

Challenger Boat Trip



When we first arrived in Portsmouth (where we began our tall ships challenge) we met the three boys and their youth worker from Manchester and then walked down through the shopping center and went to find our boat. The boat was HUGE, and the mast was really tall. We then met the other youth group from Scotland and they were also really nice. Because we arrived in the afternoon, we did all the basics first, so that the next day we could just set sail, knowing where everything was. I learnt how to winch up the sails!

We were shown around the boat, and the toilets were quite scary to go in because there were windows just above them which you could see through when you were up on deck. I avoided using them and tried to wait until we could go ashore and use the shower toilets. Also, the bunks (beds) were really sweet and cosy, but once we were all in there unpacking, things got a bit crowded! The galley was a good size though, and the cockpit was a really nice place to sit and talk in the evenings to get away from the grown ups.

When we actually set sail early the next morning, we were told where we were

heading, and then one watch (we were separated into two teams, they call them watches, called Port watch and Starboard watch) made breakfast and the other watch cleared it all up. It worked like this with all meals.

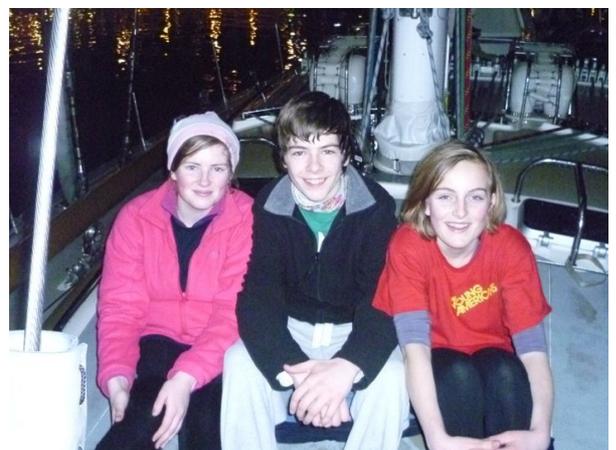


We set off and got our gear on from the wet room, but we couldn't put the sails up for a while because there wasn't enough wind.

But when it was windy I really enjoyed it, because we could all clip on at the bow and it felt like we were actually riding the waves!

I also climbed a little up the mast without a support.

The trip was really fun, but it was also very hard work... so if you're thinking of going on this amazing trip bring plenty of warm clothes, and get fit!



Esme, aged 13 years