

TS TEMERAIRE (MEDWAY VICTORY SEA CADETS)

QUEEN GALADRIEL OFFSHORE EXPEDITION 2026 SPONSOR IMPACT REPORT

Voyage Dates: 27 July - 2 August 2026

Vessel: *Queen Galadriel*

Operator: The Cirdan Trust

Participating Unit: TS Temeraire (Medway
Victory Sea Cadets)



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Executive Summary

In July and August 2026, thirteen cadets from TS Temeraire undertook a week-long offshore sail training voyage aboard the Cirdan Trust vessel *Queen Galadriel*.

Made possible through the generous support of the Ulysses Trust, Kent Community Foundation, The Cirdan Trust and other supporters, the expedition offered young people a unique opportunity to experience challenge, adventure and personal development in a demanding maritime environment.

Whilst sailing provided the setting, the true value of the expedition extended far beyond learning maritime skills. Throughout the week cadets developed teamwork, leadership, communication, resilience, independence and responsibility through living and working together at sea.

A recurring theme throughout the cadets' reflections was that every success aboard the vessel depended upon collective effort. Whether raising sails, cooking meals, conducting night watches or cleaning the vessel, participants quickly learned that cooperation and mutual support were essential.

As one cadet reflected:

"It showed me just how important teamwork is when working together towards a common goal."

Another wrote:

"QG also showed all of us the sheer importance of teamwork and how we all need to work together to succeed in big tasks."

The feedback received from cadets and parents demonstrates that the voyage delivered a meaningful and lasting impact well beyond the duration of the expedition itself.

Acknowledgements

TS Temeraire would like to extend sincere thanks to:

- The Ulysses Trust
- Kent Community Foundation
- The Cirdan Trust

- The permanent crew of *Queen Galadriel*
- TS Temeraire's volunteer staff team
- Parents and families for their continued support

Without this assistance many of the young people involved would not have been able to access such a significant developmental opportunity.

Expedition Participants

Permanent Crew

- Charlotte - Skipper
- Oscar - Mate
- Joe - Bosun
- Emma - Fourth Hand

TS Temeraire Staff

- LT Eaton
- PO Ward

Cadets

- Abbey Oyston
- Antoni
- Arjun
- Daniel Ryan
- Evie
- Jayden Spencer
- Keyaan Saber
- Liam Lusted
- Mason
- Oliver Friday
- Peter

- Tobiloba
 - Zachary
-

About Queen Galadriel

Queen Galadriel is operated by The Cirdan Trust, a charity dedicated to providing personal development opportunities through sail training.

Life aboard a traditional sailing vessel creates an environment unlike any classroom. Every individual contributes directly to the operation of the vessel and quickly learns that success depends upon cooperation, responsibility, discipline and mutual support.

Cadets were not passengers. They became active members of the ship's company, contributing to the daily operation of the vessel and participating in all aspects of life at sea.



The Voyage

Joining the Vessel - Poole

The expedition began in Poole Harbour on 27 July 2026. Cadets and staff were transported by the vessel's tender from Poole Quay to *Queen Galadriel*, which lay at anchor.

Following embarkation, participants completed safety briefings, emergency drills, introductions and vessel familiarisation before preparing for departure.

For many cadets this represented their first experience of living aboard a sailing vessel. That evening the vessel sailed for Alderney.



Passage to Alderney

Departing Poole during the evening, the vessel commenced an overnight passage across the English Channel.

Cadets quickly became involved in watchkeeping routines and learned that life aboard a sailing vessel continues twenty-four hours a day.

Night watches became one of the defining experiences of the voyage.

As one cadet wrote:

"Standing on deck in the dark while the wind blew across the sea was freezing, but the sound of the waves and the stars shining above made it a special experience."

The vessel arrived safely in Braye Harbour, Alderney, the following morning.



Alderney

Alderney provided cadets with the opportunity to explore a unique island rich in history and natural beauty.

Cadets explored beaches, swam in the sea and visited the island's extensive Second World War fortifications.

Several cadets highlighted the exploration of forts and bunkers as a particular highlight, whilst others reflected on the simple enjoyment of spending time with friends in a completely different environment.

