

2026 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHOWCASE

FROM CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY: SERVICE LEARNING IN BIRR, IRELAND

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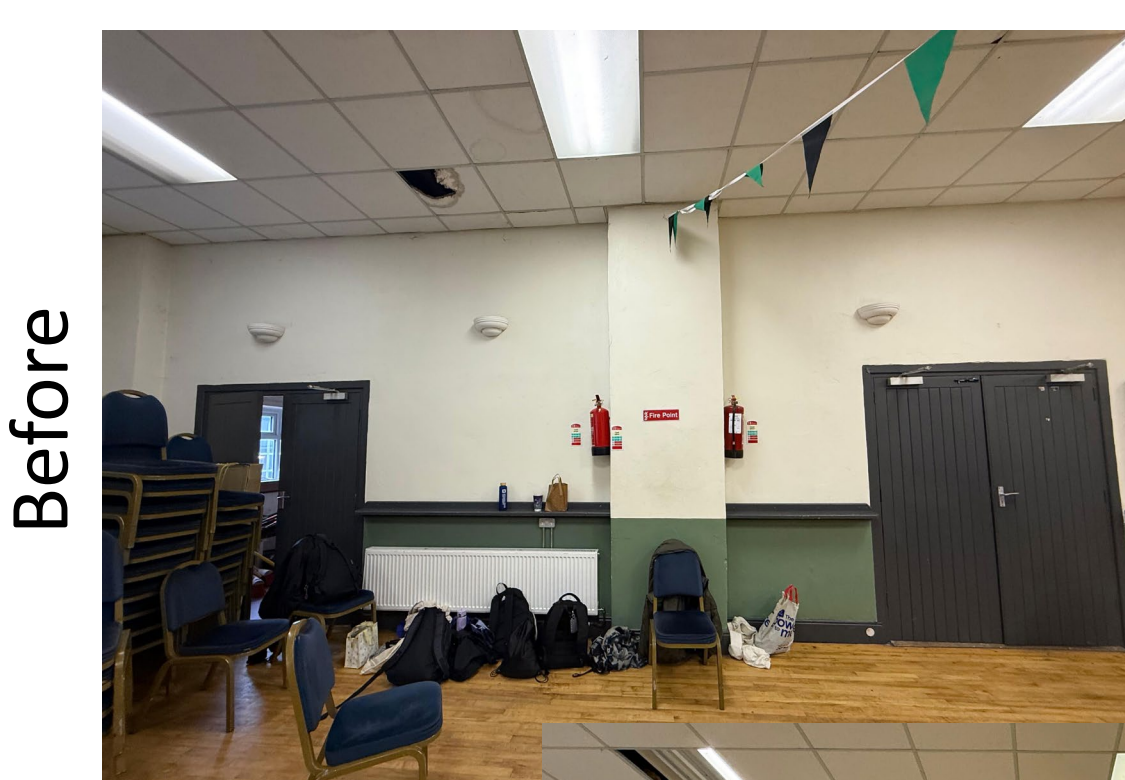
Program or Project Description

IRISH HERITAGE SCHOOL

- The IHS partners with universities to help complete community projects in Birr using heritage as a pillar
- Goals and community endeavors of the IHS include: educational programming, support of community project and events, maintenance of public spaces and improvement of civic space

Project Highlights

- 25 students and numerous professors worked on these projects
- Refurbished the Birr Rugby Club
 - Changes include: repainting rooms, replacing all ceiling tiles, and repurposing the physio room
- Tidied and tended to the Birr Heritage Trail and Old Cemetery



Experiential Learning for Career Readiness & Civic Impact

"What's the point of being a historian or archaeologist if you're not going to make it accessible?"

- Stephen Mandal, IHS Founder

- Experiential learning motivates students of the GE Honors Program to apply learning material in ways that actively help communities, allowing them to see positive changes occur before their own eyes.
- This capstone class showcases all the skills GE Honors Students have cultivated throughout their academic and personal journeys.



- This project increased students' civic engagement interests by showing the enhanced quality of life community service has on community members



Community Impact

- Cultural programs brought people together in the community, and study abroad tourism supports the town economically
- Helped rebuild cultural and community spaces



Campus Community Impact

- Introduced us to a new community and enhanced our cultural and historical knowledge
- Strengthened our bonds with one another and improved our team skills, including: active communication, initiative, problem-solving, and reliability

