

## Celtic Irish American Academy Marks 10th Anniversary

By Irish Echo Staff

Given that 2025 marks its tenth anniversary it was fitting indeed that the Galway-based Celtic Irish American Academy marched in the 2025 New York St. Patrick's Day Parade.

And the Academy's progress is set to continue into the summer when another class of American high school students head for Ireland and a program of immersion in all things Irish.

The Academy's July 2025 Program will mark the 10th anniversary since the founding of the Academy in 2015 by father and daughter Brian Fahy and Dr. Johanna Clancy.

The program first ran in July 2016 when a group of seven U.S. High Schoolers attended. By last summer that number had increased to 37.

The group that marched in this year's NYC parade was made up of Academy alumni. Also in March, a "Gathering" took place at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton outside Boston.

The Academy's two week immersion program provides U.S. High School students with the opportunity to engage in what the Academy describes as "an intellectually stimulating and a deeply enriching exploration of their Irish heritage and nurtures the bonds between the U.S. and Ireland for future generations."

According to the Academy, "by focusing on young Irish Americans we are influencing the next generation of decision makers, entrepreneurs, educators in the diaspora and these students will form the vital network of the future."

"The immersion program will enhance students' understanding of Irish history, culture and heritage through structured educational activities, visits and



Celtic Irish Academy alumni marched in the 2025 New York Saint Patrick's Day Parade.



Academy participants in Eyre Square, Galway.

engagements. The schedule will enhance their personal growth, cultural awareness and global citizenship. This program has a lasting positive impact on the participants and the communities involved."

Students from New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Florida have already booked for this July. Highlights last summer were Diamond Hill, Kylemore Abbey, the Cliffs of Moher and Dail Eireann trips.

Said Dr. Brian Fahy: "This summer we are looking forward to our S.T.E.M. day at Medtronic Medical Device Company, our farm exploration in Moycullen County Galway and a day of interactive classes and activities at The University of Galway."

"Our collaboration with the University is a very exciting development as there is an increasing awareness of the value of our study abroad program as a key preparation for Third Level Education."

"Many of our alumni have returned to attend university in Ireland and this is now being viewed as an excellent avenue for further

education in Ireland. We also intend to celebrate the Project Children 50th Anniversary with a visit to the Peace Campus in Monaghan.

"This will be of particular interest to the Mulcahy Scholars and the Irish American Young Leader groups. We are looking forward to a return of our Human Rights class led by Professor Andrea

Broderick of Maastricht University, Holland, while Class of 25 Volunteering this July will involve The Simon Community, Galway City Council and Galway United FC."

This year's program dates are July 13 to July 26.

Fahy said that the Irish government, through its Department of Foreign Affairs Emigrant Support Programme, has this year awarded the Academy a grant of \$5000.

"This is a recognition perhaps of the importance of our mission," Fahy said.

More at [www.celticirishamericanacademy.com](http://www.celticirishamericanacademy.com)



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Students in the wilds of Connemara.