



Henry Hotchkiss Trophy

Xander was completely new to sailing when he joined Gordonstoun in Year 12, but quickly showed an aptitude for the skills needed to be a successful crew member and in particular an empathy for working alongside others in challenging situations. Xander was awarded a coveted "Distinction" for his performance on his Sail Training Voyage and soon returned to Ocean Spirit to participate in a very demanding Arctic Voyage. On this trip he distinguished himself as a Watch leader in some very harsh conditions whilst on passage to Scotland and also managed to complete his RYA Watch leader award. Xander impressed the staff team with his commitment to others and his determination to contribute despite his personal fatigue and the challenges he faced in the cold and wet conditions of the Arctic seas. Once back at Gordonstoun, Xander also played a leading role in the small boat sailing programme at Hopeman as part of the Outdoor Leadership Service, showing commitment to both improving his own skills and helping others. Xander has expressed a desire to continue sailing with Ocean Spirit as a Watch leader and is hoping to gain further qualifications in order to sail in a more professional capacity in the future. In his short time at Gordonstoun, Xander has proved himself to be a most worthy recipient of the Henry Hotchkiss Award for Sail Training.