Kennedy Summer School
A FESTIVAL of IRISH & AMERICAN HISTORY, CULTURE and POLITICS

31st August - 2nd September 2023
NEW ROSS, CO. WEXFORD, IRELAND

WWW.KENNEDYSUMMERSCHOOL.IE
The Kennedy Summer School Programme is subject to change. For up to date details and full profiles of speakers see kennedysummerschool.ie
It is worth repeating: there will literally be something for everyone at the Kennedy Summer School from the 31st August to the 2nd of September. We hope that you will join us for some or all of what promises to be an informative, thought provoking, and enjoyable three days in New Ross. Larry Donnelly, Eileen Dunne, Eamonn Hore, William Keithy, Sinéad McSweeney, Dr Brian Murphy, Dr Matthew Jebb, Prof. Bríona Nic Dhiarmada, Dr Charles Larkin

-Kennedy Summer School 2023 Organising Committee.

Supported By

Wexford County Council

BOSTON COLLEGE

FAILTE IRELAND

Purdue University

kennedysummerschool.ie 31st Aug - 2nd Sept 2023

kennedysummerschool.ie
Thursday 31st August 10:30am

Venue: The Marquee at JFK Memorial Park and Arboretum

In 1961, JFK challenged America to land a man on the moon before the decade was out. By 1969 this was achieved. The mathematicians, scientists, engineers and various other experts were all unified in their desire to achieve what appeared only a few years earlier to be impossible. In this session we have a panel of scientists and engineers discussing the final frontier. The mysteries of black holes, pulsars and supernovae, putting people on Mars, creating and deploying probes deep into the solar system, the importance of Earth's magnetic field in defending us from solar radiation. Students will also learn what part they can play in space exploration and how space is teaching us more and more about caring for our own fragile and climate change challenged home. Come along to experience the wonder of space.
This event which has become a firm favourite for many is hosted by Seán Connick, CEO of the John F Kennedy Trust. Seán has the enjoyable task of welcoming and chatting with the legendary Eileen Whelan, RTÉ Newscaster. Familiar to all, Eileen has attended the Kennedy Summer School throughout the years and this year it is our pleasure to welcome Eileen as our guest at the Tea Party.

The conversation between Eileen and Sean will see them chat about her career as a classical singer, journalist and broadcaster along with her life interests.

A further highlight of the afternoon will see the screening of footage from the celebrations held in New Ross in 2013 on the 50th Anniversary of President Kennedy’s visit. This film will bring back many memories of another spectacular event in New Ross, during which the Emigrant Flame was lit and the Irish Air Corps performed a spectacular fly-past over the river Barrow.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Wexford born multi-talented singer and actress Sharon Clancy.
On 31st August, the 2023 Kennedy Summer School will be officially opened by Her Excellency Nancy Smyth, the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland. In her opening address, Ambassador Smyth will emphasise the deep-rooted friendship between Canada and Ireland, celebrating the values that bind our two nations together. Following the Ambassador’s opening remarks, she will engage in a fireside chat with Eileen Dunne, the renowned former journalist from RTÉ.

The official opening night of the Kennedy Summer School promises to be an enjoyable experience, a harmonious fusion of diplomatic charm and journalistic brilliance. We look forward to welcoming everyone to St Michael’s Theatre for this discussion, which will give a unique insight into the diplomatic work undertaken by a leading Ambassador and also shed new light on the importance of Irish-Canadian relations.
The Kennedy Summer School is set to delve into the captivating realm of Celebrity Politics, a session that promises to be both insightful and thought-provoking. With esteemed moderator Sarah Carey at the helm, the stage will be set for a lively and engaging discussion that will challenge preconceptions and explore the intersection of fame and politics.

Joining the panel will be a line-up of distinguished experts, each bringing their unique perspectives to the table. Dr Kathryn Cramer Brownell, an authority on media and politics, will share her deep understanding of the historical context and implications of celebrity influence in the political arena. Terry Prone, a seasoned communications expert, will offer valuable insights into the strategies and dynamics behind celebrity politicians’ rise to power.

