

Portsmouth Sail Training Trust Report

Portsmouth Sail Training Trust (PSTT) is passionate about engaging, motivating and enabling young people in Portsmouth to reach their full potential.

Established in 2013, PSTT provides maritime training, qualifications and mentoring to disadvantaged young people for whom access to such programmes would improve their quality of life and employability. PSTT also aims to help young people raise their aspirations and improve their life skills. This is particularly important in a community such as Portsmouth where many of the city's young people are living in poverty.

In 2021, The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights very generously awarded PSTT a grant of £1,700– thank you so much! To date, this grant has enabled the PSTT programme to support 120 young people throughout 2021-2022.

Overview of 2021-2022 Academic Year

Throughout 2021-2022, PSTT worked with the following eight schools:

- Miltoncross Academy
- The Waterloo School
- Prospect School
- Oaklands Catholic School
- Bayhouse School
- Brune Park Community School
- Priory School
- Charter Academy

During the Autumn Term, the PSTT programme focused on sailing and powerboating. Some of the young people also had the opportunity to try out stand-up-paddle-boarding.

By the end of the term, all the young people had achieved Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Stage 1 or 2 (if they are returners) and over 40 young people took part in powerboat sessions, working towards their RYA Stage 1 or 2.

During the Spring and Summer Terms, the young people worked towards British Canoeing Start Paddle qualifications and First Aid qualifications. The young people also had the opportunity to participate in tours of various maritime businesses such as Trafalgar Wharf and all participated in a boat tour of Portsmouth Harbour, kindly donated by SERCO. The tour was an hour long and went from the Portsmouth International Port, around HM Naval Base and down to Haslar Creek.

Through the year, PSTT participated in a variety of local events such as the Sea Angling Classic event, which took place out of Gunwharf Quays. Several young people from PSTT took part in both the land and boat parade, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Two of the young people from PSTT were also fortunate enough to be invited out onto one of the media boats for the event and got the chance to try sea angling themselves.

All these experiences help to broaden the young people's horizons, giving them the chance to participate in activities and explore opportunities which would not normally be available to them. Throughout the Spring and Summer Terms, 43 young people achieved their First Aid qualifications, 81 achieved their British Canoeing Start Paddle and 200 Taster Session certificates were awarded in kayaking, archery and climbing.

PSTT Regatta

It was with great pleasure that we were able to run the PSTT Regatta this year, after being unable to organise the event for the past two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Regatta took place on Friday 15 September with 40 young people and 15 supporters of PSTT in attendance.

The young people enjoyed participating in various races in Portsmouth Harbour in the morning and then came ashore for lunch and an awards ceremony in the afternoon.

Chief Instructor, Will Keyser, said “It was wonderful to be able to celebrate all the young people’s achievements at the PSTT Regatta. I am so proud of all the young people who attend PSTT, and it is great to see them grow and develop throughout the year. Well done to the Regatta Winners, Charter Academy, and to all the young people who received their certificates.”



The end of year Teacher Survey revealed the following:

- 89% young people have an increased knowledge of opportunities available to them in the maritime sector
- 95% young people have increased in confidence
- 86% young people have increased in resilience
- 81% young people have developed good communication skills

Feedback from Peter Pickford, The Waterloo School

“During their time on the programme our pupils have predominantly excelled with their personal development. They have had many experiences which have helped them to be more resilient in the classroom, communicate more positively with their peers and show increased success in their social interactions. Our pupils love to attend the sessions and thrive in the environment. A huge thanks to Will and his team for their continued brilliance in supporting our pupils”.

September 2022

We have now welcomed 120 new and returning students to PSTT for the 2022-2023 academic year and look forward to seeing them progress through the programme, gain accredited qualifications, and develop key life skills. This is only made possible by the generous support of organisations such as The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights – thank you so much.

If you would like further information on the work of PSTT or would like to arrange a visit, please contact Ruth Brady, Fundraising Manager on ruth@portsmouthsailtrainingtrust.org.