One cadet described Alderney as:

"My favourite day of the entire week."



Sark

The passage to Sark introduced cadets to one of the Channel Islands' most distinctive communities.

The absence of motor vehicles, stunning scenery and slower pace of life left a lasting impression on many participants.

Cadets explored independently, visited local cafés, walked coastal paths and experienced a way of life markedly different from that found on the mainland.

One cadet reflected:

"I got to appreciate nature because there were no cars or loads of people."

Another described Sark as:

"One of the most simple but attractive places I've ever visited."





Offshore Sailing and Portland

The passage from Sark to Portland represented one of the most significant offshore legs of the voyage.

Cadets operated a full watchkeeping system, participated in navigation, managed sail handling and undertook essential shipboard responsibilities throughout the passage.

Dolphin sightings added to what was already a memorable offshore experience.

An engineering fault affecting the vessel's variable-pitch propeller prevented completion of the planned return to Poole. Although disappointing, the situation provided an unexpected lesson in resilience, adaptability and problem-solving. Alternative arrangements were quickly implemented to ensure the safe return of all participants.





Beyond Sailing

Although conducted aboard a sailing vessel, the expedition's value extended far beyond sailing itself.

"Sailing provided the canvas, but the real experience was about working together, living together, cooking together, cleaning together, solving problems together and exploring new places as a team."

Throughout the week cadets learned that successful offshore sailing depends not simply upon maritime knowledge, but upon trust, communication and teamwork.

Every meal prepared, every watch stood and every sail raised contributed to the overall success of the voyage.









Learning Through Challenge

A key strength of sail training is the opportunity to learn through practical experience.

Teamwork

Teamwork emerged as the single strongest theme across all cadet reports.

Participants consistently identified cooperation, communication and mutual support as the most important lessons learned during the expedition.

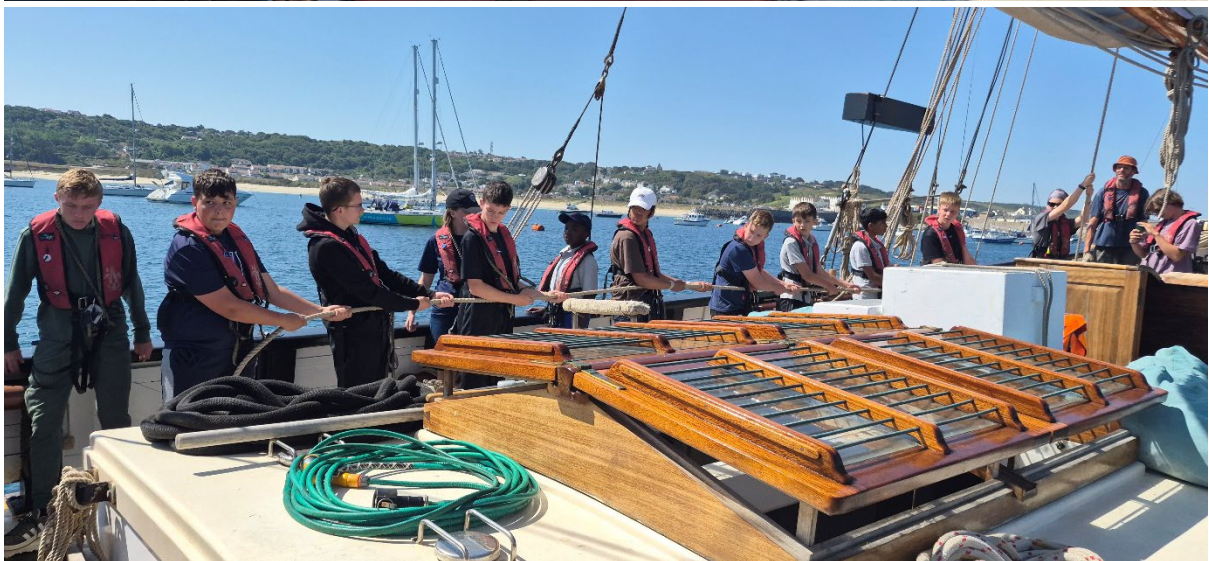
Whether preparing meals, cleaning communal areas, raising sails or standing watch, cadets learned that success depended upon everyone contributing effectively.

