

Tall Ships Challenger 2 - Piggott School Sunday 1st July to Thursday 5th July 2018

We all had a fantastic trip last week on the Tall Ships Challenger 2. I would like to thank the wonderful crew that we had on our voyage. Their dedication and commitment was fantastic and the relationships they formed with the students in such a short period of time was a pleasure to watch. All 4 crew members were encouraging, patient, motivating, and most importantly cheerful at all times. They showed us the ropes – pardon the pun – (or should I say lines) and we all felt completely at ease instantly and were confident in how much they would teach us during the week. They listened to our many questions, reassured us, spurred us on, and gave us all confidence in our abilities. We learnt so much throughout the trip – winching, tacking, knots, points of sail, chart reading, cooking, cleaning, navigating, dingy racing, boat building, pole climbing, the list really is endless and it was thanks to the fabulous crew of Terry, Sam, Paul and Barry that allowed us to do this. During the week we visited, Cowes in the Isle of Wight, Studland Bay, Poole, Lymington, Osborne Bay and Portsmouth. One of our tasks during the week was to write a blog each night of our adventures. You can read more on that here - <http://tallships.org/xf180701-the-piggott-school/>

While we were away on the Tall Ships we learnt a lot about the parts of the boats and how to sail it and the many knots that are involved. We also had lots of fun climbing a pole that went out over the sea. Everyone had to help do chores on the boat like cooking and cleaning up every day in our watches, Port and Starboard, with our watch leaders Barry and Paul. The Trip helped us work together as a team to build confidence. By working as a team we sailed the ship to the needles in a race and won! We also worked as a team to win the dingy race against Challenger. - *Abigail*

Tall ships was the most amazing adventure that taught me lots of new skills and gave me new friends. Sailing a Tall Ship is hard work and it is essential that you work as a team. As well as sailing the boat we had daily tasks. This included, deck clean up, cooking meals, washing dishes and writing the blog. There were also COMPETITIONS!!!! Such as a race on the water, a dingy race, a hoisting the main sail race, a tacky souvenir competition and a recycled boat competition. We were up against another Tall Ship which was full of students two years older than us from a different school. However we thrashed them with a score of 3-2! The week left me more confident and determined that I could complete different challenges in my life. - *Harriet*

On Sunday 1 July 9 year 9 students embarked on a trip from Portsmouth. It was on a sailing boat and we would sail around The Solent and surrounding areas. Along the way we made new friends, learnt new skills and developed our confidence. - *Greg*

Tall Ships was probably the best experience of my life. It was very fun but educational. I'm so glad that I was chosen for it. As soon as we got on the boat, it was 'go, go, go!' We were split into groups and shown around the boat. Day after day, there was something new to learn and enjoy. A few things we did were: helming (steering), pulling up the sails (Main sail, Yankee sail and the Head Sail), clean the heads (toilets), cook every meal, compete against another boat, swam in the sea, and went to an outdoor swimming pool with inflatables. The competition we had with the other boat consisted of 5 challenges: the Yacht Race, the Dinghy Race, the Main Sail Hoist, the Tacky Souvenir Competition and a Build Your Own Boat Challenge. The Yacht Race was first on Tuesday and we WON!!! Next was the Dinghy Race on Wednesday and we WON AGAIN!! Later on Wednesday we had the Main Sail Hoist and unfortunately we lost that. So far it was 2-1 to us. Wednesday evening we had to navigate our way from Osbourne Bay (on the Isle of Wight) back to Portsmouth. This wasn't a test but it was quite an experience as we had a bit of fog so we had to be really careful about following our course directly so we didn't hit anything. We got into Portsmouth at about 12:15am and we all immediately headed downstairs and fell asleep within minutes. 7 hours later, we were all up and getting ready for the Tacky Souvenir competition and the Build Your Own Boat

Challenge. First we had the Build Your Own Boat Challenge. Unfortunately again, we lost. Now, it was a draw 2-2. Then we had the Tacky Souvenir Competition and we WON! That meant overall, we won 3-2!!! This was great news for us because the boat we were up against had 15-16 year olds on it and one of their teachers had done Tall Ships before as she had a t-shirt with the logo on it. So I think this boosted our confidence because we didn't expect to win against older children. It was a great experience and I'm extremely glad that I was given the opportunity to be part of it. – Mia

Tall ships was amazing, I'm so glad I went on that trip. It was amazing the activities on the boat were interesting and fun, learning about the terms were easy to understand because you would "learn on the job". 10/10 for this trip. Thank you tall ships! - Tom



Here we are pictured during our regatta. We had to tack from port to starboard and sit on the high side of the challenger.

The Tall Ships Challenger 2 Crew from the Piggott School. This was taken when we were moored in Poole.

Back row L to R: Greg Dawson, Joe Frew, Miss Hurley, Tom Magnusson and Andrew Dearman
Front row L to R: Mia Palmer, Abigail Holliday, Charlotte Strickland, Harriet Smith, Mrs Stewart and Ellie Parr.





At the main winch in the cockpit.



Taking a rest on the sails.



Our boat model.



Taking the lead in the dinghy race. We has three legs of three. 2 students manned the oars while the third navigated the course.



On our final night we had to plan a course back to Portsmouth. We would be sailing at nighttime so had to use charts to help us prepare.



We won the Regatta. Piggott School staff and students pictured with crew members from the Tall Ships. Skipper Terry, Mate Sam, and Watch Leaders Paul and Barry.