

## **TALL SHIPS YOUTH TRUST – VOYAGE FEEDBACK**

Thank you for supporting the work of Tall Ships youth Trust. This report highlights the impact of our work, and your generosity, on the young people we support, we hope you enjoy it.

### **VOYAGE STATISTICS**

The benefits of sailing with TSYT are proven and long-lasting. We take a lot of care to assess the impact that our work has on those who sail with us. Outcomes from young people participating in various stages of our three-voyage journey during 2023/24 show:

#### **4-night voyage of Exploration:**

- 93% showed improved confidence
- 94% learned how to manage risky situations
- 88% improved problem-solving skills
- 90% learnt new skills that can be built into everyday life

#### **5-6-night voyage of Empowerment:**

- 95% improved goal setting and achieving positive outcomes
- 94% took more responsibility for self and others
- 89% were better equipped to deal with challenging situations
- 95% increased their ability to build positive relationships and strong teamwork skills

#### **8-night + voyage of Leadership:**

- 100% improved goal setting and achieving positive outcomes
- 100% took more responsibility for self and others
- 100% were better equipped to deal with challenging situations
- 100% increased their ability to build positive relationships and strong teamwork skills

### **YOUNG PEOPLE SURVEY RESPONSES:**

Young people are asked to complete digital surveys to help us monitor the impact our voyages have on them. As part of this, we ask them how they felt before joining the trip – examples of some responses are below:

- I thought the voyage sounded exciting and would be a good learning experience.
- I was quite anxious and scared I was going to be seasick.
- I was equal parts excited and nervous before the voyage.
- I was excited about trying something new.
- I was unsure about the voyage and if I would enjoy it, particularly not knowing the group of people I would be with.
- I was nervous and inquisitive before the voyage but also excited and prepared.
- I was extremely nervous and unsure how I would feel about the experience.



After their voyage, we asked the young people for their voyage highlights:

- It was great fun and night sailing was very exciting!
- The great views, the laughs we had, learning new things and feeling good that I have accomplished something.
- I loved getting the boat ready to sail, learning knots and how to work as part of a team.
- I liked steering the ship and being at the front in rough seas, cooking, putting up the sails and helping out on deck, I basically loved every moment!
- The best bit was when I was steering the boat on a windy and rainy day.
- My favourite part was climbing the mast, and I got recommended to come back as a Trainee Watch Leader!
- I liked mixing with new people and making good memories.



Below is a selection of end of voyage final thoughts:

- After the voyage I feel more independent and confident that I can take care of myself. I'm so grateful that I was given this opportunity to learn and grow.
- I feel like my confidence has grown and I have overcome my fear of talking to others.
- It was such an amazing week! I gained a lot of strength from it as well as some very useful life skills.
- It was great! I think the most valuable thing I learnt was how to get along with people in tense situations.
- I learnt how to communicate and work effectively as a team, and I would definitely recommend going on a voyage to others. Thanks for giving me this opportunity!
- It was brilliant, I wouldn't change anything, and the crew are amazing!
- This was without a doubt an eye-opening experience in what little things you miss in daily life.
- Whilst onboard I learnt to be confident in what I'm doing and trust my own abilities.

## YOUNG PEOPLE FEEDBACK

**Caitlin said** "I was equally excited and nervous before the voyage! I got to steer the boat out and into Greenock, the views were amazing, especially as the sun was setting. I climbed the mast. I got to meet lots of new people and develop relationships that I hope continue after we go home. There were so many highlights I am probably forgetting something! I learnt that I can push myself and do things that are new and terrifying, and throw myself outside my comfort zone. Going on a boat with 15 strangers and having to work as a team is the definition of outside my comfort zone. This has been a life changing trip that I will remember for the rest of my life. I have gained so much confidence, built relationships, and learned lots of new skills."

**Reggie said:** "Before the voyage I was excited but sceptical, but I have made some great new friends, and I climbed the mast! Honestly this whole experience has been really vibey. The conversation I had with rob last night changed my life and I don't even think he realised. I also feel significantly more confident. This has genuinely been a life changing experience for me, thank you so much I feel like a whole new person (in a good way)"



**Leo said:** "To be honest I didn't know what to expect of the voyage and I thought it would be overwhelming for me, I thought I wouldn't enjoy the trip too much, but I wanted to see what it was like. I enjoyed learning

how to handle ropes and tie knots, I was able to work as a team effectively and I made some friends along the way. When we passed through channels it was very beautiful to see the scenery. One of the biggest challenges for me was being around so many people as I like alone time, but it's helped me to feel more comfortable around others. This voyage has made me interested in ships and how they're managed, I gained some nice friends, and the crew gave me the motivation to try new things."