One cadet reflected:

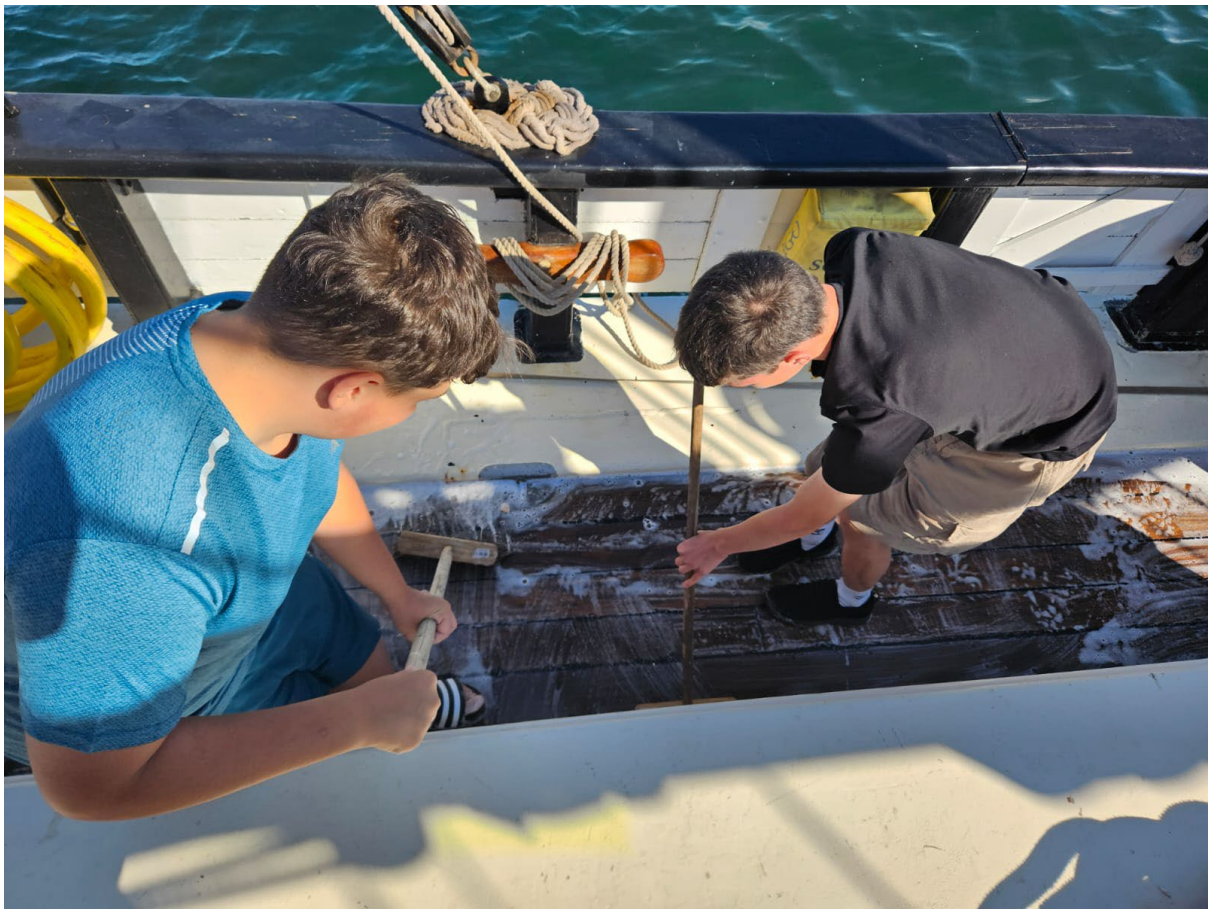
"Everyone worked together to pull on the ropes and raise the sails."

Another observed:

"We all need to work together to succeed in big tasks."







Confidence Through Challenge

Several cadets identified climbing the mast as the defining challenge of the expedition.

Many initially felt apprehensive but chose to overcome their fears.

One cadet described the experience:

"I was determined to push myself out of my comfort zone."

Another reported:

"When I got to the top, I felt proud of myself because I didn't think I would be able to do it."

