



## Christmas Newsletter 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the Christmas break approaches I would like to thank staff, students, parents and governors for their hard work and support this term. Attendance of parents and carers at our regular events continues to grow and I would like to thank you for your continued support.

There has, as always, been a huge number of opportunities for our pupils to extend their school life, both in and out of school. Some activities are detailed within this newsletter but I would also encourage you to visit our website [www.catcoteacademy.co.uk](http://www.catcoteacademy.co.uk).

We are delighted to have been awarded the full International School Award once again and to have been successful in our two Erasmus+ applications. These will provide staff and students exciting opportunities to visit a number of European countries over the next three years.

We are always trying to improve our communication with you and would like to thank everyone who completed the recent parent survey. This assists us all in ensuring quality communication and safeguarding. Parent View is an official OFSTED site where you can post your views on the Academy. ([www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)) We have received, and are very pleased with, the many positive comments on the parent questionnaire however I would also like to ask if you might spare us a few minutes to log onto this site and register to complete the survey.

Our café, 'The Vestry' within Hartlepool Art Gallery on Church Square has been trading successfully since last June. Hartlepool Council have just extended our lease for another five years which means we can continue to give our students opportunities for quality work placements.

Christopher Scott, the Trust's first 'Supported Intern' is now well established on placement within the Vestry. Congratulations to Christopher on this and for being awarded "Learner of the Year 2015" at the Hartlepool Youth Awards event.

If you are in town why not pop in and sample the delicious food and excellent customer service. You will not be disappointed.



**I hope you all enjoy a peaceful Christmas,  
a very happy New Year and look forward  
to seeing all our students return refreshed  
and ready for a new school term on  
Monday 4th January 2016.**

*Mr Alan Chapman*



## Art Therapy

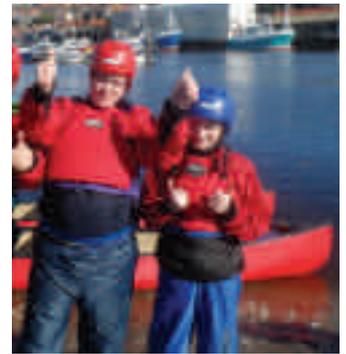


Art Therapy is accessible to all students in healthy living on a Friday afternoon. It promotes healthy minds through the form of art. In the sessions the students have thrived using a range of materials and have been involved in activities such as clay making, painting, season-based crafts and pattern colouring. The students have their own art therapy book which they have the opportunity to utilise within class time if they start feeling overwhelmed. The students have enjoyed using this time for emotional reflection and use art therapy to manage their emotions outside the session. The students in the group are showing maturity and independence. Well done!!



## Duke of Edinburgh

Well done to those Catcote Academy students who held their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expeditions in Goathland. They withstood some terrible weather over the week. The camp site flooded, was very muddy and it looked more like Glastonbury without music. A big THANK YOU must go to all the staff who supported, led by Mr Pounder. They all braved the weather and helped make it a fantastic experience for the students.



## Forest School

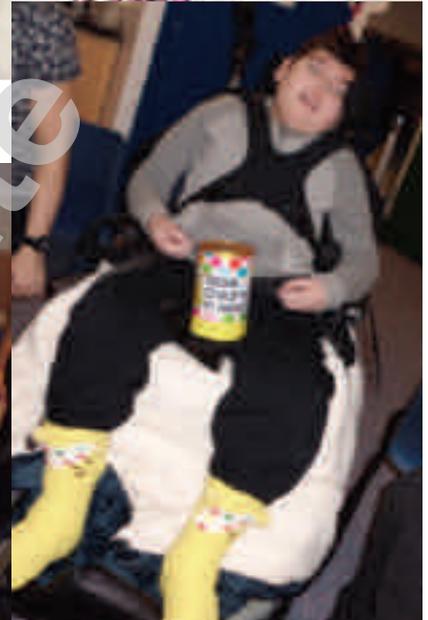
The new Forest school sessions have gone from strength to strength. All the students taking part enjoyed the outdoor activities and games, while learning new skills such as shelter building and using all different types of woodland tools. Forest school practitioner, Mr A.Pounder, has been teaching students to use bow saws, billhooks, carving knives, as well as how to light a camp fire with a flint and steel. The students are growing in confidence each time they visit the site at Summerhill Country Park. Hopefully in the future we will have our own outdoor area at the Academy.



