

Easter Newsletter 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

After a very long wait we were inspected by Ofsted on 1st March. You should have received a copy of the letter sent by HMI but it can be accessed on our website. I am so proud of the comments he made, in particular, the contribution that parents make to the school and the partnership that we enjoy. We value your continued support and look forward to strengthening this even further in the future.

It has been a short but very eventful term.

As part of Catcote Erasmus+ projects, students and staff have visited Italy and Germany and we have hosted a visit by 25 teachers from Slovakia, Poland, Romania, Croatia and Turkey and we are looking forward to visiting Sweden and Croatia next term.

More and more students are accessing work placements with local businesses and we are now developing partnerships with McDonalds, The Grand Hotel and Hartfields. These partnerships are vital in our efforts to prepare our students for adult life.

Our café in the Art Gallery continues to be successful and we have now had our lease extended for another five years. Students are gaining invaluable work experience and demonstrating their skills within the community. If you haven't already visited then I recommend you give it a try, the lunches and afternoon teas are delicious and the customer service exceptional.

Our student numbers are increasing and space is limited so we are now looking to extend our provision. Plans are not yet finalised but I hope to share news of this exciting development very soon.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter.

A Chapman
Head Teacher

Mr Alan Chapman



Class 1 Forest School

Class one students have been enjoying their year 9 taster sessions this half term. Below are pictures taken from their day at Forest school. The students thoroughly enjoyed the activities of building shelters, carving a mallet and weren't put off by the mud! The students will have the opportunity to try out all of the options before they make their final decision this year.



ZooLab

Catcote Academy had a visit from their favourite bunch of creepy rawlies and loveable creatures this term. Students across the school spent time with the amazing ZooLab, giving both students old and new the chance to experience a range of different animals from slithering snakes to wriggling rats. The day was hosted by the local ZooLab ranger, Rob who captured the interest of all of the students, making the day both fun and educational for all ages. A great day had by all!



Work Placement

Local charity "Make Something Happen" has helped Catcote Academy make a link with leading ICT firm "Agile Group" to provide a 6-month work experience scheme to one of our students. The Teesside based company are in the middle of a recruitment drive and are delighted to offer this experience to 15-year-old Mathew.



During his 6 months with the company Mathew will undertake a number of roles and spend time working across the various departments within Agile Group to get a good understanding of how the company functions. This will range from installing a new network for a business, providing onsite and remote IT support, attending sales meetings with the Business Development team and helping out the marketing team with social media activity. Of the opportunity, Mathew said "It's been really fun. The staff have been very welcoming and they are a great and funny team. I've been shown various systems and processes and it has allowed me to gain more responsibility. This is my first experience of working in a business and I am looking forward to a career in IT".

Catcote Academy takes pride in providing their students with exciting learning opportunities and establishing relationships with local businesses. The collaboration with Agile Group seems a perfect fit to suit all parties with Jackie McGarry, our new Information Advice and Guidance

Officer, working with all to ensure everything went smoothly.

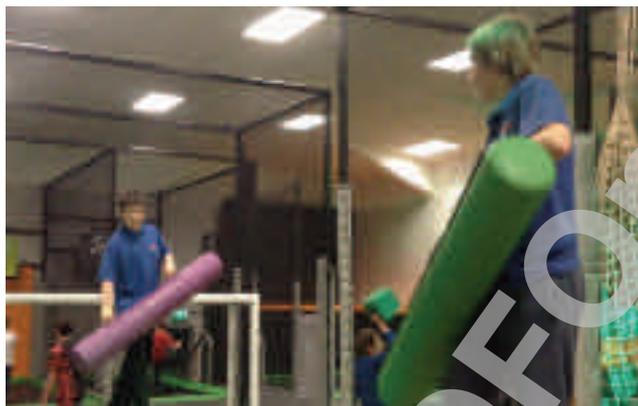


Class 4a - Jump 360

This term class 4a leapt into their assembly challenge with both feet, literally. The challenge, to visit a leisure facility, was completed with a fun filled and energetic trip to Jump 360.