A further participant reflected:

"It helped me overcome my fear of falling by reaching all the way to the top."

These experiences provided tangible evidence that participants were capable of achieving far more than they initially believed.







Leadership and Responsibility

Cadets were encouraged to take responsibility for themselves, their equipment and the wider team.

Leadership opportunities arose naturally throughout the voyage through watchkeeping, domestic routines, sail handling and helping others to succeed.

Participants learned that leadership often means service, reliability and setting an example rather than exercising authority.

Independence and Resilience

Living aboard a vessel away from home encouraged participants to become more self-reliant and adaptable.

Changing weather conditions, physical challenges, night watches and unfamiliar routines required resilience and determination.

Many cadets returned home with increased confidence and a greater willingness to embrace future challenges.

Practical Life Skills

One of the most significant outcomes of the expedition was the development of practical life skills.

Cadets worked as members of watch groups responsible for:

- Meal preparation
- Cooking
- Cleaning
- Hygiene routines
- Vessel maintenance
- Domestic responsibilities

Several participants specifically mentioned developing confidence in the galley and learning to prepare meals for large groups.

One cadet commented:

"I managed to get over my stress and got used to working in a kitchen."

Others highlighted the importance of cleaning, organisation and supporting the welfare of the wider crew.

Environmental Awareness

Living aboard *Queen Galadriel* provided cadets with a unique opportunity to connect directly with the marine environment.

Rather than learning about tides, weather and sea conditions in a classroom, they experienced them firsthand.

Many cadets reflected upon the natural beauty encountered throughout the voyage.

Highlights included:

- Sunrises at sea
- Night skies free from light pollution
- Coastal scenery
- Marine wildlife

- Dolphin sightings

One cadet described watching:

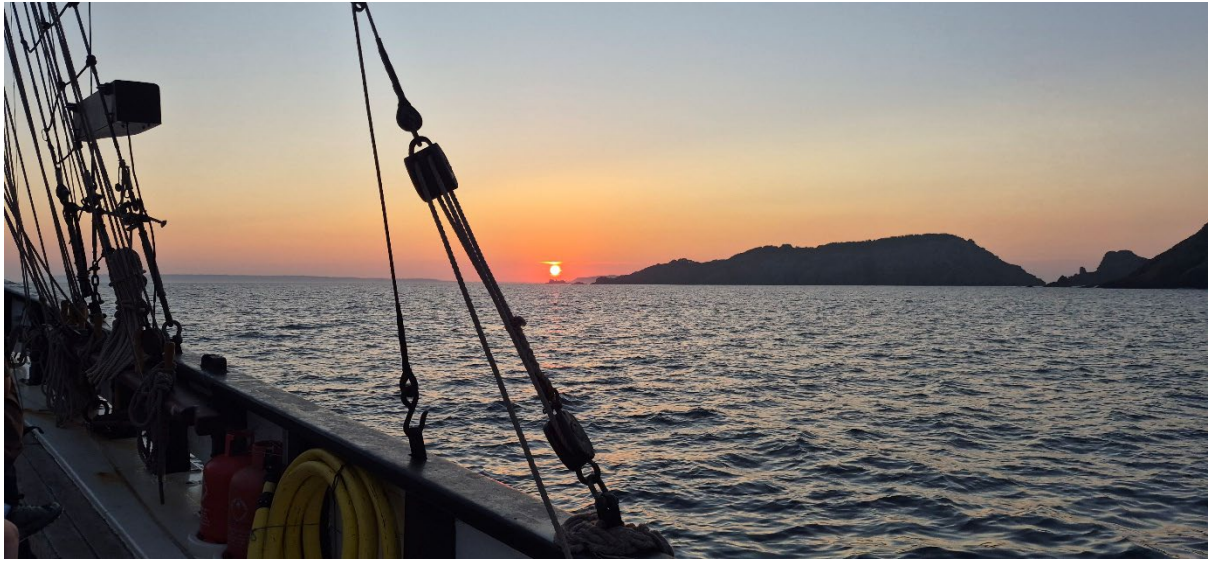
"How the sunrise stained the sky with reds and pinks."

