



Testing students' sailboat designs on the CEC sailing ponds.

Maritime futures

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In September 2019, Cowes Enterprise College launched their Maritime Futures curriculum. The curriculum aims to embrace the college's rich local heritage and place demanding academic concepts and techniques into 'real life' settings using their close ties with the maritime industry. The project is part-funded through a grant from the Edge Foundation and aims to help meet the skills gaps within the industry. It is also supported by a specialist maritime panel made up of people working locally in various maritime-related roles.

A local connection

Through a thematic approach, the current National Curriculum is underpinned by linking concepts to real-life maritime examples where the children are able to apply their new learning in different ways. Across the year, students will be exploring boat-building, including design and specifications; tides; shipping forecasts; and attend a Cowes Regatta to celebrate the production of boats. Although every subject in KS3 still follows a rigorous academic journey where the children make exceptional progress, the new maritime curriculum offers further links and opens up our successful, local enterprise. The Maritime Skills Alliance and CECAMM, part of the Isle of Wight College, are among the partners supporting curriculum development.

The curriculum launched with a Geography project-based-learning scheme of work in Year 7 where the whole year group applied their core learning of coastal erosion to the northern coastline of the Isle of Wight with the ultimate aim of answering the question: *Is coastal management in Cowes effective?* During the first few weeks of the half term, all 270 Year 7 students went on a boat trip on the Solent to observe and make strategic notes on the different coastal features combating erosion. They were guided on board by the expert knowledge of the Cowes Harbour Master and our school's maritime consultant – who is a local industry expert and supports the students in their learning on site.



Andy Green leading one of the Year 7 sailboat maritime showcase lessons.



Nigel Harley of Harley Raceboats discussing with a student how to mark out their design.



Students have opportunities to meet maritime heroes like William Hodshon who sailed around the UK clockwise in his family wayfarer Nipegegi.

Across the curriculum

Each director of learning within the school has taken a fresh look at their own area of the curriculum and developed ways in which specific units can be linked thematically, conceptually and with interdisciplinary links of value to the maritime industry. In design and technology, for example, the children have already used their textiles skills to produce windsocks, built different styles of boats from CAD to the testing of materials and linked this to a number of different careers within the industry. The students also use their theoretical understanding, underpinned by other subjects, to apply and test their concepts which further develops their understanding of the curriculum. In addition, all students in KS3 all attend a number of lessons linked to the Isle of Wight College's CECAMM site (Centre for Excellence for Composites, Advanced Manufacturing and Marine) where they learn key skills and techniques currently used in the Maritime Industry which support their lessons being delivered at school.

These are just a few of the ways in which subjects have embraced the Maritime theme and are innovatively planning lessons to ensure not only rigorous academic success but also an understanding of the industry and linked careers.

Building on success

Now in its third year, CEC has been awarded a prestigious National Award for its innovative approach to its curriculum. There are also now six different subjects, each with their own Maritime learning journey and it continues to go from strength to strength.

As the new curriculum continues to develop over the course the year, it is the intention to build on the successes in Year 7 and support learning in the same way in all other year groups. This is an exciting development for Cowes Enterprise College and something that is well-worth being part of.

