

A report on the Alfreton Park School voyage.

The voyage included six young people: William, Charlotte, Chloe, Luke, Owen and Corey, as well as six adult carers working alongside OYT South's sea staff.

The school put together a daily diary:

Day 1 - Monday 15th June

All arrived at school and the mini bus was packed by 9:00! We stopped for lunch and made good time getting to Gosport. When we'd found our captain and he'd led us to our boat we climbed aboard. Then we officially met all of the crew. From school we've brought Luke, Corey, Chloe, Will, Owen, Charlotte, Andy, Katie, Jade, Laura, Amanda and Naomi and our crew are James (the Skipper) Harri, Carrie, Terry, Charmaine and Di. We sorted our bunks, got our lovely oilskins and learnt how to stay safe on the boat. At half past 5 we set sail from Gosport harbour, sailed along Portsmouth bay and across to the Isle of Wight and to Cowes. Will and Owen have had a go at steering the boat, we've learnt all about fenders and know how to tie them on, Corey's been down the hatch to fetch the roving fenders and Naomi parked the boat in Cowes. This evening Terry made a delicious spag bol for tea which was enjoyed by everybody! We're having a great time and learning lots!

Day 2 - Tuesday 16th June

We were up early(ish) this morning in order to get ready to set sail! But the tide was against us so we had to go for a walk around Cowes. It really is a beautiful little town with lots of lovely little shops. At half 11 we headed back to the boat because the tide was set to be with us and we left the dock, pulled up the fenders, coiled the ropes and pulled up the sails. Chloe had a go at driving the boat before our lunch of fish finger wraps. Delicious! This afternoon we sailed on to Yarmouth in the bright sunshine but the wind was really quite chilly! When we arrived we had to wait to get into the harbour because a dinghy had caught on fire! The fire engines had to come to help put it out! For dinner we walked along the waterfront to have a BBQ on the beach. We had yummy sausages, burgers, chicken and squeaky halloumi cheese which is our new favourite! We played games on the beach and had a really great time before getting a water taxi back across the harbour to our boat. Just time for hot chocolate before bed!

Day 3 - Wednesday 17th June

Today we awoke, had breakfast and then went for a walk around Yarmouth. It's a very pretty little town and it has a great ice cream shop! At about half 11 we were ready to go, the tide was right and we set sail. Charlotte, Will and Owen took the wheel today and we made our way round to Beaulieu. After a hearty lunch of soup and sandwiches we were all back on deck to gybe the sails, which is when you have to flip the sail over from one side of the boat to the other. The sea was much choppier today and a few of us didn't feel so good but we all got there safe and sound. After a quick piece of cake we had a look around the historic ship building yard of Buckler's Hard; we looked around some of the houses and saw how they used to live but we arrived too late to go into the museum. We then went for a short walk to the nature reserve and had a look at some of the birds that lived there before going back to the boat. After dinner, delicious chicken curry, we had a good sing along and wowed the surrounding boats with our amazing (and extremely loud) singing and there was just enough time for hot chocolate before bed!

Day 4 - Thursday 18th June

This morning we left Beaulieu quite early, it took a long time to sail to Warsash because the wind wasn't strong enough to blow us along! But we had a lovely time because the sun was bright and the sea was calm. Owen and Will raised the sail, Chloe, Corey and Charlotte took the helm and when we got there Luke helped to moor the boat. When we got to Warsash we had a nice walk round and some chill out time on the boat before our fish and chips supper. It was lovely eating fish and chips out on the deck of the boat before setting sail again for Southampton! It was much colder by then but still a lovely journey. Just time for hot chocolate before bed!

Day 5 - Friday 19th June

This morning we had a lie in and woke up at 8am! Charlotte was the first one up and straight to the shower block. Shortly followed by the rest of us, by the time we got back the sun was shining and breakfast was ready made by Di. After breakfast we packed our bags, and helped to clean, Owen cleaned the toilets, Charlotte and Chloe swept the floor and steps, Luke helped clean the bunks, whilst Will and Corey helped clean up on the deck. Once we had finished our jobs we sat around the table for a drink and a debrief. James the skipper got the charts/maps out

and went through our entire journey, we had clocked 60 miles over the week. We then told everyone our favourite part, most memorable moment and the worst bit - not many of us had a worst bit! We then received our certificates, handed over our gifts to the crew - a Denby mug and Thorntons toffee, a quick stop for a group photo and then it was time to say our goodbyes! We set off at 12noon, during the journey back, nearly everyone had a nap, and we stopped off for a final treat at Burger King and arrived at school safely for 5pm. Well done to Amanda for driving the bus!

Everyone has been a true credit to our school - you are amazing!

The sailing crew x

OYT South’s report

As always with this school it was a lovely group – the young people joined in with everything, grew in confidence in terms of both sailing and social skills and really impressed everyone with how much they were able to achieve. The adult carers from the school did a fantastic job as usual and worked really well with the sea staff to ensure that the young people got as much as possible from the experience. Completing 60 miles at sea is quite a lot with this group – these young people need help with washing and dressing, let alone sailing, so the voyage is always run at a gentle pace with plenty of time in harbour and everything at sea run in a slow and controlled manner so that the young people really can play their part and get involved as active crew members.

The whole crew were asked at the end of the voyage for their “best bit, worst bit and most lasting memory”. Here’s what they said:

Name	Best Bit	Worst Bit	Most Lasting Memory
William	Andy saved his head ache		Having nice friends
Charlotte	James getting me wet		Luke
Chloe	Jobs		Sun and food
Luke	Fish n chips		Singing
Owen	Helping Di with ropes		James’s stinky feet
Corey	All of it		Being with people
Amanda (carer)	Children doing stuff. Getting on with it.		Charlotte getting up first
Katie (carer)	Sun and ice cream and BBQ		Charmaine making us work
Naomi (carer)	Sing song		Meeting everyone
Jade (carer)	Visiting ports	Washing up	
Andy (carer)	Trying to remember last year’s lessons		Spread of bolognaise sauce
Laura (carer)	BBQ in sun		Team work
James (skipper)	Whole week		Singing
Harri (bosun)	Sun		Singing
Terry (First mate)	People as individuals	Too little wind	Bonding of team
Charmaine (watchleader)	Team work	Cooking jacket potatoes while sun was shining	MOB exercise – being dunked!
Carrie (watchleader)	Sun		Sing song
Di (watchleader)	Best voyage ever		

Very best wishes and huge thanks for your support for this voyage.

Caz

Caroline White

Business Manager, OYT South

Adventure Under Sail - giving young people the skills they need to succeed in life

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