Another reflected on:

"The peaceful atmosphere, the sound of the waves and the stars shining above."

These experiences fostered a greater appreciation of both the maritime environment and the natural world.







The Impact on Young People

The true measure of success is not how many miles were sailed, but the difference made to the young people who took part.

Across all reports, six recurring themes emerged:

- Teamwork
- Confidence
- Resilience
- Friendship
- Responsibility
- Personal growth

Participants consistently reported increased confidence, stronger friendships and a greater willingness to embrace challenges.

One cadet described the voyage as:

"One of the best adventures of my life."

Another stated:

"The most fun I've ever had."

A third reflected:

"If I got the opportunity to go on this trip again, I would definitely take it."

Perhaps most significantly, many cadets highlighted not the sailing itself, but the friendships and shared experiences developed throughout the week.

As one participant wrote:

"These shared experiences brought us closer together and created memories that I will always treasure."

Parent Feedback

Feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive.

One parent described the expedition as:

"The best week of his life and nothing can top it."

Other parents reported that their children returned home:

- More confident
- More mature
- More independent

- Full of enthusiasm
 - Keen to pursue further opportunities
-

Conclusion

The 2026 *Queen Galadriel* expedition demonstrated the transformational power of sail training and adventurous activity.

For thirteen young people, the voyage provided opportunities to experience challenge, responsibility, teamwork, leadership and personal growth in an environment unlike any classroom.

Cadets navigated, sailed, cooked, cleaned, solved problems and supported one another through every stage of the voyage. Through these shared experiences they developed confidence, resilience, maturity and practical life skills that will continue to benefit them long after the expedition has ended.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the expedition is that despite the diverse backgrounds and personalities involved, virtually every cadet identified the same lessons: teamwork, friendship, perseverance and confidence.

As one cadet summarised:

"The trip pushed me beyond my comfort zone, helped me grow as a person, and gave me memories that will stay with me forever."

On behalf of TS Temeraire, its cadets, families and staff, we thank the Ulysses Trust, Kent Community Foundation, The Cirdan Trust and all supporters whose generosity made this remarkable opportunity possible.

The value of that support will continue to be seen not only in memories of the voyage itself, but in the young people who return from it better equipped, more confident and more ambitious for the future.

Appendices

Appendix A1 - Abbey

Cadet Reflection

My sailing trip on *Queen Galadriel* is one that I will never forget.

From a learning perspective, I gained a basic understanding of sailing and navigation, as well as an appreciation of how important teamwork is when operating a vessel. I also learned many things about *Queen Galadriel* that I would never have considered before. For example, I learned that the vessel can become "dehydrated" and must be washed down with water to help preserve its condition.

From a personal perspective, I particularly enjoyed watching the many sunrises throughout the voyage and seeing the sky filled with shades of red and pink. Sailing across the English Channel was also a memorable experience. I enjoyed watching the deep blue sea and the way the sunlight reflected from the waves.

Most importantly, I had a fantastic time with my friends. There were many enjoyable moments throughout the voyage, but a few stand out as the highlights that really shaped my experience.

Exploring Alderney

Day two was my favourite day of the entire voyage. We had the opportunity to explore Alderney, and I spent the day with Antoni, Arjun and Evie. We had great fun swimming at the beach and simply enjoying being together. One of the funniest moments was sharing pineapple upside-down cake with Evie and ending up laughing uncontrollably at a joke that was not even particularly funny. We were laughing so much that it took us nearly ten minutes to calm down.

Exploring Sark

I thoroughly enjoyed exploring Sark and seeing the island's beautiful scenery. It gave me an opportunity to appreciate nature away from busy roads and crowds. I particularly enjoyed walking through wooded areas and discovering small local cafés. One café even gave me some free banana bread, which I thought was a very kind gesture.

Oscar's Riddles

Another memorable part of the voyage was attempting to solve Oscar's riddles. Although I am not particularly good at riddles, I enjoyed working together as a group to find answers. It was great fun discussing different ideas and hearing everybody's theories, especially when none of us were anywhere close to the correct solution.

Other Highlights

- Relaxing on deck with friends on the beanbags.
- Sitting on the bowsprit netting while sailing.
- Sharing a cabin with Evie.
- Playing games with friends below deck.

