



# Learn to Swim Newsletter

## GY Area News Letter - January 2026

Hello, I'm Bex!

I'm the Aquatics Manager for the GY Area Learn to Swim Programme. I've worked in the leisure industry for over 20 years, starting my journey as a lifeguard and progressing through roles including duty manager, fitness instructor, and studio instructor.

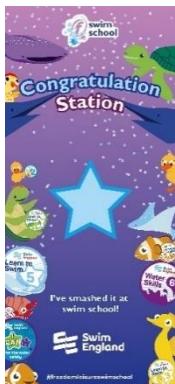
I joined Phoenix Leisure Centre in 2016 when it reopened, working as a sales advisor and studio instructor. I absolutely loved my time there and the strong family feel it has with its members. In 2022, I moved over to the Marina Centre when it reopened, initially as Sales and Marketing Manager, and more recently stepping into my current role within aquatics.

I've recently passed my Level 2 Swim Teacher qualification and I'm really looking forward to having the opportunity to teach your children as part of their swimming journey. I'm passionate about helping the Learn to Swim programme continue to grow and develop, and about making sure every child gets the very best from their lessons in a fun, safe, and supportive environment. You may see spending more time on poolside over the coming weeks so don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or quires or pop me an email to [bex.newberry@freedom-leisure.co.uk](mailto:bex.newberry@freedom-leisure.co.uk)

I look forward to working with you and your children as they build confidence, skills, and a lifelong love of swimming!



**Look Out for our 'Congratulation Station'** in our corridor by main reception for Marina. Phoenix will have one in their foray area. We want to really celebrate the achievements of our swimmers, so have installed this as a point where you can take a photo of your child proudly showing off their badges, certificates and new swimming hats. Please do tag us on social media if you choose to share your photos using **#freedomleisureswimschool** All tagged photos will be entered into a prize draw to win some fantastic prizes.



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Learn to Swim at Marina Centre & Phoenix Leisure Centre

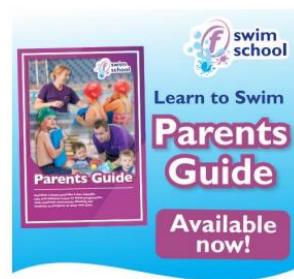


We're listening as we develop and improve our swim school, we really do welcome any additional feedback you have to help us to continually improve the service we're providing. We've created a survey for parents and guardians to complete, ensuring you have the opportunity to tell us your thoughts, provide suggestions on how we can further improve your experience, and to also give you the opportunity to highlight the positives and successes along the way. Simply follow the link below to complete the survey: [Learn to Swim at Marina Centre & Phoenix Leisure Centre – Fill in form](#)

**Parent Portal** You can keep up to date with your child's progress on our Swim England Learn to Swim programme using our online home portal. You will have seen your child's teacher with a tablet on poolside. They use this to take registers, but also to keep a record of your child's progress in their lessons.

Once registered, accessing the home portal allows you to:

- View the outcomes for each stage of the Swim England Framework
- Track your/your child's progress at each stage
- Get notifications of awards achieved
- Move to the next class/stage when appropriate



To download your copy  
scan the QR code or visit:  
[www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/  
facilities/swimming-and-lessons](http://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/facilities/swimming-and-lessons)

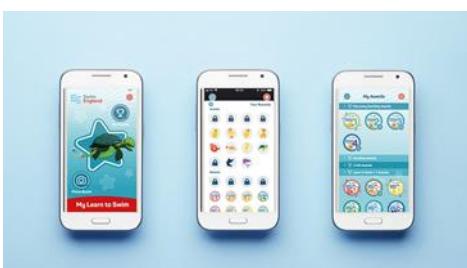
## Welcome

If you already have a HomePortal account, please login below:

Email Address or Card Number

Password

[Forgotten your password?](#)



**Swim England My Learn to Swim App** This free app is a brilliant way of digitally storing your child's swimming certificates and badges. Every time they receive a certificate, you can scan it in the app to store it, and at the same time unlock new characters to take pictures with. There are also some fantastic video. You can access the parent portal here: <https://greatyarmouthfl.courseprogress.co.uk/activate> <https://www.swimming.org/learntoswim/my-learn-to-swimapp/>



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Duckling - Black
Stage 1 - Red
Stage 2 - Orange
Stage 3 Yellow
Stage 4 - Green
Stage 5 - Light blue
Stage 6 - Dark blue
Stage 7 - Purple
Stage 8,9, and 10 - Silver

**Swim hats:** We are reintroducing swim hats to the programme, your child will be issued with their first swim hats, free-of-charge, by their swimming teacher, just like judo belts, the colour of the hat relates to the stage your child has reached. Working towards and achieving their next hat can become a real motivator for children and we will be making sure that every time a child earns their next hat that this is celebrated, as mentioned above. As well as the motivation of working through the hat colours, having each stage wear different colour hats is also a way of lifeguards and teachers instantly identifying that each child is safely in the right section of the pool, helping us keep your child safe. Finally, hats are a brilliant way of us keeping the pool water crystal clear for our swimmers, as well as keeping the hair safely away from children's faces. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct colour swim hat, which will depend on the stage they are in. If you require a new hat please visit main reception or ask a member of the swim team and they will be able to give you the right hat for your stage. We really appreciate your support.

To further support the safeguarding and supervision of children on our Learn to Swim Programme, from the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 we are reintroducing a designated parent drop-off and collection point on poolside. You will see a clearly marked banner where parents will be asked to hand children over directly to the swim teachers at the start of lessons and collect them again from the same point at the end. Please ensure you are ready to collect your child at least 5 minutes before their lesson finishes. During lessons, we kindly ask parents to watch from the spectator area on poolside or café area only, **and not from the island in the middle of the pools.** Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

## Learn to Swim Membership Benefits

As part of your child's Learn to Swim monthly membership, you receive the following benefits:

- Free general swimming
- Free access for your child to Aqua Play on the night of their lesson (*Under-8s policy applies. Accompanying adults: £1.30*)
- Access to our online progress portal to track your child's development
- Free swim cap when you first join
- 1 x free family Aqua Play pass per month
- 1 x free badminton court booking per month
- 25% discount on Clip 'n Climb, Aqua Play, InflataZone, and sports hall bookings





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We're pleased to let you know that our main pool will reopen for general swimming during our LTS swimming lessons from 2nd February, with two lanes available. This means you can enjoy a swim with your children before, during, or after their Learn to Swim lessons. It's a great opportunity to build confidence, practise skills, and enjoy time together in the water. Please visit our website for session times and availability. [Timetables | Freedom Leisure](#)

## What's Coming up!!



Do you know someone that may be interested in our Learn to Swim programme? Let them know about

Learn to Swim Open Day

7th February 2026

09:00 – 14:00

Marina Leisure Centre

Has your child attended our Half Term Holiday Club yet? If not get them booked on now! Follow the link here to book. [Buy Half Term Holiday Camp Tickets online - Freedom Leisure Marina Leisure Centre](#)



Are you signed up to Swimathon 2026? Anyone can sign up! Register here today: [Swimathon - Enter Now - Swimathon](#)

Marina: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 18:00-21:00 & Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 09:00-12:00

Phoenix: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 18:00-21:00 & Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 09:00-12:00



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