



Maritime Futures

Spring Term 2024 – Newsletter



Welcome from Rachel Kitley

I'm delighted to welcome the Tees Valley Education Trust and Bridgemary School in Gosport to the partnership. Laxdale Primary in Stornoway has been our only primary sector partner so far and I'm really excited to see how our new partners apply the spirit of Maritime Futures in their settings, and what it means for the transition to secondary.

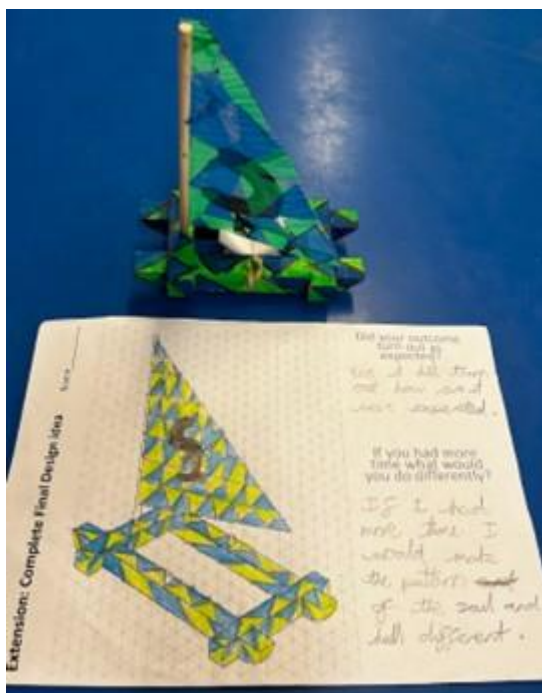
Welcome, too, to Hazel Walker, one of my Vice Principals here at Cowes, who has taken over the lead of the Maritime Futures programme from Tom Harding (who's now focusing on other priorities within the school). Tom did a fantastic job and I'm really grateful to him. I know that Hazel has been busy introducing herself to you all.

We had a really interesting day in Glasgow last November, hosted by Nicola Crawford and Leigh Watson of Education Scotland. Half a dozen schools joined us to talk through Maritime Futures, with a helpful contribution too from a major marine engineering firm. Hazel and Nicola visited all the interested schools last week to talk through in detail where the opportunities lie.

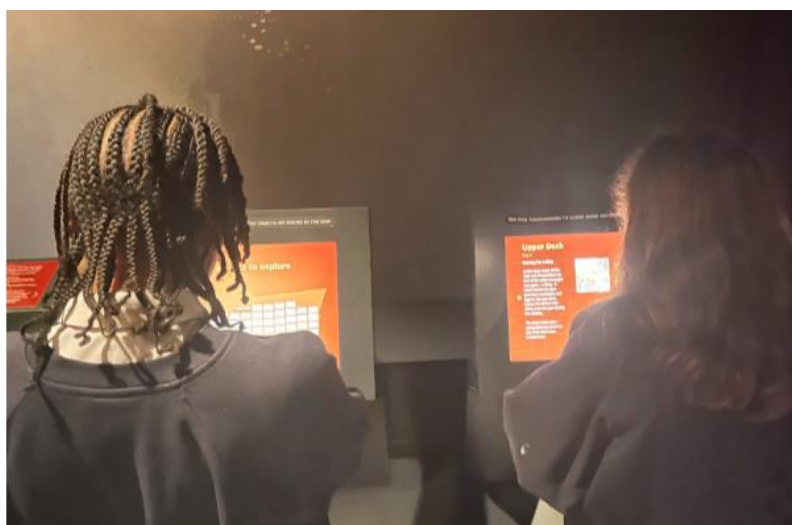
I'm really excited as the partnership grows, and experiences deepen. We have so much to learn from each other!

Programme Update

Bridgemary School and TVEd join the partnership



Bridgemary School, Gosport, are delighted to have joined 'Maritime Futures', working collectively with other schools in promoting maritime careers and heritage with the young people we teach. At Bridgemary School, we have been pioneering [STEAM](#) (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) since 2015 and supported the creation of the [STEAM toolkit](#), interjecting the power of the Arts into STEM theory. Situated on the south coast of the UK, Gosport holds an important maritime connection with the Royal Navy and Historic Dockyard. Our STEAM Maritime project connects the heritage of our town to real vessels and history in our community. Most recently we took 80 Y8/9 pupils to the [Historic Dockyard to observe the Mary Rose](#) and take part in a workshop.



