



Shimna Scoop

2025



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Editor's Welcome

Jeff Armstrong (Student Publications Coordinator)

Welcome to our special Summer 2025 edition of Shimna Scoop. Today, we celebrate a truly landmark moment for the Shimna Integrated College community. Our new, state-of-the-art building marks not just a new chapter, but a new era for education in the area. The transition from old to new has provided our students with the opportunity to look back and reflect on how far we have come, but also to look forward as we prepare to enter a new era together.

This transition wasn't just about bricks and mortar; it was about creating a learning environment that inspires, excites, and empowers. The design, the energy efficiency, and the investment in modern technology all reflect a commitment to providing the best possible learning experience for our students. The inspirational content from the following pages has been resourced and written by an enthusiastic and dedicated group of students, who are truly passionate about the ethos of our school and dedicated to maintaining its core values.

Our new building allows the school to consolidate on our beautiful and unique landscape, bringing the community together and fostering a stronger sense of belonging. It's an inspiring space where collaboration can thrive, where innovative teaching methods can be implemented, and where young minds can flourish.

This project is a shining example of what can be achieved when government, local authorities, and the community come together with a shared vision. The investment in our shared future will have a profound and lasting impact on the lives of generations to come.

We commend all those who played a role in bringing this vision to life, from the architects and builders to the staff and the community who supported this important project. We wish our school, our students, and our staff all the very best for the future, as we embark on this exciting new chapter.



From Old to New ... a journey through time

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.

A verse from 'To be of use' by Marge Piercy



Through Transition

Change is the only constant, after all.

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

“To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly.”

— Henri Bergson



“There is a kind of magicness about going far away and then coming back all changed.”

— Kate Douglas Wiggin, *“New Chronicles of Rebecca”*

“All things are difficult before they are easy.”

— Thomas Fuller, *“Gnomologia”*

“Some changes look negative on the surface but you will soon realize that space is being created in your life for something new to emerge.”

— Eckhart Tolle, source unknown

“If I am an advocate for anything, it is to move. As far as you can, as much as you can. Across the ocean, or simply across the river.”

— Anthony Bourdain

“There are better things ahead than any we leave behind.”

— C.S. Lewis, *“The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis, Volume 3”*

“Some people believe holding on and hanging in there are signs of great strength. However, there are times when it takes much more strength to know when to let go and then do it.”

— Ann Landers

“The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.”

— Alan Watts, *“The Wisdom of Insecurity: A Message for an Age of Anxiety”*



Through Transition

(continued)



Leaves

By Amy Perry

I sit in solitude, surrounded by trees
That have been standing for ages untold.
I feel the coolness of an Autumn breeze
That grants a leaf to fall that I hold.

With the leaf transfixed in my careful stare,
I examine its transparent tone.
Searching for answers that could be there,
As if the answers are known.

I wish I might show as much grace
Falling to my demise.
I wish another may take my place
And make Mother Gaia nice.

I wish for transitions
That leave me better than before.
It may be intermittent,
But there might be more in store.

I wish my whispers were as sweet
As rustling, falling, tumbling leaves
That make the world complete--
And without them, the forest obsolete.

Someday this forest may be replaced
With a cattle field a mile long.
Gone with a whimper, without a trace
Will be the leaves I once wished on.

Seasons (Waiting on You)

By Future Islands

Seasons change
And I've tried hard just to soften you
The seasons change
But I've grown tired trying to change for you
'Cause I've been waiting on you
I've been waiting on you
'Cause I've been waiting on you
I've been weighing on you

As it breaks, the summer will wake
But the winter will wash what is left, of the taste
As it breaks, the summer will warm
But the winter will crave what has gone
Will crave what has all
Gone away

People change
But you know some people never do
You know, when people change
They gain a peace, but they lose one too
'Cause I've been hanging on you
I've been waiting on you
'Cause I've been waiting on you
I've been hanging on you

As it breaks, the summer will wake
But the winter will wash what is left, of the taste
As it breaks, the summer will warm
But the winter will crave what has gone
Will crave what has gone
Will crave what has all
Gone away

'Cause I've been
waiting on you



The Shimna Runners Marathon Team

Keep the Car Running (A song for the Shimna Runners)

By Arcade Fire

Every night my dream's the same
Same old city with a different name
They're not coming to take me away
I don't know why, but I know I can't stay

There's a weight that's pressing down
Late at night you can hear the sound
Even the noise you make when you sleep
Can't swim across a river so deep

They know my name because I told it to them
But they don't know where, and they don't know
when
It's coming
When it's coming

There's this fear I keep so deep
Knew its name since before I could speak
Oh, oh, oh, oh

They know my name because I told it to them
But they don't know where, and they don't know
when

It's coming, oh when
But it's coming, keep the car running

If some night I don't come home
Please don't think I've left you alone
The same place that I must go when they die
You can't climb across a mountain so high
The same city where I go when I sleep
Can't swim across a river so deep

