CELTIC IRISH AMERICAN ACADEMY

Collect lifelong memories with us!

Newsletter 2022/23

CONTENTS

3 - Céad Míle Fáilte
4 - Settling In
5 - Exploring Galway City
6 - Irish Culture and Language
7 - Art, Music and Dance
8 - Future Leaders and Changemakers
10 - Contributing to the Local Community
12 - Irish Sport
13 - Exploring Ireland
14 - Treasure Hunt
15 - Featured
16 - Making Connections, Building Friendships
18 - Testimonials
21 - Special Thanks To

A special thanks to our students for many of the wonderful photos on this booklet!

CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE!

A Hundred Thousand Welcomes!

We are delighted to welcome you to the Celtic Irish American Academy!

The Celtic Irish American Academy is an international summer school for American and European high school students. The summer school is based in Galway City, considered the Culture Capital of Ireland, the European Capital of Culture 2020, and voted by Travel + Leisure magazine as the World's Friendliest City.

Our mission is to provide you with an adventurous, fun and unique insight to your Irish heritage.

This booklet tracks the adventures of the class of 2022 giving you a glimpse into what you could experience on this programme.

We are looking forward to meeting you!

SETTLING IN

At the end of a long journey, students were warmly welcomed into the homes of our wonderful host families where they would stay for the next two weeks.

After some rest and a little unpacking, the adventure began!

The first stop
was a visit to the summer school,
St. Enda's College, Salthill.

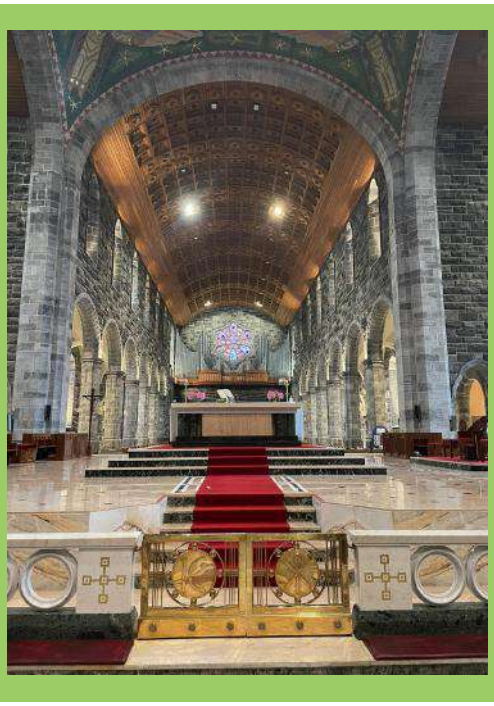
This exceptional school overlooking Galway Bay, first opened in 1928, is where students would complete their classes.

An orientation session introduced the students to each other and the organisers who would be running the activities.

EXPLORING GALWAY CITY

When first arriving in a new place, it's important to learn your way around. And what better way than with a medieval walking tour with local historian Tony O' Leary!

A visit to the beautiful Galway Cathedral.



A city museum tour provided further insight into Irish culture and heritage.

A campus tour of the National University of Ireland Galway with a fun demonstration in the chemistry lab may just sway some of these students to attend university in Galway!

There is nothing better than strolling through Galway City in the summertime. The streets are alive with buskers and street entertainment!

IRISH CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

A quick lesson in the Irish language on the bus prepared the students for a visit to Leitir Mór, the 'Gaeltacht' or predominately Irish speaking part of Galway.
Here, we paid a visit to Muintearas, a community education and training organisation. Students attended an Irish language and culture seminar where we learned about initiatives being undertaken to support the local community such as daycare and after-school services, and a wind turbine which powers parts of the facility.
We were also treated to a beautiful song, as Gaeilge, by our host Seán Ó Costella.

Visit to the Kylemore Abbey and Gardens - one of the most visited attractions in Ireland and Europe!

