
Dogs and Doctors and Dentists



Medical Meet-Up

Here are two Shimna OldScholars who have always kept in touch with each other and their careers, and their dogs. Orla studied medicine at the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, and, after a number of years of experience in hospital medicine both in Gateshead and Belfast, she is now back in Gateshead training to be a GP.

Stewart graduated in dentistry from the University of Central Lancashire, and following a similar career path to Orla, he built up his experience as a dentist back here in Northern Ireland. He then headed to Edinburgh University to fulfil his dream qualifying as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He now works as a maxillofacial surgeon at the North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust. Proud to know them.

Naoise

Final year law student, QUB

Naoise hit tough times just at the very stage when the world says you have to do your GCSEs and make all your life changing decisions. He took time out. He gave himself time to discover himself and regain confidence in his brains and ability. He took to cooking, and describes the day he watched the chef whip eggs up into a fabulous meringue, a wonderful example of the restorative power of creativity. Not only did Naoise recover his personal equanimity, he has been an enormous support to others facing similar issues.

Then, off he went to Queen's and...

In the second year of his course, he lifted every scholarship Queen's law department had to offer. He is now well on his way to graduation and is already set up to begin training as a solicitor with A&L Goodbody. Proud to know him.



Where are they now!

We are very proud of our wonderful OldScholars and the wide range of destinations, careers, lifestyles, relationships and opportunities they find.

We've been exploring the idea of squiggly careers, rather than careers that just go in a straight line, and here you will find some inspirational examples of Shimna OldScholars who have built up their skills and experience and followed their dream. Paul is up an Alp, but then Paul is always up an Alp.



Chris

After graduating from the University of Cumbria, Chris invested further in his outdoor skills, before qualifying as a tree surgeon. He then worked for a number of years at GlenCraig, providing opportunities for adults and children with differing abilities and support needs. The Mournes and family called him home and he brought together all his skills and experience in founding South Down Tree Care. Not only does he run a successful business, but uses his people skills to provide excellent training for budding tree surgeons, and plans to run an apprenticeship scheme. Proud to know him.



Seamus

Seamus wanted to see the world as soon as he left school, and so he did. After a number of years in Australia, Seamus returned to the family



And that's not all...

In between running Mount Panther, Seamus is also in his final year studying business management at Queen's. Lockdown has of course meant that Mount Panther can't welcome visitors, but the animals are still cared for and thriving. Just to keep himself occupied before restrictions on allowing visitors are eased, Seamus is also working for his Dad as well while the park is closed. They make farm machinery, so there is certainly no time to get bored or frustrated. Proud to know him.

home at Mount Panther, and founded the fabulous Mount Panther Farm Park. So many Shimna families head out to meet the animals and enjoy the innovative rides and activities.

Ciara

Ciara, BSc(Hons) Theatre and Performance, MA (Dramatherapy) MA (Social Work) is a Supervising Social Worker with a small trauma



informed therapeutic fostering agency in Cambridge called 'To the Moon and Back'. She supports and enables foster carers to provide the best possible opportunities for the children in their care.

Creativity in Action

She is also a consultant drama therapist, working with children who have experienced trauma. She is also a qualified fitness instructor, teaching classes to people impacted by COVID lockdown. She still has her passion for acting and directing and works with local theatre in Cambridge. Ciara's first dissertation was about drama as therapy to support and heal communities in conflict in NI. She then moved on to Cambridge to qualify as a drama therapist and as a social worker, bringing all these strands together in her current role with 'To the Moon and Back'. And that is as well as coming from a family full of dramatic yarns! Proud to know her.