



Challenger Trip 2011

We had to take the train to get to Portsmouth, so me, Nessie, Leah and Esme caught the train up there which took most of the morning. We left Cornwall at 6 am and didn't get there until 1 pm changing trains twice on the way.

When we arrived in Portsmouth we dropped off our bags and claimed our bunks meeting the three boys from Scotland, Chris, Kyle and Dean, on the way. Then we were introduced to three boys from Manchester, Mijinoor, Jamal, and Nadeem. I was glad that I got on with everyone but especially Chris and Kyle.

That day we were told what everything on the boat was called and what it does, also we had a safety talk. This took the rest of the day.

We were split into two watches; Port and Starboard. In these teams we cooked, cleaned and prepped the deck.

The next morning we left Portsmouth to sail to Poole which took most of the day. We stayed there for a night before setting off again to go to Weymouth.

That day we left late so had time to go for shore leave, before we left. That day we had a very long sail and we didn't dock into port in Cowes until 11pm. All of us were shattered so went to sleep with ease in our uncomfortable hammock beds!

On the final day we left Cowes to go back to Portsmouth. This was ending our journey and when we arrived back in port at Portsmouth we had to clean down the whole of the boat.

I was really sad to say goodbye to everyone because I made some really nice friends. I think this was one of the best things I have ever done in my life. I really didn't want to leave the boat and I am raring to go back again if I get a chance. I think it really helped my confidence and it broadened my range of experiences because without this support I would have never been able to do it otherwise.

Emily. Aged 14 years