Classes in St. Enda's College included Irish history classes on the Great Famine and the Irish Resilience. We were extremely lucky to have a presentation by one of our Colorado students on her hometown of Leadville, the highest city in North America in the Rockies, famous for its mining. Leadville saw thousands of Irish men live and die here in poor conditions in the late 1800s/early 1900s.

ART, MUSIC AND DANCE

Students received an Irish music history lesson and private concert from Irish harpist, Ann Fitzpatrick, and Brian's wife Deirdre.

World Irish Dancing champions and coaches led our students in a Céilí (Irish music and dance).
You can find a video here!

The Galway International Arts Festival, a two-week long wondrous display of Irish and International art, theatre and music, luckily coincided with the students' visit. Students visited an exhibition called "The Entanglement" addressing the environmental, cultural and human aspects of data.

A performance by 'Trad on the Prom' combined Irish music, dance and song.
We even got to meet the dancers after!
You can catch a glimpse of the performance here!

FUTURE LEADERS

Global communications expert and former CNN correspondent, Gina London, gave an inspiring and interactive talk on working hard to reach your goals and striving to become whoever you want to be. She gave some great advice on preparing for any communications such as public speaking and interviews.

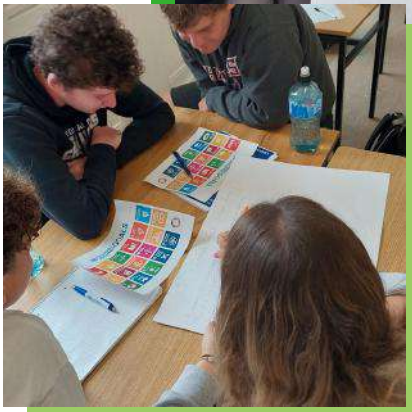
A public speaking lesson with teacher Gabrielle Murphy in St. Enda's College encouraged students to work in groups on their debating and public speaking skills.

A STEM morning in the Medtronic plant resulted in lots of learning and fun. Medtronic is a global medical technology leader and have supplied most of the world's ventilators during the pandemic.
Medtronic treated us to a demonstration and factory floor walk with yummy treats after.

AND CHANGEMAKERS

On a visit to Galway City Hall, students got to meet the Mayor of Galway, Clodagh Higgins, and sit in the chambers where city council meetings are conducted. The Mayor was extremely generous with her time, asking individual students about their interests in politics and encouraging the students to ask questions. The Mayor was also keen to know about the students' experience in Galway and if they had any suggestions on how to improve the city, to which they answered that we have a bit of a seagull problem!

A morning was spent with Dr. Jo Fahy in St. Enda's College discussing Global Awareness and Respect.
This included a discussion on the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals and developing solutions to some of the world's greatest challenges in society and the environment.
We were lucky to have a students who heads her New Jersey school's Global Awareness Club to offer some insights and ideas.



CONTRIBUTING TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

On their visit to Ireland, students committed to raising funds for charity. The charity chosen was the Galway Simon Community. The Galway Simon Community is a charitable organisation which provides support and accommodation services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the West of Ireland.

Students and their families not only donated money but also completed challenges in order to support the charity.

The first challenge was climbing Diamond Hill, a 7.6 km loop trail in the Connemara National Park.

A challenging trek with beautiful mountain and coastal views was completed with several stops for photo shoots, a new friend and a see-saw finale!

The second challenge was completing 5 Atlantic Sea Dips. Students bravely conquered the waters no matter the temperature. Take a look at our brave students taking the big leap from the Blackrock tower here!

The families of our current students
and our alumni families were extremely generous
and we raised over €720 for the Galway Simon Community.

A huge thank you
to everyone involved!!

IRISH SPORT

Known as the fastest field sport in the world, students tested out their skills at hurling with a local hurling legend Tom Fox.

Students got to experience the All Ireland Senior Hurling Final weekend, where Limerick beat Kilkenny for the coveted Liam MacCarthy Cup.