I would like to say a huge thank you to LT Eaton, The Cirdan Trust and everyone involved in organising this voyage. If I were given the opportunity to take part again in the future, I would put my name down immediately.

Appendix A2 - Antoni

Cadet Reflection

My time with The Cirdan Trust was honestly one of the best experiences I have ever had, and it is something I will remember for a long time.

One of the moments that stood out most was watching the sunset whilst we were at sea. It was calm, peaceful and incredibly beautiful. It made the whole experience feel very special.

I also really enjoyed sailing. It took a little while to get used to being aboard the vessel, but it was rewarding to work as part of a team and play an active role in sailing the boat. Being out on the water was completely different from anything I had experienced before.

One of the biggest challenges for me was climbing the mast. At first I felt nervous, but I am very glad that I decided to do it. When I reached the top, I felt extremely proud because I had achieved something that I never thought I would be able to do.

Overall, I learned a great deal about teamwork, communication and pushing myself to try new things. I came away from the voyage feeling more confident than I did before.

I am very grateful to The Cirdan Trust and all of the sponsors who made this opportunity possible. It was an amazing experience and I have taken a great deal from it.

Appendix A3 - Arjun

My Experience on the Queen Galadriel

One of the most unforgettable experiences I have ever had was my trip on the *Queen Galadriel*. It was an incredible adventure that challenged me, helped me gain confidence and gave me the chance to make amazing memories with my Sea Cadet family and friends.

One of the most exciting parts of the trip was climbing the mast. At first, I felt nervous because it was so high, but I was determined to push myself out of my comfort zone. As I climbed higher, I became more confident, and when I reached the top, the view was breathtaking. Looking out across the sea and towards the horizon made me feel proud of what I had achieved, and it was a moment I will never forget.

Another highlight was helping to put up the sails. This was much harder than I expected because it required teamwork, communication and determination. Everyone worked together to pull on the ropes and raise the sails. It was rewarding to see how our combined effort made the ship move through the water, and it showed me just how important teamwork is when working together towards a common goal.

Although the trip was full of exciting activities, it also had its challenges. One of the hardest experiences was taking part in the cold night watches. Standing on deck in the dark while the wind blew across the sea was freezing, and staying awake was not always easy. However, the peaceful atmosphere, the sound of the waves and the stars shining above made it a special experience. It taught me responsibility, resilience and perseverance, and I felt proud to be trusted with an important role on the ship.

The best part of the entire trip was spending time with my friends. We laughed together, supported each other through difficult challenges and celebrated our achievements. Whether we were climbing the mast, raising the sails or keeping watch during the night, we always encouraged one another. These shared experiences brought us closer together and created memories that I will always treasure.

Overall, my experience on the *Queen Galadriel* was one of the best adventures of my life. It taught me confidence, teamwork, resilience and perseverance while allowing me to have an incredible amount of fun with my friends. The trip pushed me beyond my comfort zone, helped me grow as a person and gave me memories that will stay with me forever. It is an experience I will never forget, and I would love the opportunity to do it again.

Appendix A4 - Evie

Cadet Reflection

The voyage on *Queen Galadriel* has been the most fun I have ever had.

This experience helped me build my confidence and learn new skills that I know will help me in the future.

I particularly enjoyed exploring the islands, which had wonderful people, beautiful views and amazing beaches. Another highlight was climbing the mast and reaching the very top. I would not have been able to do it without the support and encouragement I received from others during the voyage.

The most challenging part for me was when I first went out onto the netting whilst the ship was moving up and down. It took some bravery to get used to it, but I am glad that I persevered.

If I ever had the opportunity to do something like this again, I would take part without hesitation.

I would like to thank LT Eaton, The Cirdan Trust and The Ulysses Trust for helping to make this opportunity possible.

Special Mentions

- **Abbey** for making the trip enjoyable and fun.
 - **Arjun** for being a great friend.
 - **LT Eaton** for organising the expedition and ensuring it could take place.
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Appendix A5 - Jayden

Cadet Reflection

My time spent on *Queen Galadriel* was outstanding.

