

Commander
Will Blackett
Royal Navy



Commanding Officer
HMS LANCASTER
(wef 3 Dec 19)

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.

After a short appointment to Northwood as the FLEET OPS Major Warship Scheduler, he commanded MCM1 Crew 6 in HM Ships GRIMSBY and BANGOR. During this appointment (Feb 16-Apr 18) he deployed on NATO operations in the Baltic region and UKMCMFOR operations in the Arabian Gulf.

He has since held a temporary assignment in NCHQ (MARCAP Division) and completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course at Shrivenham, where he received a Commandant's Commendation.

He will take command of HMS LANCASTER on 3 Dec 19.

Will lives in Hampshire with his wife, three children and pet Dalmatian. He enjoys playing a number of musical instruments, playing rugby and golf, and developing his micro-brewery when time permits.