Gerard Howlin, a renowned political commentator, will contribute his sharp analysis and astute observations, providing a balanced and incisive viewpoint on the topic. Lastly, Dermot Murnaghan, a veteran journalist with a wealth of experience, will bring his probing interviewing skills to the panel, ensuring a dynamic and engaging conversation.

As the session unfolds, the Kennedy Summer School audience can anticipate a stimulating discussion, exploring the complexities, advantages, and potential pitfalls of celebrity involvement in politics. With a diverse range of perspectives and a moderator adept at fostering fruitful dialogue, this session promises to be a highlight of the event, sparking new ideas and encouraging critical thinking on the evolving landscape of celebrity politics.
Martin O’Neill is a household name in professional football. Born in Derry, he spent most of his playing career with Nottingham Forest, playing under the legendary Brian Clough and winning the European Cup twice in 1979 and 1980. Martin was capped sixty-four times for the Northern Ireland national football team and captained the team at the 1982 World Cup.

O’Neill has managed Grantham Town, Wycombe Wanderers, Norwich City, Leicester City, Celtic, Aston Villa, Sunderland and Nottingham Forest. He guided Leicester City to the Football League Cup Final three times, winning twice. As Celtic manager between 2000 and 2005, he led that club to seven trophies including three Scottish Premier League titles and the 2003 UEFA Cup Final. After joining Aston Villa he achieved three consecutive sixth-place finishes in the English Premier League and guided them to the 2010 Football League Cup Final.

Martin became Republic of Ireland manager in 2013 and led them to qualification for the 2016 UEFA European Championship for the third time in the nation’s history, beating the reigning world champions in the process.

In a public interview with Dr Brian Murphy, Martin O’Neill will discuss his extraordinary career in football, his recently published memoir On Days Like These and his perspective on the new football season.
Thursday 31st August | 8:30pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre

Brexit economically challenged Ireland. Importantly, the end of the land bridge with the UK made the connection between Ireland and Europe all the more important. Rosslare Harbour was a critical part of the infrastructure to facilitate goods trade with Europe through France. In this panel we will explore the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for the economy of the south east. The aim is to produce a vibrant, high-value-added economy for the south east with good jobs in the region, creating vibrant communities, moving away from the current model of brain drain and dormitory towns.

In this panel we will hear from Ireland’s newest university, which will be a source of economic development in the region. We will hear from the tourism, agrifood, medtech, logistics and green sectors on how the south-east region can finally achieve its potential as an entrepôt to Europe and a key component in the new green, high-tech economy. This session will conclude with a special policy-orientated address by the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland on the future of the Irish economy.

Friday 1st September | 10:00am
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre

Dr Charles Larkin
Moderator

South East Technological University hosts Economic Forum on the South East Region and a new relationship with the EU post Brexit

Tom Enright
CE.WCC

Jim Bergin
CEO Tirilán

Prof Veronica Campbell
President SETU

Laura Brien
CEO MARA

Pauline Oakes
CEO Integer

Joan Nolan
Director Nolan transport

Vasileios Madouros
Deputy Governor, Monetary and Financial Stability

Marianne Barkan-Cowdy
Deputy Head of Mission, French Embassy

Brian O’Flynn
Head of Ireland’s Ancient East
Failte Ireland

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The annual Kennedy Summer School Speakers’ Lunch, held at the JFK Arboretum, will pay tribute to the late Dr Robert Mauro, a cherished friend and former director of the Kennedy Summer School.

Dr Elaine Mahon will discuss the significance of our unique lunch, an authentic reproduction of one of the Irish State banquets hosted for President Kennedy on his visit to Ireland sixty years ago. This year’s distinguished guest of honour at the 2023 luncheon is Mairéad McGuinness, EU Commissioner, who will deliver a speech and engage in a traditional fireside chat interview with Larry Donnelly.
In a panel moderated by the former government minister and current Director General of the Institute of International and European Affairs, Alex White SC, experts with a diverse range of perspectives and drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds will examine what five decades of membership of the European Union have meant for Ireland: boon, bust, or somewhere in between? In addition, they will set out their views as to this country’s appropriate future position within the EU. Naturally, Brexit and its consequences will be a focus, but the national conversation about Ireland’s foreign policy, especially on security and defence, is also likely to surface, as well as the myriad challenges ahead for the EU more broadly. This panel will be introduced by David Carson, a board member of the Institute for International and European Affairs.
This session commemorates the founder of the Kennedy Summer School, Noel Whelan. Over the years, Noel conducted a number of one-to-one interviews with key figures in Irish political and cultural life. We are continuing this tradition in his honour while also taking the opportunity to explore themes which remember and draw from Noel’s life, loves and interests.

