it, so that everyone in the college community is reminded that any kind of bullying is completely unacceptable, and that the role of the bystander is crucial in supporting anyone who is being bullied.



Our students prepared statements to read at the launch, and this one was prepared by Kirsten, Emma Louise, Katie and Jade:

We think GSA is important as it gives students a voice and a chance to speak up about homophobic issues, such as the language used by people, and bullying that goes on in schools.

We feel that homophobic language is a problem, as even though it may be unintentional, it can still hurt people. By working with the GSA we hope to be able to solve this problem.

People watch TV programs which often have gay characters, but when it comes to real life situations they can often find things that are different to what they would consider normal, and will insult it as a way of hiding.

Often some of the people who seem the most homophobic are in fact LGBTQ themselves, and are unsure how to cope or respond to these feelings.

People often stereotype gay people as being feminine, or lesbians as being manly, but this isn't always the case. We want people to be able to look past their stereotypes, and see the person underneath.

We hope that GSA will help people be true to themselves, without upsetting others. We want everyone to be different, but also to be equal, and comfortable being themselves.



Integrated Education Week

We had a special treat this year, with a visit from Strangford Integrated College with their fantastic performance of their devised drama 'Spot the Difference'. The students had developed the drama specially to focus on diversity issues. Their tour was financed by the grant they won as part of the Frank Carson Bursary scheme. We enjoyed the performance so much that we have ordered up a copy of the DVD and intend to use it for our LLW classes.



Internationally

We welcomed our Spanish exchange partners from Madrid. They have been travelling about from the Giant's Causeway to a bit of retail therapy in Belfast, and experiencing a bit of Northern Ireland home life with our students. This leg of the exchange had to be postponed from December due to the weather conditions, but in fact, the timing has been perfect to provide our A level and GCSE Spanish students with a bit of pre-oral practice!



Our Two Graduates

A level maths student Jonathan McClean and maths teacher Samara Kelly both graduated with a degree level qualification in Personal Finance. For Jonathan, our link with the Open University means that he has already had a taste of university level work alongside his A levels.



The Open University



BE Aerospace Update



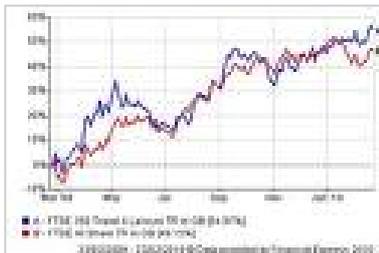
Our four year 10 classes have been working away on six week projects, each with their BE Aerospace mentor. The projects are now all complete, though each one has been designed with future work in view. One group undertook a study of the siting of the new bus shelter we intend to build with the funds raised through the draw for Victor Cirefice's magnificent donation of his painting 'The Tackle'. Another group considered how we can make better use of the stage area of our main hall. Their design work took into account the multiple uses to which this space needs to be put, and could result in real gains. A third group focused on the storage area in our canteen which used to

house the late lamented vending machines. The students identified the space as ideal for a 'chill out' room, and we certainly need extra, small spaces for students to hold small group meetings, for careers advisors, counsellors and other visitors to speak to students with some privacy. The final group tackled purchasing, which may not seem the most glamorous project, but this is the group which has probably made the most immediate gains for the school. Students compiled a 'shopping basket' of the most ordered items across the subject departments, and checked out a range of suppliers to ensure that we are getting not only the very best deal but also the very best service. As a bonus exercise, the group identified that we use up a huge number of envelopes, and these students are the ones who have eventually got our emailing list up and running. Every family has received a letter checking whether they

successfully received their March newsletter by email, and letting people know how to get their email address into the system. Calculations show that if we can send out the majority of newsletters by email, we will save literally hundreds of pounds. These are the savings we need to make to have the money to make the other three projects come true.

The four classes will be making presentations of their work to each other and their mentors in the last week of March. We are hugely grateful to the BE Aerospace mentors for the time and energy they have given to the groups. We can point to tangible gains in the form of the project materials which will be on display, but even more valuable has been the opportunity to work with mentors from a thriving, successful, local and international company.

Making their Fortune



We are delighted to announce Shimna's strong showing in this year's Rensburg Sheppard share portfolio competition. We came 10th out of 28 extremely strong entries, and are very proud of our team of Oliver Bass, Ronan Morgan, Davy Burrows and Jonathan McClean

We are equally delighted to see that the table was topped by fellow Integrated College New-Bridge in Loughbrickland. Very well done to them.

We are now on Twitter. Join up as a follower of ShimnaIC for messages!



A Sporting Month



Soccer Squad Unbeaten

The Shimna Under-13 team remain unbeaten in the South Down Schools League after a hard fought draw with Newry. Shimna were ahead with five minutes to go with goals from Jack Graham and Kyle McCleery, but two late goals from a very good Newry side ended in a stalemate. Shimna now have their fate in their hands, two wins from their last two games and the league championship is ours!



Hockey Finals

Our great hockey girls were honoured to lift their runner-up medals at Ulidia Integrated College, knowing that they had only just lost out in the final minute. For a squad in their very first season, this was a fantastic result.



