

☺ TALL SHIPS VOYAGE! ☺



Hannah and I have just completed a Tall Ships Voyage on their new catamaran. It was a great 3-night trip with lots of fun being handed out! It was a perfect experience and we had the opportunity to learn lots of things like knots and parts of the boat. On the 1st day, we arrived, in the snow, at Haslar Marina 10a.m. and we were shown round the boat, we met the crewmembers; Steve, our Skipper; Martin, the 1st mate; Noah and Scott the other crew members. Then we were kitted up with the necessary safety equipment. We pumped up the dingy so we could have a race; Hannah and Noah won...

Later that day, we set sail to Cowes on the Isle of Wight but then we got a phone call saying we had to go to Gunwharf Harbour to go see the yacht we were supposed to be travelling with as they had a problem. We slept the night there and had a great view of the Spinnaker Tower. The next morning, Hannah and I got up at 7a.m. as we were supposed to, but the boys didn't so Steve, being mean, picked up the fog horn and took it to the boys' room and let it off; it was really funny! We then learnt how to navigate and steered the cat on to Cowes and we arrived there much too early so we decided to go to Yarmouth. When we got there it was pouring down with rain but we were glad to get in the showers at the Harbour centre!

The next day after that, we sailed back to Cowes but it took us a long time because both the wind and tide were against us. When we finally got there we found the yacht was already there; they had beaten us! We then had showers and were allowed to go to the pub with Steve and Martin. We were told that we, the crew, would be sailing the cat all by ourselves back to Haslar Marina.

On the last day, the best day, we took control of the boat ourselves! Scott got to be Skipper, Noah and I the navigators (and I was in charge of making teas!) and Hannah was the watch leader! It was really cool but we had to keep tacking as the wind was against us! It took us about 5 hours but when we got back to Haslar we had to clean the boat from top to bottom; that was the worst part of the voyage!

Frances Archer, aged 13

December 2010