



19 June 17

Dear Helen,

Re: Tall Ships' Sailing Experience for Shaldon School

What a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to sail aboard Tectona and Moosk for the week commencing 12th June, 2017 – the buzz off them since returning is positively palpable and quite infectious. Thank you to everyone involved in giving them such a worthwhile experience and for creating a memory for life. Thank you as well for organising such perfect weather (from day two!)

How lucky the children are to have spent this time together, learning brand new skills, working as a team, pushing through their comfort zones and living and laughing together. I can honestly say, I do believe they do know how lucky they are. As a residential experience in their final half term of primary school, this was perfect. The confidence they have found will be a real asset during transition, which for some children can be a challenging experience. If you can sail a tall ship, joining year 7 should be quite straightforward!

May I thank the staff on board for making the trip so special. Craig, Dan and Roo on Tectona were incredibly supportive of the children, allowing them to take charge of all the jobs on board whilst they supported quietly, patiently and calmly. They were incredibly well informed, sharing every aspect of how the ship was sailing and its history at every opportunity, balancing the need to give the children some freedom with their need to understand as much technical information as possible, ensuring a rich, enjoyable adventure was had by everyone. The crew were amazing at reassuring everyone – we knew we were in safe hands at all times. This was extended into every part of the day – who will ever forget Dan's wonderful bedtime game of Mafia? I can see a craze for it starting already. How wonderful to go up on deck to see the stars and listen to owls hooting with Craig and how fantastic to share Roo's culinary wizardry in the galley and his expertise with ropes on deck.

Looking at the charts, giving the children the opportunity to plot and measure the course, guiding them through the different sails, helping them to hoist them successfully, allowing them to complete the logbook, scrubbing the decks and encouraging them to understand all the different roles on board, helped the children feel they were the ones in charge of sailing it safely. What a fantastic way to learn. What a perfect antidote to studying hard in year 6 for SATs, which might otherwise be their lasting memory of the year 6 offer. SATs are now long forgotten.

But it wasn't just the sailing; the children were also supported with all aspects of domesticity - again working as a team to keep the boat "ship-shape and Bristol fashion". Taking responsibility for feeding us all, for keeping the galley clean and tidy, for cleaning the heads, all of which helped them understand the importance of working for the good of the team. They will be going home with some skills they would probably prefer their parents did not know they have!



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It was a joy to be able to sail along with Moosk at times, and to moor up alongside them, where I got to know Hannah and Ollie a little better. Again, they proved themselves to be building positive relationships with the children, supporting them to learn in a safe environment. It was great to spend some time with both groups of children on the beach, where everybody enjoyed playing games together and sharing tales of their own adventures – we went out as novices and came back as sailors. It is thanks to the team that everybody had such a positive experience.

Thank you again to all of them – Craig, Dan, Roo, Hannah and Ollie. Your company is offering amazing, life-changing experiences and is blessed with the most wonderful team of gentle, humble but highly capable enthusiasts. Talking to Craig about some of the work you do to support homeless people and people facing drug problems made me realise that this is a charity with a heart which is passionate about what it has to offer and wants to spread that passion far and wide.

Keep up the good work – what you are doing is amazing. And every drop of feedback that I have received from parents and pupils confirms that.

With my very best wishes for all you do in the future. Who knows...perhaps we will get to relive this wonderful experience with next year's year 6 pupils.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Gordge

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Weyman
Headteacher