We are honoured and excited to welcome Oscar and Emmy nominated film director, Lenny Abrahamson to the stage of St. Michael’s Theatre. During the interview we will chat about the director’s impressive work including the films Room, Garage, Adam and Paul, What Richard Did, Frank and The Little Stranger as well as the television series, Normal People and Conversations with Friends. The discussion will also expand to broader themes including fatherhood and legacy.

Lenny will be in conversation with Noel’s wife, Sinéad McSweeney and the session will be introduced by Noel’s son, Séamus.
The Changing Face of Ireland will address issues of diversity and identity in the light of the findings of the most recent census. The demographic changes have been unprecedented and raise many questions as to how we establish a broader sense of what it means to be Irish at home and abroad.

The panel will have 4 speakers, Jason Sherlock who will talk about his own experience of growing up and also address the importance of sport in integrating new communities; Dr Miriam Nyhan Grey who will speak about diversity in the Irish-American diaspora, Pat Gatling, who will talk about migration from a civil rights perspective and Professor Gary Murphy who will discuss the social and political implications of demographic change.

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Reflection by Frank McNally
Friday 1st September
9:00pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre

Frank McNally is an Irish Times journalist and chief writer of An Irishman’s Diary. He will close Friday’s proceeding at the Summer School by giving a reflection on the day’s events, joining up themes and discussions with his characteristic wit, humour, and insightful observations to provide Summer School patrons with a unique perspective on the Irish/American experience.
The influence of Irish immigrants who arrived in the United States from the sixteenth to twentieth centuries cannot be overstated. Their journey to America not only transformed their own lives but also left an indelible mark on the United States. Through their remarkable achievements in politics, industry, organized labour, religion, literature, music, and art, these Irish immigrants and their descendants made invaluable contributions to the fabric of American society.

In this year’s Kennedy Summer School’s Annual History Symposium, we will delve into the lives and impact of several prominent Irish-American leaders who played pivotal roles in shaping the politics and society of the United States.
Our distinguished panel of experts will explore the illustrious careers of two esteemed and long-serving US Congressmen; a former Attorney-General, US Senator, and member of the Kennedy dynasty; a tireless advocate for women's rights, education, and labor, as well as the activities and influence of Irish nationalist and republican activists in the USA.

While each of these Irish-American leaders pursued distinct career paths and held diverse perspectives, their shared Irish heritage undoubtedly shaped their viewpoints. During the symposium, our panel will engage in thought-provoking discussions on the broader implications of the Irish-American experience, highlighting in particular its profound influence on the lives, careers, and contributions to the United States of John W. McCormack, Brian Donnelly, Bobby Kennedy, Kate Kennedy and others.
James Carville and Mary Matalin are a power couple in the world of American politics, known for their strong personalities and divergent political views. James Carville is a prominent Democratic strategist and political commentator, while Mary Matalin is a respected Republican strategist and author. Carville rose to fame as the lead planner for Bill Clinton’s successful 1992 presidential campaign, earning him the moniker “The Ragin’ Cajun” for his passionate and relentless campaigning style. His sharp wit and outspoken opinions have made him a sought-after political analyst on various media outlets.

On the other hand, Matalin, with her conservative leanings, has played key roles in the Republican Party, serving as a campaign advisor for the presidential race of George H.W. Bush and later working as an advisor to Vice President Dick Cheney. Despite their opposing political affiliations, Carville and Matalin found love in the midst of politics. They married in 1993 and their relationship has been widely regarded as a testament to the strength of their bond, transcending their political differences.