They know my name because I told it to them
But they don't know where, and they don't know
when

It's coming, oh when
Is it's coming?
Keep the car running
Keep the car running
Keep the car running



The Shimna Runners Marathon Team

(continued)

Shimna Runners fundraising for Cancer Fund for Children

Shimna Runners are a group of staff and students who have come together to run the Belfast marathon team relay event. We're sure everyone has their own individual reasons for doing so, but most importantly, it is to raise some well-needed funds for a brilliant local charity. "Cancer treatment is frightening, challenging, and isolating and can devastate families emotionally, physically, and financially." Daisy Lodge is a great facility in Newcastle which helps families and children who are suffering from cancer, aiming to empower, connect and strengthen them, so they feel equipped to deal with whatever cancer throws at them. Please help us to help them. Thank you!!!



'A real big effort from everyone. We all really enjoyed the race with the communal spirit of the team helping us through. Remembering our collective WHY (the Cancer Fund for Children) was the thing that kept us all going.'

Barry Dagen

'In all honesty, the best day of the year! Super to see our efforts pay off with our WHY driving us on. My training definitely paid dividends. I'd enjoyed my Saturday morning long runs (dare I say, I'll even miss them) and prioritised my recovery more than ever with compression boots, sports massages and plenty of restorative sleep.'

Robbie Keenan

The Shimna Runners Marathon Team

(continued)



'I've had plenty of years running solo, so to take part in a relay marathon enabled the Shimna Runners to share a unique experience of teamwork, camaraderie, and increased motivation. We therefore had a different perspective on the marathon experience compared to solo runners. I found that the support and shared experience with teammates helped push us through difficult moments and achieve goals we might not have reached individually.'

Margaret Rowntree



'The weather was great; the team was super and the finishing line - just wonderful. For the staff and students to run for a really good cause definitely put an extra spring in our steps as you need extra motivation to clock up the miles in anticipation of the actual race. Would certainly recommend that the Shimna Runners keep on running!'

Oliver Corrigan



Spotlight on Sporting Success

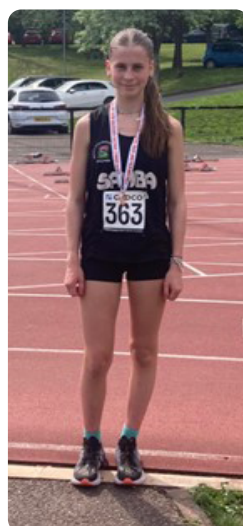
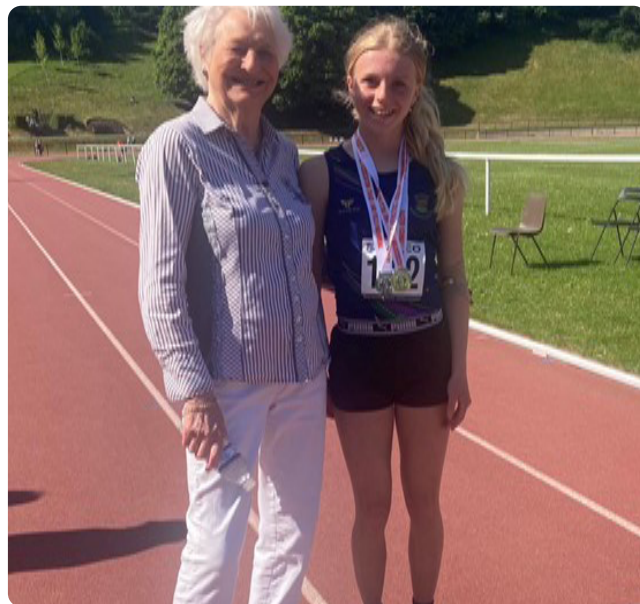
Shimna athletes continue to excel by qualifying for All-Irelands. Congratulations to Eve McNamara and Aoife Grant who have today qualified for the All-Ireland Athletics Championships. Eve won the Junior Girls Long Jump with a PB of 5.04 m. She was also second in the Junior Girls 75 m Hurdles. Aoife came third in the Junior Girls 1200m Walk. Other Shimna students competing today were Parisa Susay-Quinn, who finished 6th in the Junior Girls 800m. Ronan Grant came 6th in the Junior Boys' Hammer and Mila Astruc-Kidd 7th in the Junior Girls' Discus. Sophie Mayers and Michael Murray also performed admirably, narrowly missing out in the finals of Minor Girls Shot and Junior Boys' Javelin.

More Success for Evie, Eabha, Kari and Jamie

Well done to our students who competed in the Down Schools Athletics Championships yesterday. Reigning champion Evie Gorman won the Intermediate Girls Shot, Eabha Hallissey was second in the Senior Girls shot while Kari Foster qualified in two events, the 800 and 1500m. Jamie O'Flaherty, competing against boys a year older than himself, ran in the Intermediate boys 3000m and achieved a personal best time, narrowly missing out on qualification.

