

Ben McC, Year 7. How will you connect with family when you're on board?

We can use Whatsapp while we are here to chat to people back home, but if we want to talk to family then we need international calling cards (easy to buy from a supermarket)

Julia N, Year 7. Does anyone get sea sick on board?

Yeah seasickness was a real problem at the start of the journey. I had some medicine but it made me sleep for 16 hours on one day. It takes maybe a week to get over seasickness the first time but some people didn't get sick at all, some took longer than a week.

Olly C, Year 7. How hot are the hydrothermal vents?

There are all different kinds of hydrothermal vents, some low temperature vents are as cold as 6 degrees, but the hottest are 'black smokers' which can reach 400 degrees Celsius.

James L, Year 8. How often do you go on research cruises?

This is my first long research cruise to the open ocean, during university I got to go on a 3 day cruise around Scotland. There are some scientists on this cruise that have been on nearly 40 long research cruises.

Lauren N, Year 8. Is the food good on ship?

The food here is actually really good, every meal is different and made by a professional chef who makes sure we can get a balanced diet.

Lauren S, Year 9. What kind of organisms do you find on the bottom of your boat?

A few days ago I attached a GoPro camera to a VMP (vertical microstructure profiler) which went underneath the ship and it came back with a video of a little squid swimming around the boat.

Billy J, Year 9. How are you going to measure the iron?

To measure iron we send bottles down to whatever depths we want, then close the bottles to trap the seawater in. Once we bring it on-board, we get the iron to react with a chemical to produce light, the brighter the light the more iron there is.

Mike H, Year 10. Can you do basketball on ship or other exercise?

Not basketball but we do have a gym on-board we try to use when we can. It has a treadmill, rowing machine, free weights and home gym.

Lottie H, Year 10. What will you do with the results of your research?

Once we get results we have to work out what they mean and how important they are for the ocean and climate change. Then we write about them in scientific magazines like "Nature" and "Science", or talk about them at conferences. One of the most important parts of science is being able to communicate your results and what you have found out. All the data we get will be added to the *GEOTRACES* database, which is a website where anyone can access results from loads of cruises in the programme.