



RYA Training Conference 2012

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Boating across the curriculum

Can we create a better integration between what is taught during our RYA course and the school's curriculum, encouraging an increase in schools visiting our centres and clubs, retention in our sport and closer working relations?

Some interesting discussions were held regarding how we can connect better with the curriculum. Already the RYA have links with schools through OnBoard and many other clubs and centres own initiatives, groups discussed how could this be enhanced and what the challenges faced might be.

Designing of RYA resource pack would provide a very useful tool, with most groups also feeling the pack should be RYA Branded, providing national identity to it. The pack should include how centres/clubs can link sailing to the curriculum - each year and each subject;; information on sailing/power/windsurf sessions that directly relate to curriculum activities e.g. maths: vectors = upwind sailing, it would help sell our activities to schools as fun, safe, adventurous, healthy, rewarding activity. Included in these could be; Large posters for classrooms. Growing on the resources theme, case studies with success stories would provide ideas to get around possible 'challenges'.

It was deemed important to investigate the different avenues available across the different age groups and academic awards offered. For example, although there is not much influence possible nationally with the BTEC, centres could form local links. With GCSE level, opportunities maybe present with the current proposal to combine exam boards, this would need investigating. Duke of Edinburgh may also provide a good opportunity to engage with already 'like-minded' individuals that may not have considered RYA courses or activities as part of their award. A presentation was delivered by Amanda Van Santen at the RYA OnBoard Conference; perhaps this could be circulated or placed on the web.

It was thought that by providing weekend activities and team building events, therefore exposing teachers to sailing early on a relationship with schools (teachers, heads) could be build, most groups thought this was absolutely key to engaging schools.

Learning from other organisations was also a priority, building closer links and working closer with organisations such as the NSSA due to their already extensive work and school links.

Inevitably with every big project you face challenges and all groups were aware of the tests the RYA would face by trying to expand and enhance the work it does to incorporate the curriculum. A few concerns were; the UK syllabus potentially changing in 1 to 1.5 years, so how much work should we be putting in, any work needs to Integrate with different key stages and it must be flexible, with the ability to adapt to local areas.