I had an amazing time and learned not only skills that will help me in sailing, but also important life skills. The most important lesson I learned was teamwork.

Queen Galadriel has provided me with memories that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I particularly enjoyed helping to put up the sails, completing entries in the logbook and steering the vessel.

I also enjoyed washing the deck, cooking and cleaning as part of a team. The voyage showed us the importance of teamwork and how everyone needs to work together to complete significant tasks, whether preparing meals, raising sails or supporting one another during night watches.

I would like to thank The Ulysses Trust for providing funding and support, The Cirdan Trust for providing the vessel and crew, PO Ward and LT Eaton for giving up their time to support us, and our Commanding Officer for making this opportunity available to us cadets.

Appendix A6 - Keyaan

Cadet Reflection

I recently had the opportunity to go offshore on *Queen Galadriel*.

Whilst onboard, I experienced what it was like to live and work closely with other people, which I believe will be valuable in the future.

A major part of the voyage involved teamwork. We worked together to complete tasks such as cooking and cleaning aboard the vessel and quickly learned how important cooperation is when living at sea.

We also had the opportunity to visit some of the Channel Islands and spend time exploring the local areas together.

All of the crew were friendly, approachable and always willing to answer questions. They explained everything clearly and helped us understand how the ship operated.

If I were given the opportunity to take part in this voyage again, I would definitely do it.

Appendix A7 - Liam

Cadet Reflection

I would first like to thank everyone involved in organising the trip and for providing me with the opportunity to take part.

I really enjoyed exploring both Alderney and Sark.

My highlights on Alderney included exploring the historic Second World War forts and bunkers, as well as going swimming. On Sark, I enjoyed walking around the island, taking in the scenery and appreciating the dramatic coastal views. I also found it interesting that the island had very few vehicles, relying instead on bicycles and horse-drawn transport.

I particularly enjoyed swimming at the beach, exploring caves and climbing the mast. Climbing the mast helped me overcome my fear of falling, as I managed to reach the very top even whilst the ship was moving significantly.

One challenge I overcame was cooking. I am not a natural chef and had limited kitchen experience before the expedition. Initially I found it stressful, but after receiving guidance and learning new skills, I became much more comfortable working in the galley.

Although I was already used to cleaning, maintaining the ship required a much higher standard than I was accustomed to. Cleaning the deck was physically demanding, but I found all the cooking, cleaning and washing-up duties extremely valuable because they helped me develop important life skills.

I also found sailing challenging at times, but equally enjoyable. The experience increased both my knowledge of sailing and my physical fitness. The skills and experiences I have gained during this voyage will contribute towards my future ambition of joining the Royal Navy.

Many thanks,

Liam

Appendix A8 - Oliver

Queen Galadriel Report

I will begin by saying that, whilst on this trip, I experienced so many positive things that it is difficult to fully put them into words.

Day one was largely spent travelling. However, once aboard *Queen Galadriel*, I arrived on what felt like a spotless and beautiful vessel that would become home for the next week. We did not set sail until later that evening, but the wait was worth it. Once the sails had been raised and everything had been secured, the views were incredible.

My first night watch took place during the early hours of the second day. I woke up to a sky full of stars that are extremely difficult to see closer to home because of light pollution. It gave me the opportunity to appreciate a different side of the natural world.

We arrived in Alderney on the morning of day two. After anchoring in the harbour, we headed ashore to explore. A group consisting of Liam Lusted, Jayden Spencer, Keyaan Saber and myself spent time exploring the island's many fortifications. We walked several miles across the island and eventually found an ideal place to swim, which proved to be one of the highlights of the day.

Sark was our next destination and remains one of the most attractive places I have ever visited. I was fascinated to learn that private cars are largely absent from the island, helping create a unique atmosphere and way of life.

Eventually we returned towards England and arrived at Portland, where we spent two nights exploring the area. Although it was good to be back in England, the adventure was not yet over.

There is far more that could be said about the voyage than can fit into a short report, but two experiences stand above all others for me. The first was climbing the mast whilst anchored in Sark, and the second was visiting the engine room with Oscar. Even now I find it difficult to choose which of those experiences was my favourite.

What I can say with certainty is that I will remember this voyage for a very long time.