

**Lieutenant
Simon Holden
Royal Navy
Commanding Officer
HMS DASHER**



Educated in Pocklington, which is just outside of York, Simon gained a degree in War Studies from the University of Kent in Canterbury. After completing University, he joined Britannia Royal Naval College in May 2011 as a Warfare Officer.

Initial Fleet Time was spent on HMS ALBION before commissioning in December 2011. Following initial navigation training, Specialist Fleet Time commenced with a fascinating deployment on HMS ENTERPRISE which was conducting OP KIPION. The remainder of his Fleet training was then spent on HMS DARING during her global deployment. Key highlights include conducting pilotage out of Pearl Harbour, visiting Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands for Ballistic Missile tracker testing, marching through Sydney for the Royal Australian Navy 100 year celebration and assisting the UK efforts in the disaster relief operation in the Philippines.

On completion of Initial Warfare training and earning a PNO recommend in early 2014, Simon proceeded onto PNO course and was appointed to HMS HURWORTH as the Navigator of MCM2 Crew 7. The programme allowed him to experience a full operating cycle through regenerating the Ship from refit, conducting FOST in Faslane and then a seven month deployment on OP KIPION from 2015 into 2016. Highlights include conducting international exercises with the US Navy and their permanently based minehunters, conducting vital survey operations within the Gulf region. On return from the Gulf, Simon was assigned to HMS RICHMOND as OOW1, which at the time was conducting Adaptive Force Sea Training. Whilst assigned to RICHMOND she was tasked to escort a Russian Task Force through the UK Area of Interest; the Task Force included the Russian aircraft carrier Kuznetsov and the Kirov class battlecruiser. During this time Simon also completed FNO course and it was shortly thereafter he was selected for SVC prior to taking command of HMS EXPLOIT in October 2017.

Having conducted a successful regeneration package and executing rewarding Easter and Summer deployments with HMS EXPLOIT he was assigned as N2 to HMS ALBION in early October 2019. However, due to unforeseen circumstances there was a quick change of assignments and he was selected to be the Navigator on HMS DUNCAN for her upcoming deployment to the Mediterranean. On his return from HMS DUNCAN he was assigned to Endeavour building to become the PNO instructor and it was during this time that he was selected to take Command of one of the patrol craft with the Gibraltar Squadron. It was also during his time in Endeavour that he volunteered for Spec N course and after 14 weeks came top of the class.

Living in Four Corners with his wife Amy and his daughter Isabelle, Simon enjoys spending most of his time with his family walking their dog Phoebe and finding new places to explore.