

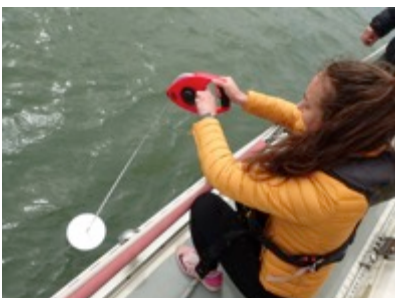
Case Study: Bringing Marine Science to Life

Details:

With places at top universities becoming more competitive, students need to find something extra on their CV/record of achievement to make them stand out.

Voyages:

Challenge Wales worked with the Darwin Centre to bring science to life for a group of girls studying AS Biology by taking them on a day sail. Seven students from 3 different schools mucked in together to sail the boat and did sampling at sea.



The Results:

- Students realised the **hard work that is involved with sailing**.
- They improved their **knowledge about their local marine environment**. They enjoyed spending time looking at the **plankton through the microscope**.
- The group leader stated that to **learn basic sailing skills** from such enthusiastic people was a hugely **worthwhile experience for them**.
- The voyage placed them in an **unfamiliar environment** and situation so **they had to quickly adapt**.
- Students **developed their teamwork skills**. They had to communicate with each other and take responsibility for the jobs that they were carrying out which **built up their confidence**.
- The voyage passed all of the industry along the waterway would made them **more aware of the importance of the waterway both locally and internationally**.
- In terms of the science, a **highlight was seeing the plankton net in action**. We collected so many different animals from just below the surface that they would have not previously thought about before or even been aware of before.

"The group thoroughly enjoyed their time aboard Challenge Wales – as I did. The crew were great, very patient and enthusiastic they clearly enjoy what they do." Group Leader from Darwin Centre

"I would love to do something like this again and would be keen to take part in a longer voyage". Group Leader from Darwin Centre

"It would definitely be advantageous for the students to have something like Challenge Wales to talk about in their interviews to show that they are well-rounded applicants who have done things outside of the school/college environment". Group Leader from Darwin Centre

The Darwin Centre is a Pembrokeshire charity and aims to engage and enthuse young people, families, and communities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).