The nerves and excitement ramped up the following weekend for the All Ireland Senior Football Final where Galway faced Kerry in a nail-biting event. Unfortunately, Galway were defeated but our students wore their jerseys with pride!

EXPLORING IRELAND

Venturing out of Galway, students travelled to County Clare for a day trip to the Burren. The tour involved viewing glacial era limestone with cliffs, caves fossils, rock formations and archaeological sites. The visit included the Aillwee Caves, Corkscrew Hill, O'Briens Tower and of course, the beautiful and famous Cliffs of Moher.
This was one of the hottest days of the summer so far which made for even more spectacular views!!

A visit to Ireland would not be complete without a visit to the nation's capital, Dublin City.
Students visited Trinity College Dublin, the oldest university in Ireland. A fascinating trip to the National Museum of Ireland had a focus on Irish history and geology. Following lots of history and culture, students roamed the beautiful streets, including Grafton Street, for some shopping and entertainment from street artists.

TREASURE HUNT

An adventure through Galway City concluded the programme. Students had been living and exploring the city for almost two weeks. It was time to test their knowledge!
Separated into groups, students engaged in a Treasure Hunt – four teams, 27 points and one winner.
Teams were required to take a selfie at each spot along the trail.

Our visit to the Mayor made it to Page 32 of the Galway City Tribune!

FEATURED

CITY CENTRE

Madra collection this Saturday

Madra, the dog rescue and rehoming charity, will hold a bucket collection in the city centre tomorrow Saturday, starting at 10am and continuing until 6pm. Animal rescue centres are really struggling this year and all donations to Madra will go to help the homeless dogs in its care.

Tunes in the Church

The Tunes in the Church concert series returns to Galway after a two-year break. The award-winning, series held in St Nicholas' Collegiate Church, will run for three weeks in August, starting next Tuesday, August 2.

Concerts will run Tuesday through Friday and will feature some of Galway's finest musicians, singers and dancers. Included as part of each event is a historical tour of St Nicholas' Church.

Tunes in the Church began in 2010, set up by Kerry musician and Galway resident Cormac Begley, who wanted a way of presenting traditional music that was family-friendly and respected the tradition. It is an acoustic, authentic, personal and interactive representation of Irish music, song and dance.

Interaction between the audience and performers is central to the experience, with relaxed, natural, conversation being a feature of all concerts.

The series provides a respectful but family-friendly setting for the listener and creates a platform where leading exponents of traditional music can showcase their talents.

California visitors

Galway City Council hosted members of the Californian Assembly and prominent industrialists on Friday.

The group, which visited Galway as part of broader Irish trip, was welcomed by the Deputy Mayor of Galway City, Cllr Mike Cubbard.

Galway City Council Director of Services, Brian Barrett, was also present, as were Arts Officer, Gary McMahon, and Tourism Officer, Ruairí Lehmann. Also in attendance was the President of NUIG, Dr Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh - the group had visited the University the previous evening.

Lotto results

There was no winner of last week's Liam Mellows Jackpot of €10,000. The numbers drawn were 7, 24, 26 and 29. There were two Match Three winners of €100 each; Michael Finnerty, Mountbellew (standing order ticket), and Caroline Leahy, online sale.

The Promoter's Prize went to Hughes' Bar, Woodquay.

