

SLS Ireland

25 YEARS (1992—2017)



sls shandon
language
solutions

25 years - at first it might not seem so long ago but it was in 1992 that the first text was sent. This was a world that hadn't heard of Facebook. There was no Twitter, no WhatsApp, no YouTube. You had to make your way home without Google Maps, and find things out without Google. You had two choices in a café - tea or coffee and if you took a photo you had to wait for a week to see it.

Yes, 1992 was quite a different world than it is today and it was in this technological wilderness that Kathy and Donal launched a cross-national education business. Initially launched as Shandon Language Agency and subsequently called Shandon Language Solutions. It's most recent evolution is Shandon Language Solutions Ltd., but it will always be affectionally known as SLS.



From a humble beginning, Kathy and Donal set out to provide a world class service assisting students to improve their English by integrating into Irish family life. They mopped the tears of home-sick kids, cajoled them to speak English, cheered their success as their English improved and handed them back to their parents at the end of the year, having learnt so much more than just a language.

As success grew SLS expanded their services to offer a range of language tuition including our annual summer camp as well as tailor-made courses and more recently work experience. Meanwhile the Academic Programme has expanded hugely and includes schools throughout the country.



SLS has no doubt grown over the years but it has always remained a family business. Maureen, Kathy's sister, has been by her side from the beginning but was soon joined by Maureen's husband, Tony and their nephew, Eoin. They were followed in the office by Audrey and brothers

Kevin and Luke. We will soon be joined by Karen, who as Accommodations Officer, will be responsible for finding our wonderful host families. And of course, we cannot forget our team of student coordinators, teachers and host families countrywide.

In that 25 years SLS has welcomed over 10,000 students from all over the globe. When you consider how much the world has changed in that quarter of a century, you can't help but wonder where those students are now? Who have they become and how much of that was due to their stay in Ireland? Isn't their success in life the best legacy to what SLS has achieved.



A Message From The Directors



Directors Donal & Kathy Donovan

Even though the business has grown over the past 25 years, it is important to us that we maintain a personalised service and to keep the students at the very heart of SLS. We never forget that each student is someone's precious child and as parents we always think that if it was our child that was away from home we would want someone to care for and cherish them.

Over the years, we have been lucky to have partnered with many agents who have now become far more than business colleagues and in-fact are close friends.

We look forward to 2018 when many new projects will come on-stream. It will be an exciting year for SLS and we hope you will all be part of this.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and health and happiness for 2018.

Kathy & Donal Donovan



SLS Goes Global & Other News From 2017

SLS embarked on their first Asian marketing trip in 2017, visiting the Shandong Province in China. Our busy trip included school visits, presentations to prospective students and their parents and meetings with prominent business and education leaders and culminated in a speech by Kathy to over 2,500 students in one school, surely her biggest audience to-date. Meanwhile, Audrey taught several English classes in different schools as well as running a workshop for her Chinese counterparts.



For the 5th year running our summer school was based at Oatlands College and this year's was bigger than ever. We were thrilled to welcome our first Chinese students and they were universally popular among teachers, host families and fellow students. Despite the weather, we managed to organise many great tours around Ireland. Other highlights included The Magic Show and the ever popular Friday evening disco.

If we judge the summer camp on how reluctant the students are to leave, then the buckets of tears shed this year as they left for the airport must surely point to another successful annual camp.



Summer School Students

Exam Success in 2017

SLS students continued to impress with some amazing results this year. We had five classes successfully prepare for Cambridge English exams. This prestigious award will be invaluable to these students' future careers and is a huge achievement for them.

We also had 2 groups take the Trinity GESE exam during our summer school, with 100% success in both groups and representatives from basic to advanced levels.

Our youngest exam students also scored highly in their TIE exams. Some of these students were only 10 years of age and away from home for the first time.

Of course we can't forget our academic year students who performed so well in their end of year school exams, achieving some excellent scores in all subjects even though it wasn't in their first language. Finally, our Leaving Certificate students deserve huge congratulations on their success.

We wish all of our students success and happiness, whether they are still with us in Ireland or have returned home.



2018 Competition

As we look towards 2018, SLS will once again host students from all across the globe. We are recruiting host families and teachers.

Do you know someone who might be interested in hosting students? Send us their contact details by February 1st and for every family that you recommend, you will be entered into a draw for a €100 voucher.



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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

