



MEDIA RELEASE

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“Abandon Ship!” Titanic Belfast and Survitec Launch New Education Workshop

Titanic Belfast in partnership with its education partner, the Survitec Group, today launched its newest education workshop - ‘Abandon Ship’.

The leading manufacturer of marine, defence and aerospace survival technology has been working with Titanic Belfast, the world’s largest Titanic visitor attraction, as its education partner since 2014.

Together, the Survitec Group and Titanic Belfast, have developed a unique and fully interactive education workshop which aims to develop communication, problem-solving, decision-making and innovation skills amongst ‘Titanic’ thinkers.

‘Abandon Ship’ is targeted at Key Stage 2 & 3 in Northern Ireland and at upper primary and Junior Certificate in the Republic of Ireland. The workshop is designed around a survival scenario in which 3 vessels crossing the Atlantic, along the same route as *RMS Titanic*, must evacuate into real, inflatable Survitec liferafts.

This workshop is the newest addition to Titanic Belfast’s wide range of education programmes, which cover a variety of subjects and skills, ranging from maritime communication, marine science & exploration to 5 star customer service.

Moya Johnston, Managing Director of Survitec, “Today, we are very proud to be launching our ‘Abandon Ship’ workshop with Titanic Belfast. At Survitec, we are committed to bringing marine safety awareness and survival knowledge to people of all ages. The new workshop really brings learning to life for young people.”

Titanic Belfast’s Chief Executive, Tim Husbands MBE, said “The tragic sinking of *RMS Titanic* changed maritime legislation globally, pioneering the importance of safety and survival. In honour of this, we, in partnership with the Survitec Group, are delighted to launch our unique ‘Abandon Ship’ workshop, which aims to help future generations learn lessons from the tragedy in an innovative and interactive way.”

He continued, “With over 90 years’ experience in personal survival equipment, Survitec’s involvement has been fundamental to the development of the workshop, which brings marine safety awareness and survival knowledge to the fore. It marks another step forward for Titanic Belfast’s education programme, which is recognised as a leading learning resource and has welcomed over 70,000 participants since its opening in 2012.”

Abandon Ship has been approved and tested by Titanic Belfast’s partner schools and can be taken alongside the self-guided gallery experience, be booked as a stand-alone activity, and is being developed as a corporate team building activity. For more information, visit

www.titanicbelfast.com/discover.

ENDS

Photo Caption: Titanic Belfast's Chief Executive, Tim Husbands and Moya Johnston, Managing Director of Survitec, are pictured with Harvey Thompson (aged 10) from Victoria Park Primary School, Belfast, as they launch new Abandon Ship Workshop.

Notes to Editors

About Titanic Belfast

Titanic Belfast is an iconic six-floor building featuring nine interpretive and interactive galleries that explore the sights, sounds, smells and stories of Titanic, as well as the City and people which made her. It is the World's Largest Titanic exhibition.

The building houses temporary exhibits, a banqueting suite, education and community facilities, catering and retail space, and a basement car park. Visitors learn about the construction of RMS Titanic and the wide and rich story of Northern Ireland's industrial and maritime heritage. Supported by the Northern Ireland Executive, Titanic Belfast is a unique public/private partnership funded by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Belfast City Council, Belfast Harbour and Titanic Quarter Ltd. It is operated by Titanic Belfast Ltd and owned by the Titanic Foundation Ltd. For more information, please visit: www.titanicbelfast.com

About Survitec

Survitec Group in Dunmurry, Belfast has been helping to save lives at sea for a large number of years, supplying a range of marine safety equipment including liferafts, lifejackets, immersion suits and mass evacuation systems to maritime operators across the globe. Part of a large global contingent, the Dunmurry business acts as the Group's flagship marine site, completing a roster of nine manufacturing sites in total that employs over 2000 people worldwide.

The Survitec Group brings together the best-in-class brands for a number of industries, including the commercial marine, defence, aviation, offshore and leisure marine markets. Quality and innovation is at the heart of everything we do. Each product is designed and manufactured to stringent industry standards to ensure optimal performance in the event of an emergency situation.

Titanic Belfast's Education Programme

Titanic Belfast offers seven workshops for Education Groups.

My Granda's Piece Tin is a special programme for 6-to-8 year olds which looks at life for young apprentices at Harland and Wolff during the 1940 to 1970 era. The children take a one-hour workshop that looks at the lunch break in the yard; the contents of the men's "piece tins" and the games they played. The second half of the programme is a living history tour of some of the galleries where, dressed like an apprentice and guided by an apprentices' supervisor, they hear stories, sing and then cheer as Olympic is launched.

Dit and Dah is a workshop that looks at long range communication methods and is most appropriate for 8-to-12 year olds. There are three components to the workshop; an introductory,

information based presentation, a practical activity based session where the pupils try three communication methods (Morse code, semaphore and signal flags) and then a plenary activity in the form of a strengths and weaknesses analysis of the methods they tried.

The Panel is aimed at secondary aged students and the delivery can be adjusted to suit 11-14 year olds right up to 18 year olds. Students are given access to primary source material in the form of excerpts from the Titanic inquiry testimonies. They must decipher the archaic and, at times, legalistic language and use active learning techniques to work out what the witnesses feel went wrong. They then role play as members of a board of inquiry advisory panel giving advice to the legislative bodies of 1912 who must write new laws to help prevent the tragedy ever happening again.

Dipping Your Toe is a workshop suitable for students aged 8-14 years old and is an introduction to Ocean Literacy which will encourage them to think proactively about the wider world around us. Participants will find out about the importance and operation of our oceans, how we negatively impact on them and what we can do as individuals to protect them for the future.

Exploring the Depths will allow pupils to dive deep into the ocean to uncover hidden shipwrecks and discover the world of modern ocean exploration. Using our unique interactive learning environment pupils will discover the zones of the ocean and some of the specialised creatures that live there. Pupils, aged 8 -14, will come away with a new appreciation and respect for our oceans, and will be inspired by the future of ocean exploration and scientific research.

From White Star to Five Star gives students an opportunity to meet Titanic Belfast's crew and ask questions about Northern Ireland's first ever 5 Star tourist attraction. It is suitable for students studying Travel and Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management from GCSE to Foundation Degree Level.

The Discover pages on www.titanicbelfast.com contains tailored information for teachers. We provide thorough logistical information about planning a visit, what happens while with us, and a risk assessment document that is suitable for education group leaders.

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