



Dear Parent/Guardian

It is hard to believe we are at the end of another very busy term, not to mention the arrival of 'The Beast from the East' which forced us to close for 3 days.

Earlier this term we were both honoured and delighted to welcome Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, Mrs Sue Snowdon who has visited the Trust on two occasions. Firstly, to officially open Catcote Futures and then again to visit the Academy, Catcote Metro and Vestry café.

As the Lord-Lieutenant, her aims for the Lieutenancy are to provide a focus for identity, unity and pride; give a sense of stability, recognising achievements, success and excellence; promoting service to others; celebrating the unique history and culture of the Lieutenancy area; supporting its communities and helping to make a positive contribution to the areas future.

Following her visit she wrote to us and I would like to share her comments with you. We are very proud of our school and it is very reassuring for us to receive such affirmation of the work we do.

"I would like to express my sincere thanks to you for allowing me to visit you last week. Having a background in education I fully recognise the vision, planning, hard work, determination and dedication that is necessary to meet the diverse needs of your students. The facilities are first class, excellent use being made of all areas. Your focus is on your students who at the Academy, Catcote Metro and the Vestry Café presented as happy confident young people.

You should be proud of what you and your team have accomplished. Your "Journey of development", has certainly been a success.

You have created rich, loving environments, where each and every student is supported and encouraged to meet their full potential. It's about what they can do, not what they can't. With renewed thanks and all good wishes."



Sue Snowdon

Wishing you all a very happy Easter  
Alan Chapman, Head Teacher.



## Erasmus

Students and teachers from 5 countries across Europe have come together in Hartlepool as part of a project linking education to employment. Catcote Academy is the the UK host and overall lead for the project. We have joined forces with schools from Italy, Germany, Sweden and Turkey to develop skills which will help students gain employment. This is the 6th trip involving students working together. In total, the project has involved 5 countries, 6 trips abroad and 99 student exchanges. The aims of this visit was to share the fantastic work which has taken place in developing the employability skills valued by employers in our students.

International students and staff arrived on Sunday 11th March and were collected from their various arrival points and brought to The Grand Hotel in Hartlepool.

On Day 1 our Sing and Sign group gave a fabulous performance to welcome our Erasmus+ European guests to Hartlepool. Our Head Teacher, Mr Chapman also made a speech.



The first task to challenge students' creativity was to make a name badge and a badge to represent their country.



Students also created a video which included their preconceptions about the UK and their thoughts about what they were going to experience during the week.



Day 2 was Turkish day. Because we could not go to Turkey, Turkey was brought to us. One of the first activities was students learning a traditional Turkish dance. The Turkish group then taught the others a traditional Turkish song. After a beautiful lunch at Agora restaurant on Hartlepool Marina, we were entertained by a live music concert.





Wednesday was an important day with presentations from each partner school which explained how the enterprise skills have been embedded into their own curriculum. Some students from Catcote Academy explained how the Enterprise curriculum they have followed in school and college has really helped them gain skills to start a business and gain a Supported Internship place at McDonald's. We were also extremely privileged to have been visited by Sue Snowden, H.M.



Lord Lieutenant of County Durham who came back to Catcote Academy to see how we are preparing our students for the world of work.



Thursday was a cultural day. The group went to visit Beamish Museum to see what Britain was like in the past. Although the weather was terrible, a good time was had by all.



On the final day, the groups filled in evaluation forms, answering questions about what they learned from the week. They also recorded a follow-up video to decide whether their preconceptions and expectations were correct. We were very pleased to discover that they all knew a lot more about the UK and could correct their misconceptions or knowledge. All students got what they expected or more out of the visit and commented about how friendly and open the people they met whilst here were. Lots of new friendships were made and employability skills strengthened.





## British Red Cross

Students have been working with Emily from the British Red Cross learning about what to do in emergency situations. They took part in some role play showing others what they would do if they came across somebody in the street needing first aid, from alerting adults that could help, to putting the person in the recovery position if they were unconscious. Then they learned how to action CPR on adults and children. Emily was very impressed with all the students that took part. Well done everybody.



## First Aid

Students in Link 1 have been taking part in Mini Medics First Aid and Defibrillation for students. They have been learning about basic first aid skills which would enable them to get help or possibly save someone's life in an emergency. Students worked extremely hard in the sessions and gained a certificate. Well done to everyone for completing the course.



## DofE sponsored walk

6 Catcote Academy Duke of Edinburgh Award students took part in a sponsored walk to help support their further adventure of a sailing expedition. The walk was the "Three Village Ramble" starting from the Academy, walking to Dalton and onto Elwick and Hart. The students were amazing, tackling the route that sometimes was just a mud track, well done everyone!



## Giddy Up

Class 11 and 12 have been enjoying visiting Cherry Tree Farm and taking part in Horse Riding sessions. The students began by learning how to lead and care for the horses and then moved on to riding. They have learned how to walk, turn and trot and are even beginning to have races! A big well done to all students for their excellent behaviour and trying something new!



## Table Cricket

On Thursday 25th January, students from Class 4 represented Catcote Academy at the Lord Taverner's Table Cricket Competition. They didn't come away with the trophy this time, but had a very good time and played brilliantly.

Well done to Dee Corrigan, Patrick Holdcroft, Liam Nichols, Elisha Rowntree, Nicole Seaward and Demi-Leigh Winship.



