

## OYT North Voyage Report – Catcote School

29<sup>th</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**This voyage was a group of students from Catcote School in Hartlepool with Special Educational Needs. During their 7 day voyage they successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition.**



This group has specific needs and abilities and had set themselves a high target of achieving Silver DofE Expedition.

Throughout the voyage they made huge developments both individually and as a team. During the first couple of days, which was their practice expedition, most of them were seasick. This made the task of preparing meals a challenge but one of the boys stepped up to the mark and made the meals for his crew members. He was able to use skills he had learnt at school and

onboard about food hygiene, cooking and safety in the galley.

They persevered through their seasickness by helping each other and with the determination to succeed. By the end of the week they were able to take the lead and coordinate themselves with sail hoists and did it very competently.

One of the boys had some mobility problems and was worried at the beginning about how he'd be able to move around the boat. He was helped for the 1st day but it soon came clear that he was completely able on James Cook. At the end of the voyage he proudly announced that his best part was being able to go up and down the stairs.

As part of the DofE Expedition they are required to organise and run the boat, make the decisions and handle basic navigation to keep the boat safe and get to their chosen destination.



Below is an extract from an email from the teacher following the voyage:

Our students who all have their own disabilities and anxieties were very nervous beforehand although they seem to be confident and able this is not the case, for the girls who are very unsure about meeting new people this was a challenge for them, what started as very quiet girls soon disappeared. They listened to instructions and followed them without any worries and during meal times it's hard for the girls to eat in front of people this again was a worrying challenge but the girls just took it in their stride. The boys all worked hard helping each other along the journey. The things these students have learnt from your crew is unbelievable, what your crew managed to do was turn some very anxious students into confident young people that and they will take this experience with them through their life time .