If you see this, but haven't received your copy by post or email, please ring the college office, to update your email address or request by post

Shimna's EarthHour



Those of you who check in regularly with the website will have taken up the opportunity to join in our contribution to EarthHour. Every year we sign up and do our bit to save the world by encouraging everyone in the Shimna community to take part by switching off everything electrical for the hour. We also provide a link to the EarthHour website so that you can follow up how EarthHour is being respected right across the world. The hour may not seem much of a contribu-

tion, but it certainly makes you think about just how much energy the world actually does use every single hour. As usual a group of students revved up for EarthHour by keeping a rechargeable torch alight throughout the school day.



Buns and Stalls



We have had a very greedy month with lots of bun sales. Among other good causes, money has been raised for John Nellis's Romanian Orphanage appeal, and we were very impressed indeed with his buns.

Mardi Gras meant crepe chomping in the French department of course



Careers

Year 10 all attended a wonderful 'Careers in Languages' event. A level students of French Liam and Philip seemed to be the stars of the show, but all our languages were promoted, and the value of languages to everyone's career amply demonstrated.

Year 10 will also be attending a GCSE Choices presentation from Sentinus, which will focus on the value of sciences in career planning.



Interviews for GCSE subject choices are already underway, following the consultation evening for parents of year 10 students.

Year 12 will be attending workshops to find out about A levels in subjects they may not have tried before: business studies; travel and tourism; ICT; sports studies; media studies; politics. All year 12s have also attended presentations from Alicia Rooney, our head of 6th form, about the value of the traditional subjects: English, maths, sciences, languages, history, geography. Teachers in the creative area such as art and music will also be recommending their subjects.

Exam Moderations

Our GCSE students of PE and of drama performed for the visiting moderators, and both groups of students rose to the occasion. The PE group got a great day's weather and showed off their talents in soccer and athletics, and provided video evidence of their rock climbing, their skiing and all their other individual sports. The drama groups rose above their nerves, and capitalised on all those Sundays and after school rehearsals to do themselves justice on the day. Very well done to all the students, and to Catherine Kelly, Rory Friel and Jacinta Doyle, their teachers.

Seachtain na Gaeilge



We celebrated Irish language week in style, beginning with a well attended and much appreciated showing of 'Kings'. Year 8s held their ceili, year 9 picked up or practised and demonstrated their gaelic football skills. Irish classes throughout the school took part in all sorts of activities. We had two excellent assemblies, featuring dancers including modern, Irish traditional and Highland dancing. Our Irish language St Patrick's service has jumped ahead of us a little and will be held on 7th April in Newcastle Presbyterian Church.

We were particularly pleased to be represented at the opening ceremony of Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche and wish staff and pupils health and happiness in their beautiful new building.



Parents' Council Fundraising Drive

We are delighted to announce that a magnificent oil painting has been donated to the college by artist Victor Cirefice. Victor Cirefice's work is well known for his action portrayal of sport in action, from hurlers to rugby players. The painting he has donated is a large canvas entitled "The Tackle".



The painting is to be the main prize in the Parents' Council fundraising draw. This year has seen a wonderful donation of £5,000 from BE Aerospace to build, at last, a bus shelter for our students. Year 10 students are also hard at work with their mentors from BEAe, planning the siting of the shelter and its impact on traffic flow etc. The Parents' Council has worked hard to make up the cost of the project, and is also keen to boost the coffers once more in order to continue the Council's work of supporting the college.

The painting currently hangs in the office area, and you are very welcome to view it. Tickets will be sold at the college and at all forthcoming college events. Your help in selling tickets will also be appreciated as many people beyond the college would also appreciate the opportunity to win the painting. Every family has received tickets to sell, and if everyone does their bit, we will make our total.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support Shimna fundraising and at the same time, bid for a valuable and magnificent art work.

The draw will be made at a special event to be held on 6th May 2011



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The Month Ahead

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- 31.03.11 Our A level RE students travel to Dublin to visit the Mosque.

- 1.04.11 Our Amnesty International group lead our assembly to raise awareness of current campaigns.
GCSE students of geography set out to do their fieldwork.

- 4.04.11 GCSE art examinations begin, the real thing.

- 7.04.11 We hold our St Patrick's Irish language service in Newcastle Presbyterian Church.

- 8.04.11 A very special day, when Baroness May Blood visits Shimna and will be presented with the Frank Kerr Memorial Award for her services to Integration. Previous winners have been: the founders of Shimna; Mo Mowlam; George Mitchell. We believe that May Blood is a most deserving winner of this Award. She works tirelessly for Integration.

- 11.04.11 Year 9 students go off on their LET Programme residential.

- 12.04.11 Key Stage 3 examinations in maths.

- 13.04.11 Key Stage 3 examinations in science.

- 14.04.11 key Stage 3 examinations in Irish.

- 19.04.11 Last day of term, and Shimna's Got Talent competition for all!

- 20.04.11 Tea party for students of last year's year 12, at which they will be presented with their GCSE certificates and prizes. We look forward to hearing all their news.

Planning Ahead

- 3.05.11 First day of term.
- 5.05.11 Down Schools Track and Field Intermediate Championships.
- 13.05.11 Down Schools Track and Field Junior and Minor championships.
We host visiting teachers from Germany and Turkey.
- 13.05.11 Year 8s head to Balmoral Show
Last day of term for students in year 12.



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