



THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE THAMES SKILLS ACADEMY

THE EMPLOYER-LED ANSWER TO RAISING STANDARDS AND IMPROVING SKILLS FOR THE TIDAL THAMES

Introduction

The Thames Skills Academy (TSA) operates as a Group Training Association (GTA) - a learning and skills partnership where employers subscribe to on and off-the-job training in order to provide efficient, expertly-delivered skills that meet shared needs across an industry or sector. The TSA brokers and facilitates, and (in due course as a training provider) will deliver, a comprehensive solution to meet the marine skills and competency requirements of commercial vessel operators and other marine and port-related organisations within the Port of London and the wider Thames Estuary and other inland waterways.

GTAs have evolved in response to the needs of local, sector-specific employers who are directly involved in their governance, and in the development of training standards and the delivery of teaching and learning. They understand the pressures under which businesses operate and how to support them with a highly responsive, holistic and long-term service, covering all aspects of workforce development.

The Benefits of Membership of the TSA

Being an Employer Member of the TSA brings a number of benefits in the areas of training and the development of skills and competencies.

The TSA:

- ✓ is a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee. Any surplus will be re-invested in the organisation in the continuous improvement of its service, for the benefit of its Members;
- ✓ constitution allows for Members to be represented and involved operationally in the organisation through its Employer Advisory Group, and strategically through representation on the TSA Board;
- ✓ acts as a focus for a more structured, collective and cohesive approach to marine training and development on the tidal Thames;
- ✓ through economies of scale and excellent training providers, facilitates and brokers high quality, flexible training at the lowest possible cost;
- ✓ provides dedicated support to employers to enable them to meet the costs of running high-quality apprenticeships; and supports training and development generally;
- ✓ drives forward and supports the ongoing development and evolution of the tidal Thames (Inland Waterways) competency and career framework;
- ✓ raises standards and improve safety;
- ✓ organises Members' networking opportunities, discussion forums and seminars;
- ✓ keeps our Members updated on current legislation and best practice;
- ✓ is an access point for advice on all aspects of training; and
- ✓ gives employers a voice in order to shape the commercial future of the Port of London and the tidal River Thames.