Every member of the class behaved extremely well and did our school proud! We hopped, skipped, jumped, balanced, tumbled and ran until we were all exhausted but we can't wait to visit again. Our highlights were scoring baskets in the basketball area, battling each other on the battle beam, launching ourselves onto the giant airbag and clambering around the swinging nets.



GCSE PE

As part of the GCSE PE course, pupils are required to complete a lifestyle analysis on one of their peers. To help the pupils complete this in a nice, concentrated environment, we booked a classroom at Middlesbrough Football Club for the day and as part of the day, we booked a tour of the stadium. The pupils worked very hard during the day and made fantastic progress, had lunch at Macdonalds, enjoyed the stadium tour and having photos taken in the manager's press conference chair. Also as part of the course, pupils have completed practical activities in Archery, Resistance Training and Mountain Biking as well as getting prepared to sit an exam in May. The pupils involved are Jake Calder, Luke Wray, Olivia Kerr Morgan, Matthew Atkinson and Lewis Hudson.



HipHop Street Dance

Over the past 5 months our students have been learning hip hop street dancing with Zac from Rough Diamonds every Friday afternoon as part of our healthy living choices.

We were asked to make an appearance to perform as special guests at the hip hop championships for schools at Manor Community Academy on March 16th.

Our students performed outstandingly and receive a standing ovation from the audience. We also receive some great advice from Rough Diamonds who were amazed at our moves.

We were awarded a trophy for our determination and hard work, and we all received a medal from the crew of Rough Diamonds.



Fairtrade - Big Breakfast

Friday 4th March got off to a great start for Catcote Academy students with a delicious Fairtrade breakfast. Students, parents, visitors and special guests enjoyed Fairtrade jams, juices, muesli breakfast pots, drop scones, honey, marmalade cake along with Fairtrade tea and coffee.

The morning then got even better with the arrival of our special guest Luz, Marina Garcia Ruiz, a Fairtrade producer from Colombia.



Students from across the town came along to Catcote to meet Luz and also to take part in the Fairtrade muffin competition. The event was attended by more than 60 guests from the region including Hartlepool MP Mr. Iain Wright, in addition to our own students. 19 people made the effort to make their own Fairtrade Muffins, some entering more than one, making the competition very difficult to judge. In total we had over 30 muffins to judge on their appearance, use of Fairtrade ingredients and of course taste.

Luz received a very warm welcome to Catcote as students used instruments they had made using Fairtrade coffee beans to join in with the Colombian music. Luz was very pleased with the welcome and danced with the students. She then gave a very informative presentation about how Fairtrade has changed her life before answering questions from the students and members of the community.



Mr Currell said "I am delighted with the enthusiasm our students have shown towards Fairtrade and in particular when meeting Luz. They spent lots of time preparing for this visit which has helped them understand the positive impact Fairtrade has on people in other parts of the world".



Class 5 - China Town

This term Class 5 attended a 'Table Top Sports Event' at Marsh House Sports Centre in Billingham. Students enjoyed having a go at the different sports, including table cricket, skittles and cupball. Class 5 had a great morning and also had the opportunity to mix with other school in the North East.



Class 5 made lots of money selling their enterprise items at Christmas time. They spent some of their earnings visiting Newcastle's China Town as this also fitted in with their topic 'Chinese New Year'. They had a lovely tasty meal out and tried lots of new foods.



Erasmus

The latest leg of our ASD Erasmus+ project, which focuses on supporting students with Autism, took place from 14th – 18th March 2016. We welcomed 25 visitors from Slovakia, Poland, Romania, Croatia and Turkey and spent a jam-packed week looking at vocational learning and how we help our students to learn life and work skills and move into employment.



We started the week by explaining our guests how Catcote Academy is set up and organised into

different coloured pathways. They then had a tour of the school and visited the Sixth Form Centre at Hart Farm and Catcote Futures. On Tuesday, our Enterprise superstar Alison Brown delivered a workshop on Catcote's Enterprise Commandments and we showcased our foundation learning options by visiting classes and seeing displays from teachers. We also enjoyed a fabulous Afternoon Tea made by Miss Wilson's catering group. Wednesday was spent working on video modeling, a trip to Forest School at Summerhill and learning about accreditation and qualifications.



