

## Sailing Report

Last week was the best week of my summer holiday! I loved every minute of it. I met some of the most amazing, kind and loving people I have ever met. My crew was Mark the Skipper, Danny the first mate, Monty the second mate and then Adam, Jennie, Zack, Harvey and myself. We all sailed through a company called Adventures Offshore.

I would explain my highlights to you but the whole week was perfect but here are just a few moments that I would like to share... I really enjoyed the constant learning experience from tying knots like the Boleyn to understanding what different cardinals meant as they flashed brightly in the night sky during night watches. I also loved spending time with great people! Nearly every night we had numerous games of Uno or Monopoly with big bowls of chips and bars of chocolate or having reading sessions on deck whilst watching the stars above us. One night we actually saw some shooting stars, it was incredible!

Although I had a lot of good times, I also faced a few challenges too. I was lucky to not get seasick however I was surprised about how much the weather can influence a days sailing. We were blessed with no rain however the wind made the sea very rough which did scare me a bit. However my crew understood completely and distracted me from the chaos!

One of the best days was Sunday. We set off from a mooring at around 9am and the sun was shining. We aimed to reach our next destination, Chatham, at around 3pm. It was a calm day at sea but there were still enough waves to provide excitement for us! Our skipper Mark split us into pairs and gave us a topic in which we had to research and then present to the others later on in the day. Jennie and I got given the task of presenting 'The Main Racing Rules for all Vessels' for example the Port/Starboard rule. We researched and then practiced our presentation, we even added in a bit of role play too! After we had our lunch, it was time to present. We learnt a lot from everybody's chosen topics and had a good laugh as well. I also felt that everybody's confidence grew too! We got into Chatham at around 3:45pm and we were all pretty exhausted but it was a lovely day so we decided to go into town and explore! The whole crew went and changed into shorts and t-shirts but in true sailor style, Monty and I went into town in our salopettes! We then came back to the boat and played yet another game of Uno and met the other boats who were taking part in the race. At about 6pm, all 5 crews from all 5 boats joined together in the Marina and had a big BBQ. It was so much fun, it was like a massive party with great food, great music and great people. It was around 8:30pm when it all settled down. Our crew all went for showers and came back to the boat and just talked all night long, I can't describe how it felt but it was like I had known some of these people my whole life, we were all just so calm and comfortable in eachothers company. We all went to bed at around 12:30am, some of us crying with laughter at people's jokes and some of us crying because we were just so so happy.

It's a week later and all I can think about is the trip. I keep on having flashbacks and find myself smiling at the breakfast table every so often! If I could do it all over again with the good times like going on sunset walks with my friends to the hard times of the rough sea, I would. Every summer. All summer. I have made so many amazing memories with so many amazing people and so many amazing places which will stay with me for life! Thank you for making this possible for me.