



Shine festival

By Claire Boland

On Thursday October 12th TYs traveled to Waterford for the second time this year. We left school at 8.45 and arrived at the SETU arena for the Shona shine festival 2023. Once we all made our way inside, we took a group photo before going further. After, we then went into the huge hall where we could try our luck in winning some prizes and venture around the different stalls they had to offer. Soon after it was finally time to head to our seats where we found a bag waiting for us. Inside were a pair of either pink or blue sunglasses, a lollipop, a notebook, stickers and a pin. We were all delighted with the surprise.

Then the show began at around 10.30. Firstly, we heard from Michaela Hayes who got us excited to hear from the speakers to come. Secondly, we heard from Tammy Darcy, the founder of the Shona project, we learned all about why she founded the Shine festival and why it is important to her. At 10.45 we had our first speaker Kellie Harrington who won a gold for boxing in the Olympics. She told us very inspiring stories about how she got into boxing. Then at 11:05 Shelia Kearney talked us through a meditation. The next three speakers talked to us about creativity and sustainability and how easy it was to change little things in our everyday life to be more environmentally friendly such as where we get our clothes -Fionnuala Moran, Kim McKenzie and Amanda Ade. Our last speaker before a lunch break was Ciara O'Connor who talked about not worrying about life too much which we all took on board.

When we came back from lunch, we heard from Danspire official which involved getting up a moving along will her. At 1:40 it was Sarah Doyles turn to talk and she gave us inspirational stories as she is a life coach and pep talk giver. At 1:55 we had another break, which most of us took as an opportunity to visit the stalls again and to try win more prizes at the spin wheel. After our last lunch we heard from Yemi Adenuga who was definitely a favorite at the shine festival. She talked about stories from her childhood which were very interesting. The last person we heard from was Cara Darmody who completed her junior cert at aged 11, to stand up to the Irish government and raise awareness for the help people with autism in Ireland needed. As a congratulations from the shine festival, she received gifts and gave a speech to say thanks. To finish we participated in a dance along. After a long day of inspiration and enjoyment, we left at around 2:30 to head back to Wexford. I think I can say for everyone in TY this was a very enjoyable day out.