Join us for an in-depth conversation featuring James Carville and Mary Matalin, two renowned political commentators from opposite sides of the fence & hosted by Audrey Carville, a highly respected journalist who is a co-presenter of the most listened to radio programme in the country, Morning Ireland, on RTÉ Radio One. She is also a cousin of James Carville.
Irish Politics Panel

Saturday 2nd September
2:30pm
Venue: St Michael's Theatre

Four prominent TDs from across the political spectrum will discuss and debate the big issues with the long-time political journalist, former RTÉ broadcaster and current host of the Insights podcast, Seán O’Rourke, serving as moderator.

Representatives of the government will be asked to defend their track record while in power and those in opposition will be called upon to outline their plans for addressing the multiple complex challenges Ireland faces as elections loom on the horizon. Additional topics of international and domestic concern, such as Russia’s war on Ukraine, Irish neutrality, the ongoing fallout from Brexit, the transatlantic relationship and the future of public service broadcasting, may also feature.

Gary Gannon TD
James Lawless TD
Rose Conway-Walsh TD
TBA

Sean O’Rourke
Moderator
Vice Admiral Mark Mellett was Ireland’s highest ranking military officer, Government’s principal military adviser and member of the National Security Committee and the EU Military Committee.

Mark has served as a specialist Naval Diving Officer, Seagoing Commander and also served in Afghanistan and Lebanon. He led the COVID-19 military response. He is the recipient of two Distinguished Service Medals and on behalf of the President of the French Republic he was appointed to the rank of Commander in the National Order of the Légion d’Honneur.

Appointed by the Government as Board Chair of the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, he is also Council Chair and Board Member of the Irish Management Institute, Deputy Chair of Sage Advocacy and an Adjunct Professor at UCC. Holder of a PhD in Ecosystem Governance and founder of ‘Green Compass’ he provides strategic advice to governments, industry and ENGOs.

Mark will be in discussion with Prof Stacey Connaughton, Professor in the Brian Lamb School of Communication and the Director of the Purdue Policy Research Institute (PPRI) at Purdue University about the strategic drivers and implications of the war in Ukraine, Ireland’s neutrality and the implications of climate breakdown on global security and stability.
As always, this year’s summer school will host an ideologically diverse panel of experts to discuss the current state of play in American politics. The panel will be asked to reflect upon the central issues – both substantive and systemic – confronting the United States in 2023. With the kick-off of primary season just a few months away, the panel will consider President Joe Biden’s tenure in the White House thus far: has his administration succeeded or failed in the wake of the tumultuous term in office of his predecessor? The session will then turn to the 2024 presidential election, in particular the dynamics of the race for the Republican nomination.
Reflection
Her Excellency Geraldine Byrne Nason
Saturday 2nd September  5:15pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre

The Kennedy Summer School is delighted to announce that Geraldine Byrne Nason, the current Ambassador of Ireland to the United States of America, will deliver the closing address for our 2023 programme. Ambassador Byrne Nason brings with her a remarkable career in international diplomacy, having served as the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador to France, Second Secretary General in the Department of the Taoiseach, Ambassador and Ireland’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, and Director of the National Forum on Europe. In her closing remarks, she will offer insights on the Kennedy legacy and the enduring strength of Irish-American bonds.

End Of Sessions Entertainment
New Ross and District Pipe Band
Saturday 2nd September  5:30pm

To conclude a vibrant programme of talks and events, the Kennedy Summer School is delighted again to invite the New Ross & District Pipe Band to perform their now iconic special entertainment piece to mark the end of the 2023 Kennedy Summer School. Founded in 1974, this award-winning group will perform a series of familiar and inspiring songs and tunes reflecting themes of struggle, freedom and overcoming personal and political adversity.
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS
THURSDAY

Thursday 31st August 10.30am
Venue: The Marquee at JFK Memorial Park and Arboretum
Secondary Schools Event
Speakers: Dr Fiacre Ó Cairbre, Dr Ciarán Seoighe,
Ms Ruth McAvinia
Moderator: Prof Patrick Prendergast

Thursday 31st August 2:30pm
Venue: The Marquee at JFK Memorial Park and Arboretum
The Kennedy Summer School Afternoon Tea Party
Speaker: Eileen Whelan
Moderator: Séan Connick

