

The NMCF has supported OYTS. This is the write up of one of the voyages the NMCF has supported.

This year the school sent two staff plus students whom they described as follows:

B, boy aged 12 – eligible for free school meals and pupil premium. He is a hard-working young man who deserves the chance to learn a new skill. He has a distant relationship with his dad.

C, boy aged 12 - a very polite young man around adults. He can be disruptive in school when he is with his peers. He lost his dad suddenly approx. 2 years ago.

D, girl aged 12 - a lovely young lady who is very strong willed. A Sea Cadet and has aspirations to join the Navy, but has reservations about the disciplined lifestyle. She reports that she finds school boring and struggles to find goals to aim towards.

E, girl aged 12 - very excited for this trip as she has not done anything like this before. She is very hard working and conscientious. She lives with dad and has supervised contact with mum.

F, girl aged 13 - eligible for free school meals and pupil premium. A student who has a big friendship group within the year group. She has had struggles with friendship groups in the past but has always used her voice to speak up and ask for support with this. She can come across quiet to start with but once she is comfortable will talk. The voyage will allow her to work on new friendship groups with the students and provide her with the chance to express her strengths outside of the classroom environment.

G, boy aged 13 - eligible for free school meals and pupil premium. Full of energy and has a great attitude towards school and life. He is on the SEN register and has a heart of gold to help out staff and students when they need it. He has a small group of friends at school and they all look out for each other. The voyage will give him the opportunity to use his energy on the boat to carry out activities that may take place whilst on the voyage whilst also improving his social skills.

J, boy aged 13 - has had a mixed start to Year 9 and has found it tricky to settle back into school. He is a fantastic and polite student when he is 1-1. He is working hard on being able to control his behaviour in class and in groups. He likes to be the centre of attention with his peers. The voyage will allow him to explore new friendships and showcase his skills and maturity in a small group.

K, girl aged 12 - eligible for free school meals and pupil premium. A quiet girl who struggles to maintain secure relationships. We hope she will benefit from the independence that this trip offers.

L, girl aged 13 - eligible for free school meals and pupil premium. Had a tricky time in Year 8 and found it challenging to be on time for school and lessons. She would refuse to sit detentions and go into isolation. This year she has made a fantastic start to Year 9 and been on time to school and sat her detention that she was given. She loves football and has made it clear to us that she wants to be a role model student this year.

We've got £600 left to spend in your fund and I think we will allocate all of it before the end of the season.

Voyage report

They sailed first to Cowes:



On Sunday they went out to the Nab before going into Gosport for the night.





Monday was another big sail into the western Solent and then some night pilotage back to Ocean Village.





It was a very busy couple of days, in light winds and strong tides, for a relatively young crew (ages 12-13).

They covered 73 nautical miles – no mean feat in a short voyage - and you can see the [full voyage track here](#).

Individual reports from the skipper

B (boy aged 12)

All good, fully engaged, always looking for something additional to do. Reliable, motivated. Organised galley duties. Could use the winches independently. Was immune to the provocations of other kids. Supervised other young people and showed them what he had learned. If he can stay involved with us till he is 16 and continues to make progress, he could become a volunteer bosun and future volunteer watchleader.

C (boy aged 12)

Easily lead astray by a disruptive friend, he would have been much better off with different company. Motivated, good on the helm, willing and engaged when not distracted by others: he was a completely different person away from his poor influence. If kept busy and was given physical jobs (e.g. sweating the sheet during a gybe) he could excel. Left the boat on the last night.

D (girl aged 12)

It was difficult to get her to engage; and she was more interested in the social aspects of being on a residential than she was in the actual sailing. However, once we got her going, she was competent and completed tasks reliably. Interestingly, after the two most disruptive influences left the voyage, she stepped in to fill that vacuum and become significantly more intractable. However, her knots were good, as was her helming; and she was engaged when she wanted to be, particularly going out on the bowsprit – she was afraid to go to begin with (and quite vocal about it) but faced her fear and got the job done.

E (girl aged 12)

Pleasant smiley character with some difficulties with motivation. Once she had forgotten to object, she would tackle anything with a will. Liked - and blossomed with - attention. Very engaged with the navigation exercise and quite enjoyed being given a little authority.

F (girl aged 13)

Was great, would benefit from coming back on a mixed individuals voyage away from people she knows. Was happy to take on tasks when asked. Lacked energy and was quiet but would cheerfully do as she was asked. She didn't shirk any tasks and was willing; and was proud of her achievements when she was helming. Often took up tasks the rest of the watch didn't want to do. Good with some of the more needy young people. Knew her boundaries, and knew when to take a moment away (after asking).

G (boy aged 13)

Eager to please. Showed enthusiasm for a task, until the task actually began. Very short attention span and no tolerance for delay. Needed attention regularly and needed constant supervision. Willingly engaged with anything if it was a "game" but didn't care much for the realities of life. Liked to be the centre of attention. Very cheerful and always a light heart. Was motivated if praise was on offer but would literally run away from anything he didn't want to do. Suffered FOMO and was distracted by other activities. When the crew first joined, took charge of arranging the table as he'd sailed before and remembered what needed to be done.