The partnerships we have made to date are assisting in the development of our STEAM maritime project, in particular through developing new specialist knowledge, especially within science and technology. I feel excited to be working with like-minded educationalists whose vision supports the direction of education we wish to provide our young people at **Bridgemary School**.



Tees Valley Education Trust (TVEd) is a multi-academy Trust in the North of England. Our academies serve communities across Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland. Whilst the North East and Tees faces significant socioeconomic disadvantage, it is also an area with a rich history of industry, enterprise and pioneering.

With this in mind, we have worked closely with colleagues from Cowes Enterprise College at developing our existing [Business, Industry and Enterprise Institute](#) using the learning and principles that anchors Maritime Futures.



Teachers in our academies have worked on an initial design of a primary-phase curriculum that focuses on the River Tees and hyperlocal industry. In January, we presented this initial work to local business and industry leaders. Their feedback and partnership is proving to be invaluable in helping to further shape and develop this work.

A huge thank you to Cowes Enterprise College for being generous with their expertise and learning. We look forward to providing further updates in due course and sharing with you the work that we are doing with our pupils and alongside partners such as [AV Dawson at the Port of Middlesbrough](#), [Casper Shipping](#), [Spark Tees Valley](#), [Materials Processing Institute](#), [PD Ports](#) and [Teesside University International Business School](#).

Ormiston Maritime Academy have engaged with local fish suppliers to understand the journey of a fish from sea to plate. Students have found out about the history of “Fish and Chips” and learnt how to prepare, cook and serve good quality fish dishes using locally sourced fish.



In Art, their theme of Message in a Bottle has taken its inspiration from the harmful impact of plastics on sea life.

Around the Partnership

Last December the **Nicolson Institute in Stornoway** joined the Fishing and Aquaculture Week organised through the DYW – Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce – programme for the Outer Hebrides and Western Isles. There was a social media campaign which highlighted real life stories within the industry ([see here](#)) and showcased all the various jobs available, as well as asking those working in aquaculture to come into the schools to speak to pupils about careers paths within the industry.

The aim of the week was to demonstrate to pupils, parents and young people in the Western Isles, the various careers opportunities within the fishing and aquaculture industries. There is a wide variety of job opportunities that require different skillsets, and it can be an extremely lucrative industry to be involved in. It is also a key industry sector that needs job vacancies filled.

Below is a photo of staff from MOWI - one of the largest fish-farming companies - giving a presentation to school children in The Nicolson Institute.



In late November **Felixstowe School** hosted a STEAM event for all students in Year 10 in partnership with the NHS. Each student attended three, 30-minute, workshops led by different companies and a STEAM Careers Fair, which offered interactive activities and a chance to find out more about careers within the companies.

Workshops were led by Galloper Wind farm, Suffolk New College(criminal profiling), Haltermann Carless (manufacturing) and EDF, and the Port of Felixstowe also attended the Careers Fair. The school is in contact with the port – much the largest employer in the town – to organise tours.

Maritime Sector News

The RNLI is 200 this year (here's their Heritage Factsheet – and watch out for the commemorative 50p coin). Their [education resources](#) are all free, and they offer visits to talk to children about safety in the water.



Record dry weather is causing big problems for the Panama Canal. A record-breaking drought means that [the Panama Canal Authority has had to make big cuts in the number of transits](#) (the canal works like any other canal: a lot of water flows through every time the locks open), and also cut the maximum draft of permitted ships by 2m. That all adds to shipping companies' costs – and has prompted container shipping giant Maersk to [choose transshipment by land instead](#).



'Missing Lincs'. Coastal change has also meant [disappearing offshore islands](#), in this case off the coast of Lincolnshire.

Conferences cost time and money but the [archive](#) of the annual [Coastal Futures conference](#) is free, and potentially useful to those who teach coastal management.

It's sadly not indexed, but for example the 2023 conference included Caroline Douglass of the Environment Agency on Adaptation to Coastal Change (Day 1, Session 3) and a Keynote from Aisling Lannin of the Marine Management Organisation (Day 1, Session 1).

Are you more interested in maritime? Or recycling? Or robotics? – There's no need to choose! Have a look at this [video](#) explaining a project in Amsterdam trialling a rubbish-collecting robot vessel, "Robot".



Useful Links

[Maritime Futures project website](#)

[OAT Futures](#) careers website – including three dozen maritime sector profiles

[MaritimeCareers.UK](#)

[Inspiring the Future Maritime](#) – access maritime ambassadors for your school

[MaritimeUK Speaker Bank](#) – access a wider range of speakers, particularly female



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