'Our running shoes have magic in them. The power to transform a bad day into a good day; frustration into speed; self-doubt into confidence; chocolate cake into muscle.'

Mina Samuels



Spotlight on Sporting Success

(continued)

Shimna footballers enjoy trophy-winning seasons

It's not just the mighty Liverpool who have enjoyed well-deserved success this season. A number of Shimna students have won trophies for their respective teams, five in total. The role of honour includes:

Castlewellan Town FC

- Under 14 South Belfast League Cup Champions - Isabella Milligan
- Under 14 Lisburn & Castlereagh Junior League Cup Champions - James McCann

Newcastle Town FC

- Under 12 - Lisburn & Castlereagh Junior League Champions - Finn Murphy Year 8
- Under 14 Lisburn & Castlereagh Junior League Champions - Year 9s Noah Doran, Conor Adair, Craig Graham, Alex Kilmurry and Year 10 Caolan Scott
- Under 17 Mid-Ulster Youth League Knockout Plate Champions - Year 11 Kieran McCullagh and Year 12s, Coehan Murphy McKibben, Leon Maguire and JJ Alister

Fingers crossed we have the next Conor Bradley in our ranks.



Staff Spotlight

Mrs Morgan works in the English department and is a recent addition to the staff at Shimna Integrated College. Having interviewed her myself, now I get to share some interests of hers, and the journey of her career path.

What led you to become an English teacher?

During my A Levels I studied English Literature and then decided to go to University College Dublin to study English. I had always loved reading, as a child I remember sneaking a torch into my room so I could keep reading late into the night. After my degree, I gained a scholarship to complete a Masters Degree in Renaissance Literature. After all the studying I got accepted into a senior management role in Marks and Spencer in Dublin. It was exciting to move back to Dublin and I enjoyed the job but ultimately my heart wasn't in it. I had always thought about teaching, as both my parents were teachers and I loved the training side of the management job. So, I trained to become a teacher. It hasn't been a straightforward path to teaching but the skills I have gained from other jobs have really helped in my teaching career.

Why did you choose to work at Shimna?

Since becoming a teacher, I have always worked in Integrated schools, the ethos means a lot to me and I think integrated education plays a massive role in the education system in Northern Ireland. For pupils from diverse backgrounds to all come together, to learn, make friends and build their future. I've loved teaching at Shimna, my hometown is Newcastle so it is fantastic to teach in my own community.

What do you hope to contribute to the new school in the next phase of your career at Shimna?

As a teacher I have hoped to help young people learn, build their skills for the future and feel confident as learners. My aim has been to teach pupils skills that will be useful to them throughout their time at school.

Any special hobbies/interests?

In my spare time, I love spending time with my family and going on adventures with my two little boys to the beach or park. For me, getting out to walk my two dogs Lola and Rubble is one of my favourite things to do as I love being outdoors. I love to read, do yoga, enjoy cooking and learning about something new, particularly psychology. I also volunteer in an advocacy organisation campaigning for supporting young people with special educational needs and disabilities. This is real passion of mine.

What's the favourite aspect of your job?

My favourite part of teaching is getting to know the young people, learning about what interests them. No two days are the same in teaching and the best bit for me is the developing positive relationships with pupils, with the hope of building their confidence in the classroom and also their skills for the future.

The Library ... with hints of DAFOREST

Now that we've had our transitional period from old to new school with the new library becoming a social and educational hub of our new school, have you ever considered how amazing and multi-faceted school libraries are? Undoubtedly, they support the needs of the whole community from reading development through to reading for pleasure, providing a curated collection perfect for the ages and reading levels of all students. The world of wonders within a library gives us access to a wide range of authors and genres, enticing and encouraging us into different worlds of words and images.

Limitless in capacity, school libraries engender teaching and learning throughout the curriculum and beyond, with relevant and up-to-date hard copy and digital resources, encouraging students to become independent learners and critical thinkers, to reach for their goals and explore their interests. School libraries also provide a haven, a safe welcoming environment, fulfilling a pastoral role that supports students' mental health and

wellbeing, where they can just "be" without having to worry about grades or exams, and where they can recharge before re-entering the busyness of a school day.

We could go on – the heartbeat of a library is endless: school libraries promote equity and inclusion; provide access to technology (so important for those who do not have this at home); are a place to read, study and do homework – again, something not always available to all students. In the library, staff who can help answer questions and find the perfect resource, be that a book for escapism, an autobiography by a possible role model, or an article to help with an assignment. All hyperbole aside ... the library is an oasis of joy!

Question:

How has the writer used DAFOREST to persuade the reader that the library has many benefits?



2025 – Highlights from staff and students

Engage the reader with your description of this event. Use DAFOREST and language techniques to persuade your reader that this was a significant and noteworthy event for everyone, not just you.

