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Students welcomed aboard Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' Borealis for an immersive five-night sailing

A group of 26 travel and tourism students from West Suffolk College have returned from an inspirational five-day study trip to the Netherlands, hosted by Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines.

The Suffolk-based cruise line welcomed the learners on board its smaller-sized ship, *Borealis*, for a round-trip sailing from Newcastle with visits to Amsterdam and Rotterdam – offering a unique opportunity to explore career pathways within the cruise industry.

The trip was organised by Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines as part of its commitment to supporting young people and championing careers in tourism. The students, all enrolled on Level 3 Travel and Tourism courses, enjoyed a behind-the-scenes look at life on board a cruise ship and gained insight into a wide range of roles, from hospitality and guest experience to engineering and sustainability.

During their time aboard *Borealis*, the students attended a series of talks, toured the lower decks and bridge, visited crew quarters and participated in practical sessions including mocktail-making classes. They also spoke with members of both on-board and shoreside teams to understand the full breadth of career opportunities available in the industry.

Eighteen-year-old Tiffany Knights, from Ipswich, said:

“It was such an amazing experience. The staff were lovely and everyone was included in the excursions. I learnt that sustainability is very important to Fred. Olsen and they are developing lots of plans to build on what they’ve already created.”

Seventeen-year-old Tilly Winchester, from Watton in Norfolk, added:

“The highlight for me was seeing behind the scenes. I learnt so much about sustainability – I didn’t realise how much goes into it. It’s now something I’m really interested in, and I might look to pursue a travel career with a sustainability focus.”

Zoe Curran, course tutor at West Suffolk College, praised both the students and the cruise line: “The students’ behaviour was impeccable, and we’d like to sincerely thank Fred. Olsen for this amazing opportunity.”

Sandy Powell, Head of Compliance and Sustainability at Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines who led the trip, said: “It was a genuine pleasure to welcome the students aboard and offer them first-hand experience of life on board a cruise ship. As a local business, we take great pride in showcasing the many opportunities within the travel industry and doing our part to inspire the next generation of professionals.”

To find out more about Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines visit

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