



Students on the sails



Tall Ship Stavros S Niarchos

All aboard for the adventure of a lifetime

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Reporter

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A GROUP of students has just completed the trip of a lifetime.

Twelve Year 10 pupils from Longhill High in Rottingdean, along with geography teacher Hannah Seaby, spent ten days travelling aboard the tall ship, Stavros S Niarchos.

Their adventure, sponsored by HSBC, was part of a programme run by the Tall Ships Youth Trust, a registered charity dedicated to the personal development of young people through travelling on the sea.

They sailed from Southampton to Belgium and The Netherlands before returning via London.

Now over 60 years old, The Tall Ships Youth Trust is the UK's oldest and largest sail training charity for people aged 12 to 25.

The trust takes more than 3,000 of them to sea each year – 75 per cent of them are disadvantaged or disabled.

More than 100,000 trainees have sailed 1.8 million nautical miles on the trust's fleet.

background

FORMERLY The Sail Training Association, the Tall Ships Youth Trust is a registered charity founded in 1956.

The charity is the UK's oldest and largest sail training charity, dedicated to the personal development of young people age 12 to 25 through the crewing of ocean-going sail training vessels.

As a youth charity, Tall Ships provides bursaries and funding to help young people get on board and realise their full potential.

Sailing as part of a Tall Ships crew makes for a participative and empowering experience, with the fleet providing a unique challenge in which youths learn to live at sea.

The Longhill students' trip was particularly poignant as it was the last trip for the Stavros, which is now up for sale.

The youngsters formed a vital part of the 68-person crew on-board the ship, where everyone had an important part to play and had to work hard to crew the vessel in all weathers.

Students are required to do four-hour watches throughout every 24-hour period.

Sailing was delayed for a few days due to bad weather, but students took the opportunity to explore the harbour.

They enjoyed swimming and tug of war and met other students who came from schools in London, Leeds and Swansea.

Everyone was allocated randomly to their cabins.

These were small and basic, housing eight students each in canvas hammock-style beds.

Student Marta Lopes, 14, won an award for being the best climber. She said: "It was so exciting at the top of the mast – like flying. I sang a song while I was up there too."

Fellow Longhill student Lillie-Mae Jones said: "The hardest thing was staying awake on watch, especially when on the 4am watch."

Families lined the river-side for the return and the young sailors received awards, certificates and T-shirts to mark the end of their adventure.



It was the final trust journey for the Stavros S Niarchos



The Stavros S Niarchos sailing through Tower Bridge

Victorious girls bag the U16 hockey trophy for the first time

HURST College's U16 girls' hockey team have won the Sussex Cup for the first time.

The players battled through their pool, semi-final and final, winning every match they played without conceding a single goal.

The college in Hurstpierpoint had been drawn in the tougher of the pools, lined up to face Ardingly

College, Brighton College, Worth School and Mayfield School.

The team struggled in their first encounter against Brighton College, but managed to win 2-0, thanks to some clinical finishing in the second half of the game.

Mayfield followed and put up some stern resistance until half time with the score at 0-0. However,

the start of the second half saw two quick goals settle the nerves for the Hurst girls; soon a 3-0 win was secured.

Next up was Ardingly, who started brightly, but the girls kept them at arm's length, playing some superb hockey to take a 3-0 victory.

But the Hurst girls saved their best performance for the final

group match against Worth, when the entire squad contributed very effectively throughout to produce some outstanding team moves for a 7-0 win.

Tournament hosts Eastbourne College topped the other pool, which left Hurst facing Farlington School in the semi-final. After some scrappy initial exchanges, Hurst

broke the deadlock and swiftly seized control of the game, for a second 7-0 victory.

With Eastbourne sneaking past Ardingly in the other semi-final, it was another Eastbourne versus Hurst Sussex Cup final.

But Hurst's Ciara Daniell secured a 2-0 win with a goal just before full time.