My highlight of 2025 - The Ski trip to Pinzolo, Italy by Elliot Walker (10D)

The ski trip took place in Pizolo Italy, a white wonderland full of snowy promise. We left January 19th for a week – by far it is my highlight of 2025. The reason? Because I got to go skiing in the marvellous mountains of Italy, a once in a lifetime experience. If you haven't tried skiing you should definitely think about as you get to go abroad with your friends and the adrenaline rush of flying down a mountain is awesome!

Also burning all those calories on the slopes makes you hungry as hell, which is why you can eat a mountain of pizza for lunch – every single day! The views are to die for. Yes, our Mournes are pretty tasty on the eye but the snowy peaks of the Alps are Michelin starred. Eccellente Pinzolo!

My Highlight of 2025 – Ski trip to Pinzolo, Italy by Dominic Regan (10D)

At the beginning of the year, on the 18th of January, my best mates and I joined up with the school tri trip to make the journey to Pinzolo, Italy. The journey up was all good but when we arrived at Pinzolo it all felt a bit surreal. I hadn't been abroad in about seven odd years and I have never been abroad without my family, but once we checked in at the hotel everything started to become grand.

Apart from being with some of my mates, the highlight just had to be the skiing. Yes, I was a bag of niggly nerves at the start but once you got into it, the excitement of speed along with control, we soon progressed to be told we were able to go onto the mountain slopes instead of the 'baby' slopes. Onwards and upwards we went – it was just class! Carrying the skies up was probably the worst part, especially in those big old boots but once you were gliding the struggle soon became so worthwhile.

My Highlight of 2025 – The Cross border residential by Noah Keown (10D)

The residential was in Ballycastle, quite close to a rugged beach. The trip was great to split up the school year and spend time with our friends and meet new people. We went from school on this long, gruelling bus ride for probably more than three hours as we had to pick up everybody from another school on the way. After this ride up it was around dinner when we arrived, and it was pitch black outside plunging us into the deep dark of winter. Not so wonderful!

Over the next few days we went to the beach, did some teambuilding stuff and just had fun. Every day we would have free time between activities and those were the best of all. We could just sit and talk or watch tv – beats being in school, you could say.

Then later after dinner we would do random quizzes or play around outside. We were only there for 3 days but it felt much longer, but it didn't feel right to be leaving at the end. We ended up having to get taxis back to school because the bus wasn't properly scheduled but it didn't make much difference. My favourite part was being at the beach with everyone as it had a great view of the mountains and the sea. We met some people we would never have met and that's why it was so memorable.

2025 – Highlights from staff and students

(continued)

My Highlight of 2025 – The thrills and spills of the Ski trip to Pinzolo by William Matthews (10D)

My highlight of this year so far would probably have been my ski trip during February this year with the school to Pinzolo in northern Italy. We started in the early hours of Saturday morning, driving to the airport but by the afternoon we had quickly made it to the beautiful mountain passes of the Alps. Just driving along some of the tallest mountains in Europe was simply breathtaking. Once we had made it to our hotel, that would be our home for the trip and had acquired our rooms, we set out for the ski shop just located across the town to get comfortable in our boots and skis. Once we had acquired and taken our gear, we had dinner and then went to bed to prepare ourselves for the next morning. A few butterflies, but excitement soon scared them away.

After a full day of traveling, skiing and walking around the town we were dead tired, so a good night's sleep was what we needed.

The next day we got up, had our breakfast then immediately made our way to the gondola and made our way up the mountain watching the stunning sights of the surrounding area. At the foot of the ski slopes (which was the end of the gondola) there was an area with a restaurant which would be out base for our lunch and break when we needed it. After we had done perusing the surrounding area, we got our skis on and were sorted into our groups. As I have skied many times before I was in the most experienced group which meant we would be going on the biggest and best slopes and this was probably the main reason why I had such a good time on the trip. The thrill of speed will always be my friend.

For the rest of the days, we started off by eating breakfast, going skiing down white fluffy snow and visiting the surrounding town in the evenings. The variety of our days was why the ski trip to Pinzolo has been the highlight of my year so far.

Mr Armstrong

From Masters meltdown at Augusta in 2011 to magical McIlroy in 2025, the experience of watching Rory at the Masters has been anything but easy viewing. But then, isn't this what top-level sport does to you, isn't it? You're put through the ringer of emotions high and low, the excitement of your favourite seeing the winning line, only for this line to sink into the distance. That's what Rory's last round put me and thousands of other fans through that Sunday night and into the wee small hours of April 14th. From the ridiculous dunk into the water at the 13th to the sublime slinger round the trees at 15, Rory's route to ultimate triumph encapsulated a slingshot of despair to utter delight.



