

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE AND WORK IN PROGRESS

Having been formally established for 15 months but operationally active for just 6 months, the Thames Skills Academy (TSA) is already making a real difference: actively engaged with employers, meeting their training and development needs, and promoting career opportunities in the tidal Thames. These are just some examples of the work it has been engaged in during 2016 and the early part of 2017.

We have:

- Signed up 15 Employer Members, who between them represent over 70% of those working afloat in the Port of London.
- Actively engaged and are now working with a range of potential supporters, affiliates and sponsors and recruited 4 Affiliate Members to date.
- Been accepted as a member of GTA England – the national umbrella organisation of Group Training Associations.
- Become a member of the Maritime Skills Alliance, and now actively contributing to the development, maintenance and improvement of vocational qualifications and standards in the Inland Waterways and wider UK maritime sector.
- Had proposals for the expansion of the qualifications framework for tidal Inland Waterways (Category C & D Waters) accepted by the Maritime Skills Alliance.
- Established and lead a Freight Working Group in support of our freight operator members, including the three marine contractors engaged in the Tideway Project.
- Supported passenger operator members through the establishment of a Passenger Working Group focussing on their specific training needs both marine and non-marine.
- Identifying a pool of TSA 'Endorsed Training Providers' from which to meet our Members' training and development needs.
- Facilitated and delivered various training courses; and working with providers to develop bespoke training in several areas to meet our Members' needs.
- In conjunction with one of our Endorsed Training Providers, developed and delivered a bespoke Riverside Personal Survival Course for shore-based personnel engaged on the Tideway Project, working on, over or adjacent to the River.
- Attended the Skills London 2016 event, promoting careers in the maritime industries, specifically the tidal Thames.
- Held our first National Apprenticeship Week event for over 95 young people, promoting careers afloat and bringing potential apprentices together with marine employers. The event resulted in at least one young person being offered (and accepting) an apprenticeship with a TSA member – with a glowing testimonial!
- Attended the Seawork 2017 event in Southampton to promote the TSA to a wider operator audience.
- Plans in place to attend Skills London 2017 and to hold a similar event in National Apprenticeship Week 2018.

Please contact us at the following address admin@thamesacademy.london for a membership application form and/or training@thamesacademy.london to discuss your training needs.