### VOYAGE CREW FEEDBACK:

**About Harvey:** "In several parts of the voyage you have shown good leadership qualities, such as when you divided up roles and gave them to the rest of the crew. You've also taken on every job thrown your way. To take the next step, channel your positive energy into helping others."

**About Saimah:** "Saimah has put effort into everything this week and done everything asked without complaint. Her team spirit has been a great asset to my Watch. Well done on mast climbing and navigational skills on the night watch! She is sometimes a little shy and next time she could work on her confidence when talking to people. Great work this week!"

**About Emily:** Emily has worked well with her watch this week. She is an excellent communicator to everyone onboard. Well done on the mast climbing and trying everything – even cleaning the heads! Next time Emily could work on her existing skills to become a more motivational team leader. Well Done!"

**About Remy:** "Remy has responded well to instructions and has always completed tasks to the best of his abilities. He has really come out of his shell and grown in confidence this week. One thing he could continue to work on is his problem-solving skills – taking the initiative will take him far in future. Well done Remy!"

### GROUP LEADER FEEDBACK:

**Tyrone – Teacher:** "This is my second time sailing with Tall Ships Youth Trust. I saw what a positive impact the trip had on the last group who sailed with TSYT, beyond the sailing the lessons, the conversations, the character building and the resilience was just incredible. "

*"It gives them a totally new experience and an opportunity that they wouldn't get in urban London, which will give them the chance to break away from negative stereotypes."*

### VOYAGE BLOG EXTRACTS:

**Day One:** We got put into our watches, they are Port and Starboard (I am in Port watch). In our watches we then had a tour of the boat, finding out where all the safety equipment was and how to use everything, especially the loos, they are alright but will take some getting used to.

We then got the boat ready for sailing to Cowes by getting the Yankee 3 and Stay sails out of the sail locker and hanking them on, so we could use them this week. On the sail over, there were some easterly winds and we had some rocky moments. We got to Cowes as it was getting dark, but we managed to set all the fenders and lines so we could moor up without crashing into anything in the dusk light. Watching the sun setting over Cowes was lovely.

After, we had put the boat to bed, Port watch got started cooking the chicken fajitas. After dinner, we sat up on deck, singing songs and chatting before we went to bed.





**Day 2:** We set the boat up for the day, Starboard watch got the sails out of their bags, the lines ready to slip and made sure everyone had their lifejacket on. We left Cowes harbour and put up the Mainsail. This was hard work, both watches were working together to sweat the sails pulling on the ropes to raise it, with Riley, Luke and Cirilla working on the winch to ensure everyone else's hard work was not in vain. We then put up the Staysail, which was much quicker and easier. Riley had moved to the helm at this point and made sure the boat was pointing into the wind so that they could raise it.



While going down the Solent, we managed to dodge lots of rain clouds, only getting a few drops of rain on us. We sailed past Hurst Castle, Milford on Sea, Hengistbury Head and Boscombe Pier. We then headed over towards Old Harry's Rocks and did several tacks, where we all very busy pulling in lines and using winches. On the edge of Poole Harbour, we all worked together to bring down the Yankee, Stay and Main sails. Then we had the fun job of flaking the Mainsail to put it away, we all had to stand in height order to do this.

**Day 3:** Once we had cleaned up from breakfast, Kieran had the fun job of cleaning the heads while the rest of Starboard watch cleaned the rest of the boat. Then we got ready to climb the mast. We all had a go at climbing the mast, some of us made it to the 1<sup>st</sup> spreader, some to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, some to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and a few made it all the way to the top. The views were great in between the cloud looking all the way over to Brownsea Island. Nearly everyone had a second go and climbed higher than they had done on their first go. We sailed across Poole Bay toward Freshwater Bay on the Isle of Wight. On our sail, there we had a competition to see which watch could raise and lower the Staysail the quickest.

We then put the Spinnaker pole out over the sea and took it in turns to climb out to the end of the pole, it was quite scary to begin with, but once you had gone some way out you could hang in the harness and watch the water below you. We arrived at Freshwater Bay and anchored there to wait for it to get dark, during this time we made a competition to see who could climb the pole the fastest. While we were anchored there the waves got bigger and it became very rocky, so cooking dinner was hard, but we succeeded.

When it was finally dark, we could start our night navigation to Yarmouth, we were looking out for all the different coloured buoys (with red and green flashing lights) and cardinal marks as we sailed past the Needles and Hurst Point. We then docked in Yarmouth and have had a nice shower before bed.



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING TALL SHIPS YOUTH TRUST**