2025 – Highlights from staff and students

(continued)

Ms Anderson

Always a highlight of the year, the field trip on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd May saw our two Year 11 Geography classes carry out their GCSE fieldwork – a study of the Shimna River, which sparkled and shimmered in the balmy summer haze. We couldn't have picked better days! Starting at Site 1 near the source (beside Ott track) the intrepid students split into teams and took measurements for a variety of characteristics including width, depth, velocity

and average load size. They repeated this at 3 more sites – along the Trassey Road, in Tollymore Forest Park and in Tipperary Wood. Unfortunately, at our final location near the river's mouth, high tide limited our ability to take measurements—only the river's width could be recorded. Overall, a great two days in the field. It was fantastic to see everyone working so well together and enjoying our amazing surroundings!



The intrepid Year 11 Geographers out in the field



2025 – Highlights from staff and students

(continued)

An Interview with 8M – 2025 Highlights

James Davison:

Have you ever played in a rugby tournament?
I have! In April, we had a rugby tournament with the school rugby team. The first game, we won. The second game, we won. The third game, we won! During the final game we lost by a try. The good thing is I got my first try. I was really proud of myself and my Dad was so happy I scored my first try. I also made some terrific tackles. In total we scored 125 points and came in second place. It was such a good day. It was excellent – like my egg sandwich!

Ellie-Rose Brady:

From Mullingar Ireland, a little boy who dreams of becoming a singer. His dreams become reality. Great isn't it? His name - Niall Horan, who conquered the X factor in 2010. His performance was full of excitement, nervousness and anxiousness. He was put into a boyband One Direction, then after a few years they all went on solo careers. Niall released 3 brilliant albums with the last one being the best. He is a great singer and song writer and is my favourite singer of all time.

Michelle Makoni:

Once upon a time a young boy from Mullingar Ireland dreamed of becoming famous, and it came true and that boy is Niall Horan, he pursued his dreams in 2010 when he joined a boy band named One Direction and continued to release songs as a band and solo but later on as the years passed One Direction broke up in 2016 and in 2025 one of the former members Liam Payne passed away.

Elsa Cromie:

At Orlando in fabulous Florida in February 2025 for a week. On the first day we went shopping at a massive outlet which was about 20 minutes – half an hour away. Then the second day we spent the day at the pool and around the resort. The

third day it was the first time we were going to the parks; the park was Magic Kingdom. We got the bus that runs from the hotel we were staying at. Fourth day we went to Animal Kingdom. Fifth day we went to Epcot - my favourite day! The sixth day we went to Hollywood Studios and on the sixth night we also went back to Magic Kingdom to ride other rides we didn't get to ride on the third day. Phew - the next day we went home for a rest.

Tara Hanna Kerr:

From standing outside the main ring at Balmoral show as a kid to riding in it, 16 May 2025 marked the fulfilment of my childhood dreams as every night as a child I always dreamed of being in the big main ring of Balmoral, galloping round with the massive crowd and then suddenly, as if by magic, my dream turned into a brilliant reality. From standing outside watching Mounted games to doing them in the ring was crazy. When you start to gallop the crowd goes wild, It was so fun I loved it. I would like to thank Emma Morrison, Jessica Curran, Mira Kelly, Anibell Gill, Emma Newsum and Jim Newsum. Thank you all so much for being so supportive. Hoping to be there again next year doing Mounted games and some jumping.



2025 – Highlights from staff and students

(continued)

Oliver Matthews:

Getting my marvellous dog was a massive part of my year because it is a puppy made in heaven. Brilliant Briar is 9 weeks old and is the dream of my life. Bouncy Briar is so small, and it always licks me to death when I get home from prison, sorry, school I mean. Briar follows me everywhere I go, which means that he must like me. Briar is not allowed out just yet as he must be able to look after himself but he's too young for that. Until he grows up a bit more, he stays in a play spot. I love my brilliant Briar.

Beatrice Olajide:

My momentous moment of 2025 happened when my favourite band made a comeback and released two new songs. Pink Venom broke up around 19 August 2022 with Kim Jisoo being the oldest then we have Kim Jennie, Roseanne Chae-Young Park and Lalisa Manobal being the youngest of the group. Their tunes are important to me because their songs have inspired me not to care about what haters says about me. I really like the story of how the band emerged together when Jisoo said that she likes to sing. Her parents cheered for her which led to her auditioning. Jennie moved to New Zealand and came back to audition. Rose's dad was tired of her singing in the toilet so he auditioned her in YG entertainment. Lisa loves dancing and is very much the dancing machine of the group. Long live Pink Venom!

Cruz Quinn:

2025, a brilliant year known as the Year of the Sleepover. The mighty Mason and I were at an awesome sleepover. We got left off at 8 o'clock, we had some crunchy chips and succulent sausages. This set us up nicely for the sleepover. The next morning, we went deep into the countryside for some crazy karting in a twisty track against fellow racers - it was so fun and fabulous. We then went snow-tubing down a big hill in a tub at a different place, and then we went to the shop. At the shop we got sweets plus toys, then we had lunch at a play park with a thing that went around at the speed of sound. Zoom!