Our guests met the Mayor on Thursday, had lunch at The Vestry Café and enjoyed a trip to Durham before a great performance by the Constellation drama group - who commented that it was the best audience they'd ever had! On Friday each country gave a presentation about how the systems in each country work to support people with a learning disability into employment.

All of our visitors commented on how well run our school is and how well we support our students to experience a range of different options. They all very much enjoyed their time in Hartlepool and we're looking forward to visiting Croatia in May to continue the project. We would also like to say a huge thank you to all the staff who were involved in helping the visit to run smoothly and show how great Catcote is!

Sport Relief

This year we are really excited to have raised money for Sport Relief 2016! As one of the UK's biggest fundraising events, Sport Relief brings the entire nation together to do something sporty for money.



Catcote Academy decided to get involved and help raise money for this incredible cause. Students from across the school came together to participate in a variety of sports such as, football, boccia, and parachute games. Other students wore something red to show their support. It was a wonderful event enjoyed by everyone.

We raised a total of £106.85. Well done to all the students and staff across the school for their support.

6th Form Concert

Students in Mr Kitson's 6th Form Performing Arts class put on a fabulous concert for the school and some VIP guests for end of term.

They performed group songs and solo songs for a very excited audience who were blown away by the amazing talent on show.

The stars of the show were Marcus, Demi-Leigh, Alfie, Adrian, Cameron, Owen and Aidan, while Max was a technical superstar as he operated the lights for the show.

Mr Kitson was very proud of his students and so pleased with the progress they have made and the increased confidence they have shown over the term! Well done everyone!



Catcote Students in Italy

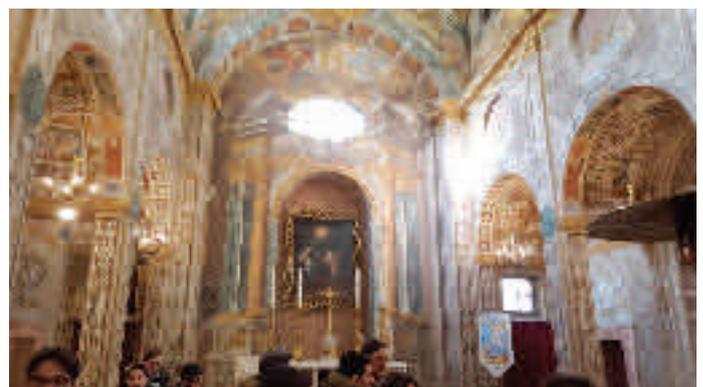
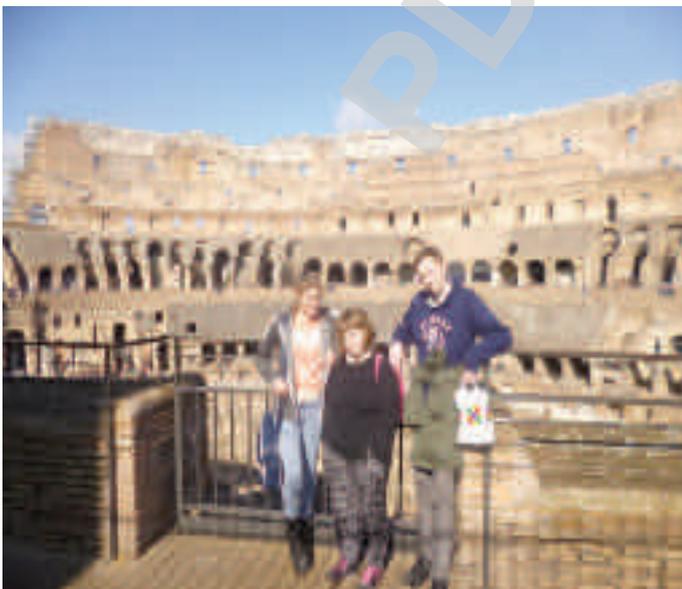
As part of our Enterprise Erasmus+ project, 4 students from Catcote visited Italy to meet other schools and take part in enterprise challenges. Rachel Black, Olivia Kerr-Morgan, Joshua Kapadi and Kieran Smith, along with staff members Mr Currell, Mr Sowerby, Miss Harrison and Mrs Hedley all visited Todi to meet other staff and students from Italy, Germany, Turkey and Sweden. We visited historical places, learnt about enterprise which takes place in the Italian school and also shared our own enterprise skills whilst taking part in enterprise challenges.