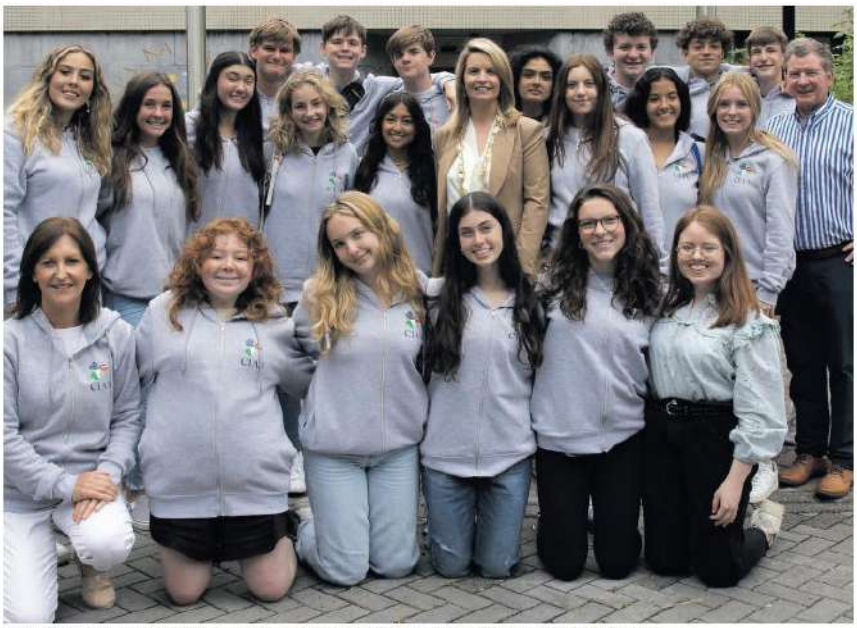
This week's draw for €10,200 will be held online tomorrow, Saturday. The cut-off point for the purchase is 8pm.

Safety awards

The Road Safety Authority is calling for public nominations for the 'Leading Lights in Road Safety' Awards 2022.

These awards recognise a group or individual who campaigns, educates, and is committed to improving road safety in their community and they honour the significant contribution made by people and organisations nationwide in reducing deaths and serious injuries on Irish roads.

The closing date for entries October 28. More information at www.rsa.ie.



Mayor Clodagh Higgins with 20 students from the Celtic Irish-American Academy whom she hosted at City Hall.

Library book club

The Galway City Library monthly in-person book club is taking place on Thursday, August 4, at 11am at Galway City Library, St Augustine Street.

This month's book is *Leonard and Hungry Paul*, by Ronan Hession.

To join, email your details to city@galwaycitylibrary.ie.

Sincere sympathy

Members of the Galway Rowing Club would like to extend their condolences to the friends and past colleagues of Brother Angelus Tom Moore, a former principal of St Joseph's 'the Bish', who died on Sunday at the age of 93.

Brother Angelus was instrumental in helping to grow the sport of rowing in the school and was a great supporter of the rowing community.

Many involved in the club grew up knowing Brother Angelus, and his influence can be seen to this day.

Brother Angelus was a member of Patrician Brothers in Kingston and originally from Enniscorthy, County Wexford.

Predeceased by his sisters Mary Ellen and Sr Pius, and brothers Joe and Matt, he is survived by his nieces, nephews, extended family, former teaching colleagues, Patrician confreres and his many friends.

His Funeral Mass was held at The Sacred Heart Church, Séamus Quirke Road, on Wednesday after which he was laid to rest in St Joseph's Cemetery, Rahoon.

Mary Kelly RIP

The death occurred on Monday of Mary Kelly (née Gilraine) St John's Avenue, Henry Street, and formerly of Drumshambo, County Leitrim.

Predeceased by her husband James, she is survived by her children Noel, Imelda, Brenda, Olive and Aidan, sister Annie Gilraine, her grandchildren Mai, Tomás, Jimmy and Nika, son-in-law Ronan Kelly and daughter-in-law Neda, the extended Kelly and Gilraine family, neighbours and friends.

Requiem Mass was held at the Jesuit Church, Sea Road, yesterday, Thursday, after which she was laid to rest in Rahoon Cemetery.

Teen arts event

Local artist Yvonne Cullivan will hold a teen meet-up, including a visit to an exhibition, on Wednesday, August 20, from 11am-2pm. It's for young people aged 13-18 with a medical condition, who want to explore their creativity and who would like to meet other teens with similar stories.

The visit to the exhibition will be followed by a workshop exploring the themes it raised, using a range of media, led by Yvonne, a professional artist and educator.

The meeting point is Galway City Museum and it will conclude at Galway City Library. This event, which is free, is inclusive and accessible, overseen by paramedics, supported by volunteers.