Perfect Peer mentors do us proud!

A big thank you to all our fantastic year 13 and 14 Peer Mentors as we conclude another busy school year. They have been truly amazing providing support to our younger students by visiting registration classes, going along to their lessons and providing a Listening Ear when needed. Their input is truly invaluable.

From various classes our younger students have offered very complimentary feedback on the help they've received from their peer mentors:

“They have been very patient and kind with everyone”

“Our peer mentors have been great fun and an amazing help with Maths. They supported us without making us feel embarrassed!”

“They are amazing, a great help!
-Super Duper and very cool!”

Teachers also really appreciate the support the peer mentors provide within the classroom. They have expressed that:

“The peer mentors are fantastic by building up a good relationship with the students.”

“A great asset to the lesson!”

“They are a great help when the class are working on a task as they circulate around and help students with their work and the students themselves will even call them over to help now.”

Best wishes to our year 14 Peer Mentors who will be embarking on the next stage of their life journey, and we look forward to welcoming back our year 13s in September.



Amnesty International



Foodbank volunteer, John O'Hare, the Amnesty group, Mr Archer and Ms McCurdy



Year 14 students leading by example during the Write for Rights campaign

The Shimna Amnesty International Group led the school in the annual reverse advent calendar campaign, collecting much needed items for our local Foodbank, The Pantry. Form teachers encouraged form groups to bring in items and, along with staff donations, Shimna's 2024 total was 55 boxes – the biggest number so far. Foodbank volunteer, John O'Hare, was astounded at the mountain of donations from the school saying this was 'an incredible effort'. He explained that the demand for help at Christmas has never been as big and that this collection will help families into the new year as well as bringing many local people extra cheer at Christmas.

The Amnesty members would like to extend their gratitude to students, their families and staff members who donated this year. Special thanks to David Archer for his support in the gathering and sorting of items.

Shimna students consumed more than 800 candy canes in the last week of this term in order to support the Amnesty International group. The money will be used to fund postage for the Write for Rights campaign where the group write cards of solidarity and hope to people all over the world whose rights are being denied. Amnesty members

designed and made their own cards with the assistance of the Art department and then wrote messages of hope to people like Manahel Al-Otaibi given an 11 year prison sentence in Saudi Arabia for championing women's rights and Dang Dinh Bach, a prominent environmental lawyer in Vietnam, jailed for 5 years for his activism. Amnesty International state these cards and letters 'bring about real change by pressurising authorities to release prisoners, protect the vulnerable and stop abuses.' The messages also 'offer support and comfort to people facing and resisting human rights violations'.

Any remaining funds from the fundraising will be donated to a refugee charity. The group will decide which organisation to donate to, in the new year.



A collective effort from all year groups in the Amnesty group

Spooky Story: KS3 Competition



The task

- You will write a short story based on an image you will study.
- Your aim is to come up with a creative and imaginative idea and write it using no more than 500 words.

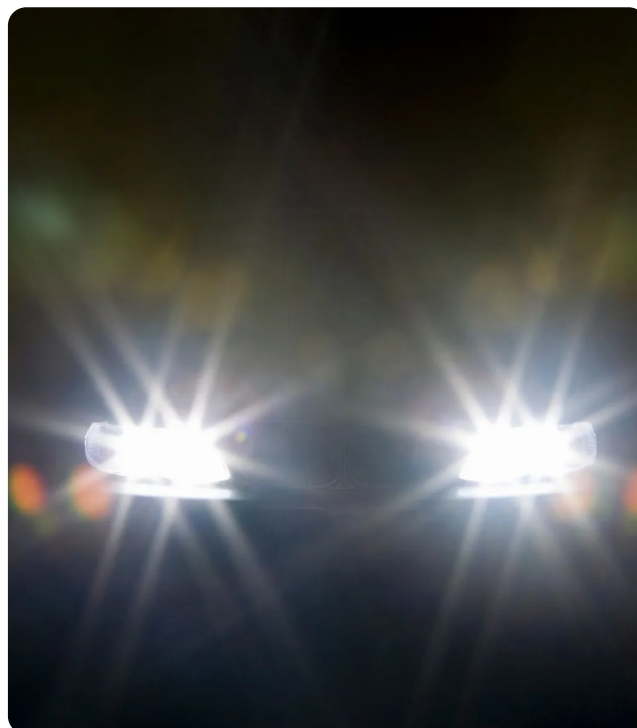
Questions to consider:

- Who is the girl?
- Where is she going?
- Where is she coming from?
- How is she feeling?
- Is she alone?
- What's the weather like?

Thriller Chillers

An extract from 'Prey' by Isaac Hill (9B)

Standing on the cliff face I saw what the distorted figures in the distance were doing. They flashed their headlights along the edge of the road as I crept lower and lower into the ditch. My every move gave me away as if the ditch itself was an accomplice of the hunters. Thankfully, the patter of rain disguised my fidgeting to hide and soon the gathering storm forced the men back to their van. But still ... they remained ... they know I'm here, I thought, I was sure.



