

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

Report by Kate Doyle

On Tuesday the 2nd of March, the transition year group enjoyed the presentation on, women in engineering, led by engineer and scientist Niamh Shaw, in association with Calmast and Waterford Institute of Technology, as part of National Engineers Week.

Joined by a number of Irish engineers, in a variation of areas, Shaw covered many principal elements of the day-to-day life of engineers in Ireland and abroad.

Aoife Dempsey an Intel employee with a degree in electronic engineering, spoke about the important life skills developed by someone pursuing a career in this area of employment. Aoife also spoke about the numerous opportunities that can arise within and outside of the industry. Working as a test development engineer at Intel, Aoife explained her job is to develop hardware and software which enable the production testing of integrated circuits.

“Engineering is designing for the future”- Aoife Dempsey.

Emily Watson explained how having attended a transition year course in Trinity College Dublin, and completing a PLC course after her leaving certificate, helped her realise her passion for engineering. Emily explained another reason for her career choice was the opportunity to teach and travel to places like Brazil, Poland, Russia, and France. Now, as head of performance for Servier, Emily makes strategic decisions for the site.

“The world is your oyster when you have an engineering degree, because of how you are taught to think and approach life”- Emily Watson.

Finally, Brigid Walsh, a civil engineer at Carlow Institute of Technology, spoke about her experience of studying engineering as a mature student. She told us about going back to school to sit her Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate later in life, after having left school at just 16 years old. This was necessary to achieve her goal of working on renewable energy projects, as she is passionate about climate action.

The presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended. All the speakers including Brendan Mitchell, a civil engineer, and Marcus Fitzsimmons, a sustainability engineer, expressed their passion and admiration for the companies and industries of which they are each a part of.

They explained that everything we do, day to day, no matter how big or how small, has been incorporated into our life by an engineer.