William Kennedy RIP

The death occurred on Monday of William (Bill, Willy) Kennedy, Clybaun Road, Knocknacarra, and formerly of St Bridget's Terrace, Prospect Hill.

Predeceased by his brothers John and Canice, he is survived by his wife Vera, children Cathy, Niall, Mark, Deirdre, Joan and Niamh, brother Brian and his wife Kay, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, sisters-in-law, nephews, niece, extended family and a wide circle of friends.

Requiem Mass was held yesterday, Thursday, at St Patrick's Church, Forster Street, after which he was laid to rest in the New Cemetery, Bohermore.

Students welcomed

Mayor Clodagh Higgins welcomed a group of 20 American students from the Celtic Irish-American Academy to City Hall last week.

The students, aged between 15-17 years, had completed a two-week immersion in Irish Culture, Heritage, Leadership and Business practice.

Patrick Noone RIP

The death occurred on Friday of Patrick (Boston) Noone, St Brendan's Avenue, Woodquay.

He is survived by his children Danny (USA), Seamus (Galway) and Barbara (Galway), sisters Vera (USA), Ita (USA), Marion (USA), Bernadette (USA), Betty (Galway), Carmel (Galway), brothers Michael (Athlone), Stephen (Galway) and Frank (Galway), nieces, nephews, relatives and a large circle of friends.

His Funeral Mass will be held today, Friday, at the Abbey Church, St Francis Street at 11.30am, after which he will be laid to rest in the New Cemetery, Bohermore.

MAKING CONNECTIONS,

RESPECT
Everyone,
Everywhere,
Everything

Throughout the program,
an emphasis was placed on respecting,
looking after, and caring for one another.
Students undertook this ethos with pride and determination.

The Class of 2022 were extremely warm, energetic, respectful, inclusive, kind, and courageous. Outside of scheduled events, time was spent together at the carnival, having sea swims and spending time with the host families.

Their futures are bright and we are excited to see what they grow to achieve!

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

TESTIMONIALS

"This was an unbelievable trip for me, an amazing first journey away from home. I enjoyed every activity and gained an appreciation of the Irish culture. I had a wonderful time." - Justyne.

"I came away from this trip with many new friendships, lessons and knowledge. I enjoyed every second and miss Galway so much. I intend to move forward with the great memories and knowledge gained to better my life back home in the United States. Thanks to all involved for the inspiration along the way."
- Grace.

"This program was fantastic. Everything we did was fun and exciting. Everyone involved students/host families/leaders were so kind and welcoming. Mr. Fahy and Dr. Clancy have created a brilliant environment where we all can improve ourselves as young adults. It was a privilege to attend. I wish it could have lasted longer."
- Megan.

"We had such an amazing time. I loved making new friends and getting to experience Salthill and Galway. I will miss so much the days we went to the beach and had ice cream and chats afterwards." - Ruairí.

"This program was definitely one of the best experiences that I have ever had. Before this I had never travelled outside of the US. The breath-taking scenery, the wonderful people and interesting things to do made this a trip that I will never forget. How our group showed great respect and bonded so well has left a lasting impression."
- Landen.

"The program has so much to offer and it is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I was the only student from New Mexico to attend but our group soon formed a wonderful and lasting friendship and we all felt so much at home in our surroundings. The time I spent here will always be remembered and it was a privilege to be able to attend this year."
- Roisín

'The Celtic Irish American Academy was a brilliant program to be part of. I had great experiences in Ireland , learned so much and met many new friends that I feel will be friends for life.'
- Kyle.

'This trip was a wonderful experience for me. It was my first time leaving the United States which is a major step for a teenager but I will be forever grateful that my parents gave me this opportunity of a lifetime. I learned so much about people, heritage , culture and setting goals for myself. I will never forget our amazing group and will cherish these memories forever.'
- Audrey.