Spooky Story: KS3 Competition

(continued)

An extract from 'The Chilling Chase' by Callum McIlmurray (8B)

It was a gloomy and murky night with spine chilling mist forming a deadly shroud. Sarah was alone with only her thoughts in the cold, vast night. The wind was screaming and the trees shook angrily. Her feet pounded on the ground as she raced towards freedom. Time was of the essence!

'Hey boss, where did the girl go?

'What? She's gone!

Panic set in amongst the gang as they scanned the area around the old barn. The pitch black of nothing and the blanket of silence surrounded them.

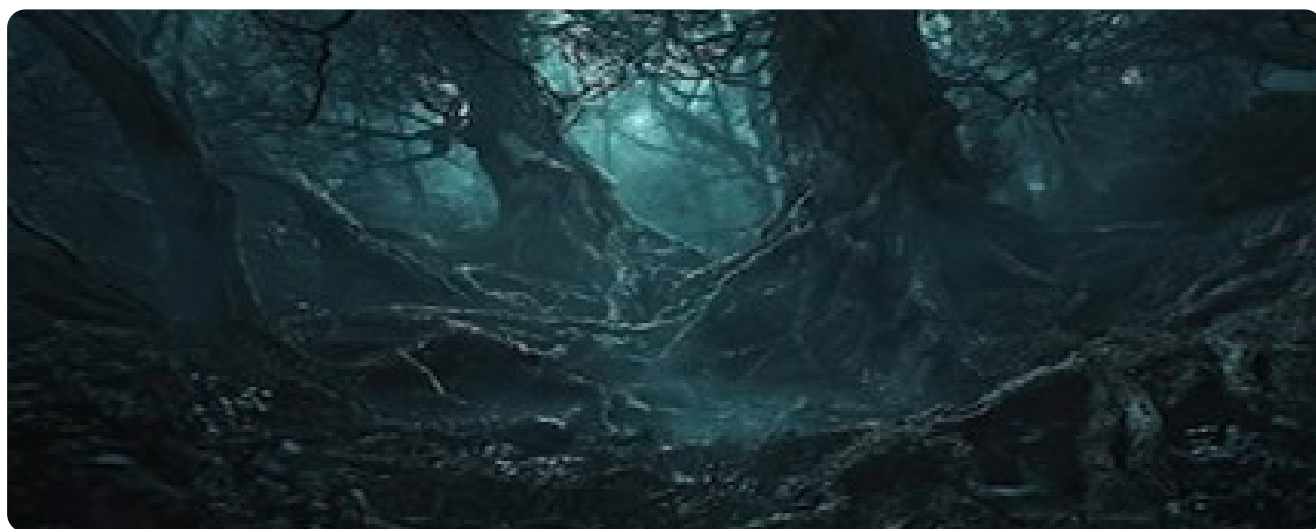
'Right, in the van now and let's get her back.'

The engine roared and sped off at the speed of light.

With the night sky growing darker and the air getting colder, Sarah ran on through the country lanes, wet now in a dank midnight drizzle. In the distance she could see headlights. They shone as bright as Christmas tree lights.

No, no .. this can't be ... they're coming.

With her heart pounding she headed for the forest. The trees moved like ghostly figures, their claws stretching for what seemed like miles. All traces of life vanished within the depths of the forest. But I must venture on, she thought. I must or I will be taken.



Spooky Story: KS3 Competition

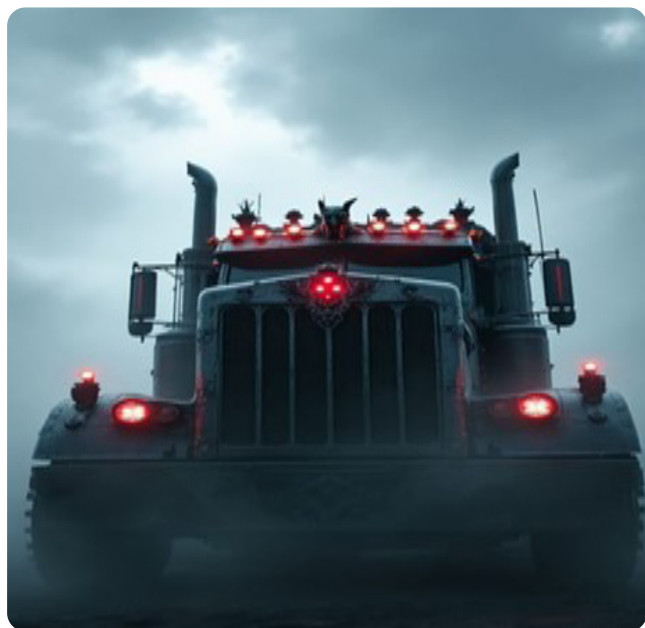
(continued)

An extract from 'Elena' by Aoife (9B)

Elena was fortune's fool, a very unlucky girl.