Thursday 31st August 6:30pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
Official Opening of 2023 Kennedy Summer School
By H.E. Nancy Smyth Canadian Ambassador
Speakers: H.E. Nancy Smyth
Moderator: Eileen Dunne

Thursday 31st August 7:30pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
Celebrity Politics
Speakers: Dr Kathryn Cramer Brownell, Terry Prone,
Gerard Howlin, Dermot Murnaghan.
Moderator: Sarah Carey

Thursday 31st August 8:30pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
Martin O’Neill Former Manager Irish Football Team
in conversation with Dr Brian Murphy
Speaker: Martin O’Neill
Moderator: Dr Brian Murphy
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS
FRIDAY

Friday 1st September 10:00am
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
South East Technological University hosts Economic Forum on the South East Region and a new relationship with the EU post Brexit
Speakers: Tom Enright, Jim Bergin, Prof Veronica Campbell, Pauline Oakes, Vasileios Madouros, Laura Brien, Marianne Barken-Cowdy, Brian O’Flynn
Moderator: Dr Charles Larkin

Friday 1st September 12:30pm - 2:30pm
Venue: The Marquee at JFK Memorial Park and Arboretum
Speakers’ lunch
Speakers: Dr Elaine Mahon, Katie Morrisroe
Special Guest: Commissioner Mairead McGuinness
Moderator: Larry Donnelly

Friday 1st September 6:00pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
Ireland, 50 years of EU membership
Speakers: Patrick Honohan, Suzanne Lynch, Lucinda Creighton, Dermot Murnaghan
Moderator: Alex White

Friday 1st September 7pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
The Noel Whelan Interview
Speaker: Lenny Abrahamson
Introduced By: Seamus Whelan, Moderator: Sinéad McSweeney

Friday 1st September 8:00pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
The Changing Face of Ireland
Speakers: Dr Miriam Nyhan Grey, Patricia Gatling, Jason Sherlock, Prof. Gary Murphy
Moderator: Prof. Bríona Nic Dhiarmada

Friday 1st September 9:00pm
Venue: St Michael’s Theatre
Reflection by Frank McNally
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>History Panel</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 2nd September</td>
<td>10.30am – 11.30am</td>
<td>St Michael's Theatre</td>
<td>Speakers: Dr Kathryn Cramer Brownell, Ken Murray, Sean McCormack, Ali Watkins, Larry Donnelly</td>
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<td><strong>The Saturday Interview</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 2nd September</td>
<td>12.00pm</td>
<td>St Michael's Theatre</td>
<td>James Carville &amp; Mary Matalin</td>
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<td>Speakers: James Lawless, Gary Gannon, Rose Conway-Walsh</td>
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<td><strong>Edward M Kennedy Lecture</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 2nd September</td>
<td>3:30pm</td>
<td>St Michael's Theatre</td>
<td>Speakers: Mark Mellet</td>
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<td><strong>US Politics Panel</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 2nd September</td>
<td>4:15pm</td>
<td>St Michael's Theatre</td>
<td>Speakers: Pat Gatling, Greg Swenson, Renee Fattah &amp; John McGuirk</td>
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<td><strong>Reflection: Irish Ambassador to America</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 2nd September</td>
<td>5:15pm</td>
<td>St Michael's Theatre</td>
<td>H.E. Geraldine Byrne Nason</td>
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<td><strong>Closing entertainment from the New Ross and District Pipe Band</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 2nd September</td>
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Ticket Prices

Tickets: St Michael’s Theatre.
Box Office +353 (0)51 421255 or online at www.kennedysummerschool.ie

- Schools Event school booking only
- The KSS Afternoon Tea Party at JFK Arboretum. €18
- Thursday Opening Night. €15
- Speakers’ Lunch (Friday 12.30pm) €35
- Friday Evening Events €25
- Saturday All day Theatre events €25

The Economic Forum at St Michael’s Theatre on Friday Morning is Free but places are limited and MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE. Please email info@stmichaelsnewross.com to book your place(s) and to receive confirmation of place(s) allocation.

The Kennedy Summer School
35 South Street, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
info@stmichaelsnewross.com T. 051 421255

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