

# Scholarship will help skier Victoria

By Gez Mulholland  
News Reporter

**STREETLY** skier Victoria Bell has been rewarded with an Olympic scholarship as she bids to make the Winter Games next year.

The scholarship, awarded by the International Olympic Committee, is intended to support the costs of training, equipment and travel up to the games in February 2014, which take place in Sochi, Russia.

Bell represents Ireland in Alpine skiing and Robert Norwood, President of the Snowsports Association of Ireland has welcomed the news.

He said: "This will enable Victoria to progress to an even higher level, to be best prepared for Olympic selection."

"She competed for Ireland at the World Alpine Ski Championships in Schladming, Austria, in February this year; and this was a major stepping stone for the Winter Olympic Games."

"It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Victoria and Ireland to have athletes who are prepared to work to a high level."

Bell, who has just finished her A levels at King Edward VI Handsworth School, was allowed to study for her A levels over three years rather than two, to allow for extra time training in the mountains.



Victoria Bell has been rewarded with an Olympic scholarship.

She said: "I have worked really hard over the last few years to improve my performance."

"It is so rewarding to have that hard work acknowledged by the International Olympic Committee and it has given me a big boost psychologically to have that kind of recognition. I will be going to New Zealand again next month to spend my summer training and racing there."

"I will do my absolute best over the summer, autumn and winter in order to be selected to go to Sochi. I have been to the European Youth Olympics but it is my goal to compete at the main. Winter Olympics which would be such a great experience," added Bell.

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