



Captain William King OBE Royal Navy

After reading Politics and International Relations at Southampton University as an RN Bursar Will joined BRNC in 1999. Early sea appointments included navigating HMS Pembroke, OOW1 of HMS Cardiff and the Navigating Officer of the destroyer HMS Southampton. A short period within the MOD followed as the Naval secondment to the British Chamber of Shipping, before assuming Command of the P2000 HMS Trumpeter and OIC of Bristol URNU in 2007.

Will qualified as a Principal Warfare Officer in 2010, before joining HMS St Albans as the PWO(U) and deployed on Op KIPION East of Suez as the Operations Officer. Selected for further Sea Command in 2013 he Commanded both HMS Grimsby and HMS Penzance deploying with the NATO Mine Counter-Measures Force South, and on Op KIPON within the Gulf. On his return, he took up the role of future planning within the newly formed Carrier Strike Group Staff in 2016.

Staff training followed completing Advanced Command and Staff Course with an MA in Defence Studies from Kings College London. Command of HMS Monmouth the Type 23 Frigate was a career highlight, escorting the Royal Navy's new aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth on her maiden deployment to the USA. Subsequently Will pioneered the Forward Deployed pilot assuming Command of HMS Montrose East of Suez, notably in defence of UK shipping during the Iranian tanker crisis in the summer of 2019. He was subsequently awarded an OBE in the March 2020 Operational honours list for this action.

More recently he has worked in several headquarters responsible for sea training and as the Chief-of-Staff to the Surface Flotilla. Promoted Captain in early 2022 he joined the Operational planning team in PJHQ, reaching into the heart of the MOD and the frontline commands of all the Services. Will is an alumni of the Windsor Leadership Trust and a Younger Brethren of Trinity House. He lives in Bosham, West Sussex with his wife Jemma, and spends much of his spare time trying to keep up with his children, Alice (12) and Henry (8) on the water! He is honoured to be the next Captain of the Flagship HMS Queen Elizabeth, taking Command in early July.