A total of 25 students took part, learning from each other while solving problems, team building, trying new things, developing communication skills and working towards deadlines. The enterprise and creativity skills of the Catcote students stood out from the partner students as they went on to win the challenges.

Our students also had the opportunity to experience the vast differences in our curriculums as they visited the chemistry research labs, tourism classes, the vinery and brewing workshops.

The main enterprise activity of the trip was to take part in a 'World Market' to sell products each country had made. This took place in Todi town square and proved to be very popular with the local residents. Once again Catcote students excelled with their enterprise skills and they completely sold out of their hand crafted cards and the English sweets they were selling.

As a reward for all the hard work, students were taken on a trip to the capital city, Rome. This was a real highlight as the students visited the Coliseum, the Trevi Fountain along with other magnificent attractions. This really was a trip which created memories that will last a lifetime.



Germany March 2016 (14th-18th March 2016)

4 staff and 4 students visited Germany as part of our Erasmus+ Project.

Day 1 -Our first day involved being greeted by staff and students from Germany, while they showed what enterprise happens in their school. After the visit we met the mayor and spoke about the importance the Erasmus+ project brings to the school in Germany, the community of Waldbröl and the wider partnerships across Europe.

Day 2 - Our students were able to experience the world of work at CJD which is a company jointly ran by the job center and the church. This is a place that provides training for people with a LDD providing pathways to employment. They provide training to help people to choose an apprenticeship and then provide training for the apprenticeships. Our students worked in different clusters in catering, painting, retail and hotel.

Day 3 - The students where at work again! This time the students where involved in German enterprise classes which included sewing, catering, restoring furniture and buying and selling on eBay. After a busy morning, the students then prepared for the World Markey day, an event aimed to show case our school's ability to be enterprising by selling products that have been made by the students. Our students sold a staggering €27 worth of stock!

Day 4 - The students had a cultural visit to Cologne. We walked across the river Rhine while reading messages of love and happiness that where written on many padlocks. The students where blown away by the beauty of the Cathedral and lit candles to reflect on a memory.

Day 5 -The enterprise challenge was set! Students were given one chocolate egg, some pens, paper, one piece of peper and glue. They challenge was to make a box or display to make their egg the most appealing. Staff from Germany were independent judges They were very impressed by the effort of all students but gave the first prize award to the UK and Sweden team.



Attendance

Every term we have been monitoring the attendance for each class and have awarded first, second and third place for the classes with the highest average attendance.

First place goes to class 2 (Miss Kelly) with 98.89% attendance for the spring term.



Third place went to S1 (Miss Harrison) with 97.14%



Class 6 (Mr Kitson) took second place with 97.15%.



Well done to everybody!!

Easter Fayre

Catcote Academy held their Easter Fayre Wednesday March 23rd. Students and staff set out a wide range of stalls to showcase some of the fantastic gifts and crafts they had made to sell. Stalls included; bird boxes, flowering bulbs, sweetie bags, cakes and other hand made items as well as hook a duck, guess the superhero and a range of beautiful pre loved jewellery.



Catcote Academy would like to thank everyone who supported the event by attending and spending their money or donating items to be sold or raffled.

The event raised over £1600 pounds, a fantastic achievement.

Well done to everyone who participated and made this event so successful.





Catcote Academy
making progress, achieving success

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Catcote Futures
your future your future

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GOVERNMENT
HART FARM SITE (FORMER SOURCE)
EASEWAY, THE VILLAGE,
HARTLEPOOL, TS24 4JZ

OUR PROPER CARE UNDERWENT TO
ENSURE THE QUALITY OF THE
BOTH FORMER CURRICULUM

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



THE VESTRY CAFE
DIRECT DESIGN ART GALLERY, OFFICE SPACE,
HARTLEPOOL, TS24 7JQ
SWIMMING POOL BY THE SEA, RESTAURANT,
JIP CATCOTE ACADEMY
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OF OUR HOME COOKED MENU
OPEN TUESDAY TO SATURDAY 10.00 - 16.00