An only child, she grew up with the privileges of wealth. But one dark winter day a car ride to the misty woods became her last ever car ride with her parents. That day, as normal, she climbed into the back of the car with her favourite blanket. The cold bit and continued to bite. As usual, Dad drove while Mum fixed her make-up. The radio played the tingle of Christmas songs and a light flutter of snow began to fall. The snow fell on the frosty ground. Dad gripped tighter on the steering wheel, feeling the tyres struggle to grip the white road ahead.

'ROAD AHEAD CLOSED.' The weather took a turn for the worse.



An extract from 'Alone' by Luke Matthewson (8B)

There were no cars around that she was aware of but then this truck suddenly came into view. It was all smoke and oil – a bulldog menace full of muscle and rusty old iron. She was trapped in the glare of its headlights as she raced to escape. She couldn't be sure that this truck driver was trying to kill her ... for no apparent reason ... but she knew she had to run for her life. She surrendered any sense of calm, the vice-like grip of panic forcing her to run like she'd never run before. For some reason this was a duel she thought, she being the prey of this monstrous truck, some sort of sickening sport.

Shimna's Sizzling Summer Scheme

The Shimna Summer Scheme offers parents peace of mind as the club provides children with safe places to play, giving them opportunities to learn new skills and engage in a range of new experiences. Importantly, parents have also reported that the club has increased their own wellbeing by providing worthwhile and fun activities for their children during the holidays. There is also the benefit that they will spend less time playing video games on computers, games consoles, phones and other devices.



SHIMNA
INTEGRATED COLLEGE

**Sports and Drama
Summer Scheme 2025**

Cost: £45

Dates

Week 1: 30th June - 4th July
Week 2: 7th July - 11th July
Week 3: 14th July - 18th July
10:00am - 2:00pm

Open to children P5, P6 & P7

The poster features a collage of images showing children participating in various activities: playing basketball, a group photo of children in sports gear, a child painting a globe, and children sitting in a circle on the floor. Icons of a basketball, soccer ball, and football are also present.

Best days out in Northern Ireland for teenagers



Superdrive Karting – Armagh

According to popular vote Superdrive Karting is home to some of the fastest, most exciting outdoor karting and rally tracks in Northern Ireland! Your little Revheads can get their whoosh on with super charged 160cc and 270cc karts! You can choose between Practice Sessions, Mini or Full Grand Prix and Endurance Racing, whatever suits your groups' skills and experience. Superdrive Motorsports Centre is also the only rally school in Ireland offering junior rally driving experiences for young people age 13 to 17. No previous experience at all is required to take part in the junior driving as their friendly and professional instructors provide all tuition necessary to get you off and burning rubber! The star attraction is the additional Junior Rally Experience: it includes full equipment, full training and briefing, several progressive runs with registered BARS instructors, concluding with a heart thumping high speed demonstration by current rally drivers, with you in the literal passenger seat! Not something they're going to forget in a hurry!

Opening Times

Monday to Saturday from 9am until 5pm. Saturday reserved for group bookings and special events.

Pricing & Tickets

Wide range of motoring experiences and special events to choose from so be sure to check online!



The Jungle Magherafelt

For children over 1 metre tall, the Mowgli (Kids) Tree Top Adventure Course is an obstacle course 25ft above the ground, a set of daring high ropes for kids, very safe and very fun! The continuous belay system safe roller means that once clipped on there is no possibility of coming unclipped from the Mowgli course so your little ones can monkey around in perfect safety with wibbly, wobbly bridges, gently swinging cargo nets and a tiptop tree house to discover! They'll be harnessed up by friendly, fully-trained Jungle staff and, after a proper safety briefing, they will be released to roam through the tree course and put their chimp skills to the test!

Opening Times

Booking available (& required) from 9am until 5.30pm from Monday to Saturday. Activities available for booking throughout the year with seasonal closure around Christmas & New Year.

Pricing & Tickets

Archery only £13 per person Clay pigeon shooting from £30 per person Llama trekking from £5 Paintball from £17.50 per person Wide range of activities, events, & games to choose from so be sure to check the full list on their website! Book in advance for cheapest tickets.

Summer Reads for 11+ readers

The books in this section have been given a primary age range of 11+. The reading world now lies wide open. Individual choices of genre become more significant as readers become more discriminating. Readers develop their critical faculties as they weave their way towards the kind of readers they are growing into. The books in this section are suitable for 11-12+ readers. The books in this

section might also be given a secondary age range. Some are suitable for 9+ year olds reading above their age. Please note, content & subject matter will be suitable for a 9-year-old. Where indicated, less confident teen readers will enjoy the stories. Non-Fiction in this section is often fascinating and educational to a wider age range.

