



TRINITY HOUSE

INSIDE +

**STAFF PROFILE**

Living and working as a Second Engineer on THV *Patricia*  
**P28**

# Flash

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# Sea view

Our vessel crews and shore teams are getting ready to launch a showcase of our work at London International Shipping Week 2023.



# Maritime Charity update

Recipients of grants from the **Trinity House Maritime Charity** describe in their own words how the funding is helping them provide access to maritime training and welfare.

## CHARITABLE GRANTS

### Inspiring the next wave of maritime workers

**N**estled between the Atlantic and North Sea, it is no surprise that Britain's experience of open waters is central to our identity. From this northern outpost, we've sent ships—so many of them made and maintained on the Isle of Wight—to the edge of the world for more than 500 years, as part of a process which has deepened our connection with the seas and developed a whole industry to support these maritime endeavours.

At **Cowes Enterprise College**, we have our sights set clearly on the horizon, to ensure future generations of students can help preserve and champion these hugely important industries.

The school's Maritime Futures Curriculum began in 2019. At a base level, it was created to allow us to weave the Isle of Wight's maritime heritage into everything we do as a school. Up to 10% of our lessons in Key Stage 3 are linked to this golden thread, and we take practical steps to bring the island's maritime legacy to life.





We've been so proud to see the proactive and enthusiastic way in which our students have embraced this. Ask any of them, and I'm sure they'll tell you that studying coastal erosion feels all the more tangible and relevant when studied from the bow of a ship in the Solent; Design Technology made ever more engaging when allowing them to design, build and race model boats using leading industry techniques.

But the in-lesson changes we have implemented are not a gimmick or a casual nod to our rich maritime heritage. Instead, they're designed to prove to our students that the maritime industries aren't a fixture of our past, but a viable and endlessly engaging career option for their future.

To help embed this, we continue to develop strong links with local Cowes-based businesses who we often invite into the school to give talks and fully explain the work they do. In doing so, they deliver specialist lessons in naval architecture, boat building, diving, and coastal management—and provide a clear snapshot on how students can turn their nautical interests into tangible careers.

Alongside this, we have recently started putting together terms of reference to develop a partnership with ferry operator Red Funnel, where we hope that our students will be able to have the opportunity of future employer encounters and are able to gain an understanding of how many different job roles exist within the company.

We are also closely linked with the Isle of Wight's centre of excellence for composites, advanced manufacturing and marine (CECMM) to ensure that when all our students in Key Stage 3 visit, their learning is an extension of what they

have seen and understood at school, and are able to use specialist equipment to gain an even better understanding of careers within the sector.

Not everything has to be tethered to future jobs, of course. In fact, a key part of the scheme's success has been its ability to provide students with undeniably fun, varied and engaging opportunities. For example, over the past four years, we have also been involved with the Ocean Youth Trust, where 12 students each year have had the opportunity to learn how to sail a tall ship. Through teamwork, supporting one another and building relationships with the crew, they were all involved in passage planning, leading, and running the boat for a four day voyage.

As all of this shows, the Maritime Futures Curriculum has been central to our success in recent years, and we are now hugely excited to be sharing this vision with maritime schools across the country, thanks to support from the Trinity House Maritime Charity, the Department for Transport and other generous funders. After two hugely enjoyable Maritime Showcases in 2022, we are expanding this scope in 2023, and will be supporting primaries and secondaries to develop and implement their own regionally specific take on the Maritime Futures Curriculum.

Already, we have worked with schools in London, Ipswich, Grimsby, Hull, Gosport, Scotland and elsewhere. This process has allowed us to share what we have learned in the past few years, but also to learn more about each of these schools' own specific areas, and the regional spin they are able to give their own maritime curriculum. We're always looking to expand this group, so would encourage you to get in touch if you are involved with a school which may be interested in joining our network.

It is abundantly clear that to ensure the continued prominence and success of our maritime industries, we need to plan carefully for the future. That's why I've been so pleased to be an active member of the government's UK Shipbuilding Skills Task Force, designed to not just support the sector as it stands, but to make sure it stays afloat in the decades to come.

I am excited to continue work on the Task Force's plans for careers, as it will not surprise you to know that I think education is a crucial part of this puzzle. However, the success of the Maritime Futures Curriculum proves that we need to step beyond just providing students with the relevant skills, and into a place where they are gaining first-hand experience, speaking to those in the sector, and regularly feeling the waves beneath their feet.

[www.cowesec.org](http://www.cowesec.org)