

Lieutenant Commander
Will Blackett
Royal Navy

Commanding Officer
MCM1 Crew 6
HMS BANGOR



Will Blackett joined the Royal Navy as a University Cadet Entrant (UCE) in 2001. Following a year at BRNC Dartmouth (including Common Fleet Time in HMS EXETER), he completed an honours degree in Law at Brunel University. Throughout this period he continued his professional training in HM Ships LEDBURY, CHIDDINGFOLD, CATTISTOCK and SEVERN. His early appointments then included Navigating Officer in HMS HURWORTH, Flag Lieutenant to CINCFLEET, and Officer of the Watch 1 in HMS DARING.

Completing FNO course in 2010, he re-joined HMS DARING as Navigating Officer where he successfully planned and executed OP KIPION 12. The deployment saw many challenges, particularly as this was the first operational deployment for T45, and he was awarded a Fleet Commander's Commendation for his contribution.

Following PWO course (Oct 12-Nov 13) he was once again appointed to HMS DARING, this time as Gunnery Officer. He joined the Ship part-way through OP SIDEREAL (a global deployment), and just in time to play an active role in OP PATWIN (the UK disaster relief response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines). The deployment also included a period as AAW escort to the French CHARLES DE GAULLE Carrier Strike Group within the KIPION JOA. As Operations Officer throughout 2014 he guided DARING through a major capability upgrade and her subsequent regeneration programme.

He subsequently completed a short appointment to Northwood as the FLEET OPS Major Warship Scheduler before joining MCM1 Squadron as Crew 6 Commanding Officer in Feb 16. Crew 6 moved onboard HMS GRIMSBY in Jun 16 and deployed to the Baltic with SNMCMG1 from Jul – Dec 16. Following the KIPION MCM work up in GRIMSBY, Blackett took Command of HMS BANGOR in the KIPION JOA in Jun 17.

Will lives in Hampshire with his wife, daughter and pet Dalmatian. He plays a number of musical instruments and enjoys playing rugby and golf when time permits.