J (boy aged 13)

Very difficult to engage. Lives in his own fantasy world based on a computer game. Referred to himself in the third person by a fantasy "street" name. Also tended to see himself as a "victim" and looking constantly for perceived injustice. He could lead other crew astray and prevented them from being their better selves. He was however great at the helm, could be very engaged when he forgot not to be, worked hard in the galley and was polite and companionable with adults. When not playing up to the physically bigger but younger boys on the voyage, he was engaged and almost charming. Could be a different person if deprived of an audience and might thrive on a different voyage with older peers. He seems to have been influenced by some unpleasant ideas (e.g. misogyny in the style of Andrew Tate) and it would be great if the school had any scope to find out how he is being influenced, including what he is seeing online, and to help him to think more critically about what he is seeing and to understand how others will regard him in future and how it might affect his life if he continues down this path. He left the boat on the final evening. Sea staff felt that he had shown signs of turning a corner on the last day and that if the voyage had been longer and he had been able to stay, he might have made positive progress.

K (girl aged 12)

She was hard working, lead the navigation exercise, good on the helm, good at domestics, good at cooking. Motivated and brilliant. Clearly performed well for her watchleader. Outstanding during the night navigation exercise.

L (girl aged 13)

Another who was difficult to engage. Needed a great deal of guidance and encouragement. Would challenge herself but to a much lower level than some of the others. She would forget instructions almost instantly. Did succeed in summoning up the courage to go out on the bowsprit. Spent a lot of time questioning the "point" of activity on board.

End-voyage feedback

The following sections cover feedback collected at the end of the voyage. C and J left a bit earlier than the others so didn't take part in the feedback exercises. The fact that the school decided that J should leave a little early is reflected in his end-voyage outcomes wheel scores.

Outcomes Wheel self-evaluation

We use an exercise called Outcomes Wheels, developed with Children in Need and the Prince's Trust, to measure how crew members feel about themselves at the start of a voyage and again at the end, giving themselves marks out of 6 in different areas.

		B	C	D	E	F	G	J
1) Feeling confident	Before	4	3	3	4	5	6	4
	After	4	6	4	5	6	6	3
	Change	0	3	1	1	1	0	-1
2) Working in a team	Before	3	5	4	5	4	6	5
	After	5	4	5	4	5	6	2
	Change	2	-1	1	-1	1	0	-3
3) Learning new skills	Before	5	5	3	4	3	5	5
	After	6	5	5	6	6	5	3
	Change	1	0	2	2	3	0	-2
4) Coping with new experiences	Before	4	2	3	3	5	4	5
	After	6	5	6	3	6	6	3
	Change	2	3	3	0	1	2	-2
5) Getting on with people	Before	6	3	3	4	5	5	6
	After	3	4	4	5	6	6	5
	Change	-3	1	1	1	1	1	-1
6) Dealing with setbacks	Before	3	4	2	5	2	4	4
	After	5	6	1	3	5	6	3
	Change	2	2	-1	-2	3	2	-1
7) Compromise & negotiation when living with different people	Before	4	2	3	3	6	6	4
	After	5	5	3	4	5	5	3
	Change	1	3	0	1	-1	-1	-1
8) Learning from experience	Before	5	4	4	4	6	6	5
	After	5	6	6	5	5	5	3
	Change	0	2	2	1	-1	-1	-2
9) Looking after myself	Before	2	3	3	4	6	6	5
	After	5	5	4	4	6	6	3
	Change	3	2	1	0	0	0	-2
10) Communication (speaking and listening)	Before	4	2	1	5	6	5	5
	After	6	4	1	4	6	6	3
	Change	2	2	0	-1	0	1	-2
	Start total	40	33	29	41	48	53	48
	End total	50	50	39	43	56	57	31
	Change	10	17	10	2	8	4	-1

Crew members are asked as part of the end-voyage evaluation if they have any specific examples that illustrate areas where they feel things changed for them over the course of the voyage.

Name	Feeling confident	Working in a team	Learning new skills	Coping exp
B	I was anxious about water at first	The winches	I had no clue how to do any boat things	
C				
D	More confident than the beginning	Sorting out the sails	Winches	
E	Tying the ropes	Putting the sail up	Cooking	
F	Loved it	It was okay but didn't like some people	It was okay	
G				
J		Putting sails		
K	Loved it		Do OXO	
L	Doing the winches + learning new things	When sailing and cooking, working as a team makes it easier	Winches, learning more about the boat	

Best bit, worst bit

Recorded during end-voyage debrief and transcribed later.

Name	Best bit	Worst bit
B	Learning how to use the ropes and stuff.	Sleeping.
C		
D	The best bit was going on the net.	And the worst bit was bei
E	Best moment - cooking dinner	Nothing
F	Steering the boat	Hoisting / dropping the sa
G	I thought it was amazing and my favourite bit was going onto the net at the front of the boat.	And my least favourite bit
Mr Maylen (teacher)	My favourite part of the trip was seeing the students have so much fun and learn new skills and make lots of memories.	My least favourite bit was have a shower. So I proba
Mr Cocker (teacher)	My favourite bit was probably steering the boat, I really enjoyed that.	My least favourite bit was into the bunks.
J		
K	My most favourite bit was when I was steering the boat through the two forts	And my least favourite bit favourite bit. No, I don't h
L	My favourite bit was when I went on the bowsprit	My least favourite bit was

Comments book

Name	Comment

B	It was fun, I learnt a lot.
C	
D	I really enjoyed it (Sir better invite me!!!) Staff were lovely.
E	It was really fun, I really want to do it again
F	I loved it all the people here was lovely to me and accepted me as me and I am th
G	I would do it again!
Mr Maylen (teacher)	Fantastic experience again! Second time sailing on the Prolific. Lovely sea staff an supportive of everyone.
Mr Cocker (teacher)	A really enjoyable trip. I loved the sailing. We were really well looked after by the sea staff.
J	
K	Loved it, I would love to do it again.
L	It was fun most of the time, I enjoyed it a lot and had fun. I hope I can go next year

I hope this is interesting. Huge thanks as ever for helping to make this voyage possible!