# Children In Need

Students enjoyed a Children in Need themed fundraising event on Wednesday 11th November at Summerhill. The rain and wind did not put the students off, they were dressed in raincoats and wellies and braved the winter weather. Students joined in a Pudsey bear hunt in the woods, a creative biscuit decorating activity and a colouring competition. Then on Friday 13th November the whole school joined in to raise money with a non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need. Class 9 went around school to collect the money and a great big £140.22 was raised.

Well done and thank you to all involved.



# Making a positive contribution

Students in Catcote Academy have helped celebrate Harvest Festival in their assembly this year by watching a student performance of 'The Enormous Turnip' followed by all classes making a generous donation of foods towards our Harvest Festival collection.

Students have learnt the significance of harvest time and have collected lots of food to donate to St. Oswald's Church. St. Oswald's Church has close links with Wharton Trust in the Dyke House area of Hartlepool who support people in need around the area.

By strengthening this bond between school and the community we promote the Academy's

Ethos and values. It is important that we are part of, and contribute to the community.

Catcote Academy would like to thank parents, carers and students for their generous contributions for our schools Harvest Festival.



## First Internship



Chris is 22 years of age and has a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder; he began attending Catcote School six years ago.

When Chris first started Catcote he was a very nervous and quiet boy who found social situations and communication very difficult. He was particularly uncomfortable with activities, which involved accessing community facilities such as shopping and visiting cafés.

With support from staff, Chris gradually became more confident, at first making small steps of progress through a combination of classroom study and work based learning activities. He carried out work experience at his local golf club and Café 177 as part of his curriculum.

In September 2015 Chris started on a Supported Internship Programme, working at The Vestry Cafe four days per week, gaining invaluable work skills including customer services and team work. Through the internship he is studying towards a Certificate in Using Employability Skills and a Level 1 Food Hygiene qualification.

Since starting his internship, Chris has a real sense of purpose and 'is the happiest he has ever been'.

As part of the Hartlepool Youth Awards Chris has recently received 'Learner of the year'

**Open 10am - 4pm  
Tuesday - Saturday**



## Robotics Day

6 classes over 2 full days were engaged in building, controlling and competing with state-of-the-art robots. Pupils worked in pairs to build a robot from scratch using VEX Robotics kits. They were assisted by training company "Go Ahead Training" who are going to be responsible for helping run the local stage of a nationwide robotics competition we are taking part in later in the year.



The days were challenging and intensive. The morning and early part of the afternoon was taken up with building the robot from the instruction manual. This was a difficult task as there were hundreds of parts to put together.



The second part of the afternoon session was focused on learning the controls and using the robots in a football type challenge. This was really fun and students had a great sense of achievement from being able to control a robot in a game that they had built themselves.

Students used lots of skills throughout the day including teamwork, working under pressure to time constraints and exhibited various engineering abilities. Some students remarked that they might like to work as an engineer after leaving school.



# Endeavour Social Enterprise project

This year Catcote Academy and Catcote Futures have teamed up with Endeavour, a national education charity, to deliver an active and innovative social enterprise project to our students.

So far this year the groups have visited a range of places such as Sunderland climbing wall, Newcastle art museum, Great Ayton, Stockton Endeavour replica ship and Whitby. The students have worked as a team to find a variety of hidden treasures and have had ice cream and chips as their rewards!

After Christmas the group plan is to think of, design and set up a sustainable and profitable business that will give the learners the opportunity to gain experience in the working world and develop existing business and enterprise skills.



# Class 6 Life Skills

Class 6 have had a wonderful term this Autumn. We have been developing our Life Skills in the Coffee Shop every Tuesday since September. We have made some excellent progress serving customers, washing up and cleaning, and restocking the fridge.

We've also been working on developing our Life Skills in the Salon. Each week we've been following a morning routine where the students make their beds and get ready for the day.

The students have been brilliant and made some fantastic progress; we are very proud of them!