'The CIAA adventure has been such great fun. I learned so much about culture and history, and made so many new from various parts of the United States and Ireland. I am so grateful to have experienced these two weeks. I would 100% recommend this amazing experience.'
- Samantha.

'This program is truly amazing. Brian and Johanna Fahy are excellent leaders and I learned so much from them. I will carry the knowledge and memories garnered from the last two weeks for the rest of my life. In my time here, I have fallen in love with Salthill and Galway city as well as other parts of Ireland that we were privileged to visit during this spectacular adventure. I am so glad that I decided to partake in this program and I have had experiences and made friendships that I will treasure for life.' - Niamh.

'I really loved this program. It taught me many new skills and brought me a new perspective. This is a fantastic opportunity for High School students. Memories of the places I went to and the the fine people I met will last with me forever. My host family was incredible.'
- Victoria.

'This program was a truly amazing experience that will forever be with me. It really opened my eyes to how privileged I am and the importance of giving back. We did a sea water challenge and a trek to help out a local charity. It really was a home away from home that I never want to leave and will always look back on , from the Cliffs of Moher, to interesting classes, ice cream trips and of course my amazing host mom. It was an honor to be part of CIAA. I made friends for life.'
- Kelly.

'I had an amazing experience in Ireland. I would recommend anyone with Irish heritage to go on this trip. I learned so much on a daily basis. My favourite part about this adventure was climbing Diamond Hill in Connemara. The views were spectacular and we had a brilliant bonding day. I have made friends on this trip that I intend to keep for life. The entire schedule was wonderful and every day brought a new challenge. I highly recommend this program.'
- Connor.

"This program really opened my eyes to the great history and strong connections between the United States and Ireland. There was so much love and hospitality shown throughout the trip and I truly changed as a person for the better. I would highly recommend this experience to young Americans who would like to learn about their history, submerge themselves in culture and learn what it means to become a global citizen."
- Skye.

"I had a wonderful experience with CIAA. I feel that this trip has been very influential in my growth and maturity as an individual. I am so grateful I had the opportunity to see the beautiful landscapes of the West of Ireland and relish in the culture of my forefathers. The students on the program were lovely and we soon developed our own little community. It amazes me how quickly we became inseparable and we have promised to stay in contact with each other. CIAA has given me a gift that I will cherish for my entire life."
- Sara.

"Everyday seemed to present our group with something new and special. The highlight for me was the great friendships I made, the new sports, and the Cliffs of Moher. I met so many new friends on this program and we shared some great times." - Neo.

"The trips to the University in Galway and Trinity college were so interesting , while the visit to Medtronic Medical Device company made me think about my college choice."
- Georgia.

"I so much enjoyed meeting the US students again this year and showing them about life in Ireland. We became friends from day one and are going to stay in contact. It is so nice to see how they appreciate our home place , lifestyle and traditions . The bond that developed between us is based on sharing and respect and we all intend to keep in touch." - John.

"I loved this program. It totally immersed me in my Irish culture and heritage. My host family were the sweetest people and really made me feel at home. thousands of miles away from my actual home. Through various day trips, nights swimming at Blackrock, or classes with Dr. Jo., Gabrielle and Brian we learned and appreciated so much and all became very close. The two weeks flew too quickly . For High school students of Irish heritage or not , I would love you to experience this chance of a lifetime." - Maeve.

"This program opened my eyes to college overseas as well as career choices. It is unlike any program that I have experienced before. I made friends from so many places. I really believe that all High School students should participate in this program to experience the wonderful life and opportunity that exists outside of their own comfort zone. I am extremely grateful to those that made my attendance possible and strongly recommend that others look into participating in this once in a lifetime opportunity."
- Seamus.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Denis Mulcahy , The Mulcahy Scholarship, Project Children and The Aisling Irish Community Center.

CenterPieceNY Podcast

The Irish Institute of New York.

The Gaffney Family.

The Irish American Young Leaders.

CIAA SCHOLASTIC INC

COME JOIN US IN 2023!

Sunday July 16th - Saturday July 29th

Contact Us

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