

TRAINEE BLOG: BELINDA CREE

JANUARY 2020



THE BEGINNING OF THE END AT IBTC

This second term at the International Boatbuilding Training College has focused on the more specific boat maintenance skills that we will need on our placement vessels (and beyond). Topics we covered included: painting and varnishing; spar making; roving; planking repairs; plumbing & electrics; and safe working practises with power tools.

The painting and varnishing was something I felt quite familiar with already. My first job was in a hardware store and I've actually got a wee bit of experience painting houses, but I still definitely built on that over that short course. I now feel more confident with things like anti-foul, expoxies and prepping wood to be varnished.

We also did a couple of days looking at diesel engines which was completely new to me. Well, not new in the sense that I do drive a diesel car to college every day... but 'demystifying', as our instructor Dave put it. I'm pretty confident now that I could troubleshoot some common engine problems myself.

DIESEL ENGINE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/P-7LtlSwwjg>

Roadtrip! We had the opportunity to attend this year's Association of Sail Training Organisations (ASTO) Conference on 24th January which was well worth while. I'd been working as a part-time credit controller before joining this placement, so I was keen to attend the session of financial risk management in the sail training industry – it's good to have a niche! But seriously, it was a great day, and I'm so grateful we could attend. I also picked up a lot of tips on wellbeing for sea staff, which I hope will stick with me

We've only two weeks left at the college now! I can't believe how much I've learned here – even though it's much more of a 'crash course' than the very comprehensive 47-week course they offer here. I've picked up a lot of tips and tricks to supplement what we've covered on our bespoke version of the curriculum. Obviously experience counts for an awful lot in this industry, and that's what I don't have (yet!). But learning from folks with entire careers of insider knowledge must be the best way to learn how to do things the right way.