# ASD Erasmus



Catcote Academy are delighted to announce that we have been successful in being accepted not for just 1 Erasmus+ project but for 2.

Our 2 projects will involve staff and students making trips throughout Europe, working with international partners and sharing cultural experiences. Our first project "My Work Is My Future" is a project created by Monika Smrekova from Slovakia and has a main focus on creating learning resources for students and young adults with ASD.



## Slovakia

Mrs Wharton and Miss Coulton travelled to Slovakia for the launch of the project in October 2015 and met partners from Slovakia, Romania, Croatia, Poland and Turkey. Colleagues worked together to put the finer details to the 2 year project, planning dates for mobilities and agreeing final outcomes. They visited a school and diagnostic centre for children with autism and learnt how life skills or pre vocational skills are taught using video. The town was beautiful with a large church and very friendly people.

The project will concentrate on creating "Video Processing Schemes" which will be developed and tested in each school, with the aim of bringing new learning resources to the classroom. In addition Catcote Academy will work on a project entitled; "Comparison and Analysis of Educational Systems" of all the countries involved. It is envisaged that the outcomes of this part of the project will help to contribute to the curriculum development of Catcote Academy and to that of partner schools as we share good practice.

Mr Currell, Mr Waites and Mrs Tyreman travelled to Poland in November to meet partners from other countries involved and to work alongside children with special needs in Polish schools. While in Poland the Catcote team learned about working with the visually impaired, dog therapy, video process modeling and also looked at several social enterprise schemes created for young adults with special educational needs.



## Linking Catcote Academy with Europe



# Enterprise Erasmus

Our second Erasmus+ project “Linking Business, Enterprise and Entrepreneurial Skills Internationally”, created by Mr Currell, will operate over 3 years and involves staff and students from Germany, Italy, Sweden, Turkey and Catcote Academy representing the UK. The focus of this Erasmus + project is on enterprise, entrepreneurship and helping prepare students for employment. This will be achieved as partners work collectively to extend the use of Catcote’s very own 10 Enterprise Skills in Europe. We will also further develop the skills to create work skills, which will be used by students as they prepare for the world of work.



The Erasmus project was officially launched during November 2015 when 9 partners from Turkey, Sweden, Italy and Germany travelled to Hartlepool to meet our students and to learn about Catcote Academy’s 10 enterprise commandments. One of the visitors, headteacher Margaret Hampe, from a school in Waldbroel, Germany, commented: “We have children with learning difficulties and it’s important for us to teach them to speak and read, but transition to work is most important. We have enterprises in our school as Catcote Academy has and we are hoping to get some new ideas from our visit. I am deeply impressed with what I have seen in Hartlepool so far. Catcote Academy has a long tradition of promoting enterprises in the school and at national level and children are learning lots of things to help get them into work in later life”.

During the week the visitors had the opportunity to participate in an Enterprise challenge, visit various foundation learning areas, our 6th form provision at Hart Farm, Post 19 provision at Catcote Futures, and the café at Hartlepool Art Gallery ‘The Vestry’. Then visitors were ‘blown away’ with the hospitality and all that goes on at Catcote.



The next part of this exciting project will involve 4 students from Catcote Academy taking part in a trip to Italy in January 2016. They will work on enterprise challenges with their international peers in addition to creating friendships and learning about different cultures and traditions. Please watch our website and the Easter newsletter to see our students working in Italy and also working in Germany in March.

## Christmas Enterprise Project

Class 5 have been so busy this year; we have worked hard in our lessons to make and sell Christmas Enterprise items. We have made Candy Cane Reindeers, Peanut Butter dog treats and 'Do you want to build a Snowman?' kits to name a few.

We have took our products to sell at The Vestry, held a stall at the Christmas light switch on and also at our school Christmas Fair.

We have made lots of money, around £400 for our class. We are hoping to use this money towards drinking and eating at different cafes and restaurants which is part of our accreditation we are studying this year.



