



MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE

A VOYAGE WITH OCEAN YOUTH TRUST SOUTH IS NOT JUST ABOUT LEARNING TO SAIL, BUT ABOUT DEVELOPING QUALITIES WHICH MATTER IN EVERYDAY LIFE.

A voyage can focus on:

- Confidence
- Working in a team
- Coping with unfamiliar experiences
- Communication
- Taking responsibility
- Learning new skills
- Perseverance in the face of challenges
- Getting on with people
- Making lasting friendships

These are all skills and qualities which employers, families and communities need.



A voyage should be part of a long-term programme of intervention and support. Most of the disadvantaged and vulnerable young people who sail with us come via a mainstream or special school, a local authority, a youth club, another charity or an individual youth worker or social worker. Many teachers, youth workers and social workers will come on adult day sails with us in order to get a better understanding of what the young people do on board. We work with these referrers to ensure that a young person is prepared for a voyage and that OYT South understands their individual circumstances and needs.

A detailed report at the end of the voyage ensures that those professionals can build on what has been achieved. If a young person makes real progress and succeeds at something they never dreamed possible, it is vital that they go back to someone who will build on it to ensure that a voyage makes a lasting difference.

“ I AM REALLY PROUD OF EARNING MY START YACHTING CERTIFICATE... BY THE END OF THE TRIP I HAD DEFINITELY DECIDED THAT MY BACK BRACE COULDN'T STOP ME DOING WHAT I WANTED TO! ”

At the end of a voyage, OYT South's report on each young person includes:

- Observations from the skipper and watchleaders
- Anything the young person may have written in our comments book
- The crew member's "Best bit, worst bit and most lasting memory"
- Details of any certificates earned
- Scores for a self-evaluation exercise developed with the support of BBC Children in Need and the Prince's Trust

The self-evaluation exercise asks each crew member to give themselves marks at the start of their voyage and again at the end, showing how they feel about themselves.

The average changes shown by conducting this exercise with 362 young crew members in 2018 were:

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| • Feeling confident | up 23% |
| • Working in a team | up 15% |
| • Learning new skills | up 16% |
| • Coping with new experiences | up 19% |
| • Dealing with setbacks | up 22% |
| • Compromise & negotiation when living with different people | up 16% |
| • Learning from experience | up 13% |
| • Communication (speaking and listening) | up 16% |
| • Getting on with people | up 13% |

Every young person who joins in and completes a voyage will get an OYT South certificate recording what they did on board. But as a Royal Yachting Association sea school, we also award proper recognised qualifications to anyone who successfully completes the syllabus.

In 2018, we awarded RYA Start Yachting certificates to 196 young people. 113 earned the more advanced Competent Crew certificate.

For many who struggle at school, an RYA certificate can be a first real qualification and a first experience of successful learning. It is vital that both they and the people who work with them after a voyage understand that an RYA qualification is

about much more than basic sailing skills. It means that a young person can listen, concentrate, work with others, undertake routine tasks as well as the more exciting jobs, practise new skills until they get the hang of them, get out of bed on time, follow instructions, consider the safety of themselves and others, try things they might find difficult or daunting, and much more. All skills they will need to move forward in education, training or employment.

“THE FEEDBACK THAT THEY BOTH GAVE ME WAS THAT IT HAD BEEN A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE FOR THEM, AND BOOSTED THEIR SELF-ESTEEM AND CONFIDENCE TO BE ABLE TO TRY NEW CHALLENGES IN THE FUTURE.”

SOCIAL WORKER WHO REFERRED TWO UNEMPLOYED SCHOOL-LEAVERS