## PE Residential

5 pupils are currently working towards a GCSE PE qualification and, as part of the course, attended a mountain biking residential to the Lake District. The two day trip was organised by Hartlepool Borough Council and involved two separate, full day rides over tough and variable terrain. Day one was a forest trail, while day two was across the fells. The pupils showed great determination, attitude and came out with some excellent scores in the assessment. The pupils camped as part of the trip, had to set up their own tents and also completed a gorge walk activity on the evening. Pupils involved were Lewis, Olivia, Jake, Luke and Matthew.



## Link 3 at Sambuca's

After a fantastic effort all term, and achieving amazing points in our lessons, Link 3 were rewarded with a Christmas outing. We began with a trip to the Vestry. We all enjoyed looking at the different pieces of art and meeting all of the people that work there. We were even lucky enough to get to taste some of the special Christmas flavored scones and they were delicious. We left the Vestry and had a little walk down the road to Sambuca's. All the class sat together on a big table and we chose our meals. Surprisingly, we all ordered the same starter of potato skins and they were scrumptious. For our main courses we got to choose between pizza and pasta dishes. Paige said her Cannelloni was 'Yummy'. Our dessert soon followed which was a lovely, vanilla ice cream; we polished off every last bit. We really enjoyed our day out, it was so much fun!!!

This article has been created with the support of Paige Llewellyn.



## Generous Donation from the Hartlepool Round Table

A huge thank you goes to the Hartlepool Round Table who have selected us as a beneficiary for their fundraising events this year. As a result of another very successful beer festival in the Borough Hall we have just been presented with a cheque for £2,000. We are aiming to spend this on resources that will benefit all students. The final decision will be left to our Student Council.



## Re-accreditation of the International School Award 2015-2018

We are delighted to inform you that Catcote Academy has been successful in being re-accredited for the International School Award and is accredited for three years from 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2018. Mr Chapman was proud to take students Alfie Willoughby and Mathew Fenwick to Newcastle to be presented with the very prestigious award. The assessors were very impressed with our evaluation report and gave the following feedback

“This is an excellent Impact Evaluation and a credit to your school. It demonstrates clearly your continued commitment to understanding and applying the principles of international education in a creative and imaginative way. It also proudly showcases your international learning journey, including your achievements and highlights the positive effects of your global learning on all stakeholders involved in the process, including students, staff, partner schools and the wider community. This application satisfies the success criteria for the ISA and it is our pleasure, therefore, to recommend Catcote Academy for the Re-accreditation level of the International School Award. Your relationships with your numerous international partner schools are impressive and promise a great deal in terms of suggesting interesting and relevant global themes for study as well as providing the perfect environment for placing these themes within a specific contextual framework for the benefit of both students and staff. Your ambassadorial role is excellent in terms of your efforts to disseminate good practice through sharing the benefits of your experience and expertise with other schools as part of the Fairtrade Schools Award and as part of your commitment to sustaining an international ethos in your school. Congratulations on working so hard to co-ordinate such an impressive range of work as the International Co-ordinator. You are a credit to the school and the wider community”.



## Class 9 Rewards Trip

Class 9 students visited the Gateshead Metro Centre for lunch and to see the Christmas lights. The students had a wonderful time. We ate at Chiquitos which is really brilliant. The staff there were so kind and considerate and nothing was too much trouble. We had a delicious meal and lots of fun and the lady said she hoped to see us again next year. The students also did some shopping. We received some money as a Christmas treat and we bought some new blankets for our class and went shopping for a new waterproof camera. We had a great time, thanks to everyone who kindly supports the students in class 9.



Annabel really loves visiting the Metro Centre especially eating out and shopping.

The Christmas lights were wonderful, John really enjoyed looking at them.



## MISFITS Christmas visit

Class 9 had a visit from the Misfits Motorcycle Group on Tuesday 15th December. The students really look forward to this special annual Christmas event. The Misfits raised an amazing £700 this year; the money donated to us last year paid for some new ICT equipment, a waterproof camera, community visits, parties, fancy dress gear, special events like the Forest School Christmas Party and Pudsey Party and competition rewards and prizes. This money makes a real difference to the happiness and wellbeing of our students.



We want to say a very big thank you to the Misfits for all they do to help us and for making time at Christmas to visit us.

# Christmas Perf



# Performance 2015