## Fish Keeper Fry

Over the last 8 weeks Class 12 have been involved in the Fish Keeper Fry programme, learning about how to set up an aquatic habitat and keep a fish tank healthy; all about different types of fish and where in the world they would live in natural habitats and all about plants and photosynthesis. The experience has enabled the students to put into action all the things they have been learning about in science lessons. The students have been super engaged and excited to learn.

They can now share information and tell people all about the fish and the habitat they have made for them to live in, from the different types of fish and what type of water they would live in and why it is important to have different species, to why it is important to have living plants in the aquarium as well as how to keep the water safe, a healthy habitat and different types of food for the fish.

They must be doing a good job as we have two new fry (baby fish)!





## Street Dancing

Dance students at Catcote Academy are taking part in the 3rd Hartlepool School Hip Hop Championships 2018 on Wednesday 28th March at Hartlepool Borough Hall. Catcote will compete against other secondary schools in Hartlepool: Manor, Dyke House, High Tunstall and English Martyrs will all compete for the title.

The dedication, drive and hard work from our students is overwhelming they have practiced and performed their routine every week with Zac Healey from Rough Diamond.



### The 'Beast from the East'

The end of February brought with it the 'Beast from the East'. In an unprecedented move, and in the interests of safety for students and staff, it was decided to close all Catcote sites for 3 days (28th Feb, 1st and 2nd March 2018).



## Railway Museum at Shildon

### 6th Form Steam Ahead

Students from 6th Form visited the National Railway Museum in Shildon to experience transport from the past. There were lots of interactive displays which challenged students' reactions and ability to plan. The museum is next to a working train track and Reece Carter was able to inform the group of exactly when the trains would be passing by researching the timetables. The trains were also on time!

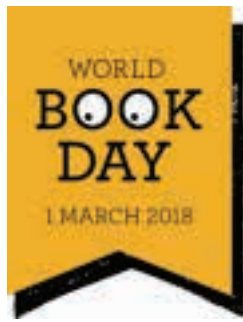
Adam Burgon said "It was the best visit I've ever been on". He was very proud of his new "Engine Driver" cap.



### CF6 Enterprise

The students in CF6 have been hard at work on their Easter Enterprise items. They have been practising painting glasses with a range of different colours and patterns. The students used paint brushes and sponges to transfer the paint onto the glasses to create colourful and varied designs. The money raised from the sale of the glasses at the fairs will be split between Catcote Futures and Catcote Parents and Friends.

Students in Lower School Assembly group celebrated World Book Day with a celebration of multi sensory story telling. Students were invited to take part in a number of activities linked to one of Class 1 students' favourite books 'Walking in the Jungle' by Barefoot Books. In the story the children get to travel around the world meeting lots of different animals. The students travelled around a number of different places in school and decorated biscuits as snakes from the story in S5.



They sang along with the song in Class 1, made a story telling set in a craft session and joined Mr Pounder outside for a wild animal hunt. Everyone made a special hat and had a great time.

## Wheelchair Basketball



Students from Classes 5, 7 and 8 took part in wheelchair basketball sessions at Manor Academy on Friday 16th March. Some students will be chosen, along with Manor Academy and High Tunstall, to form a team and compete with other schools from the area. This competition will be on Wednesday 28th March in Darlington. Good luck to everyone involved.





## Young Inspectors

Some of our sixth form students took part in the 'Rites of Passage' course over February half term run by Young Inspectors. The aim of the course was to raise students' confidence and self-esteem and to think about their future plans. During the course, they discussed their morning routine (to see that everyone is different and has different needs), took part in a mock radio interview about what is good about Hartlepool, drew posters about themselves and thought about what is important to them and what they want to do in the future. On the last day of the course they gave a presentation to heads of services from Social Care, Education, Commissioning, local council workers and councillors on what they want in the town and the changes needed to do it. This included places to go for them to relax and socialise with their friends. They had all signed up to a path with all their ideas on and asked the panel to do so as well. They were also shown how to do a person-centred plan. The group will be meeting up again over the Easter holidays to work on their project further.

Following on from this, two students are also joining a commissioning panel through Young Inspectors which is being led by the local authority commissioning team; this will be starting in the Easter holidays and they will meet every school holiday.



## Fairtrade Coffee Morning

Catcote Academy have supported Fairtrade for many years and have a lot of experience talking to groups about Fairtrade and how it works. This term Link 3 students hosted a Fairtrade poster competition. We invited Rift House school to our coffee morning on Friday 9th March. We displayed work and research that children had completed during Fairtrade fortnight and to share the biscuits and snacks they had created. Students from across all three pathways in the academy took part in the event producing lots of work that was proudly displayed. The poster competition was won by Clarissa Lawson from Class 8, Second place was won by Archie, a student from Rift House School and third place went to by Amber Snelling from Class 10. A huge well done for all your excellent work over Fairtrade fortnight!





## Safer Internet Day

Students across the Academy and 6th Form took part in Safer Internet Day. Students from the upper school and 6th Form attended an awareness session presented by a Police Officer who works in online crimes for Cleveland Police. The session highlighted problems in using the Internet and possible consequences.

Students then completed various tasks, including making pledges on how they will help build a better internet.



## Durham College Visit

6th Form students visited New College, Durham to look at taking part in 'inclusive skills' regional and national competitions. Competitions have been organised in several categories such as 'Media', 'ICT', "Hairdressing", and "Restaurant Service". The competitions stretch and challenge young people, improve their self-esteem and confidence, help showcase their work skills, and most importantly show employers how they can perform under pressure to industry standard competition criteria.

We hope to be entering a team into a few categories this year to show how good our students at Catcote are. Watch this space . . .





## Crucial Crew

During the spring term Class 6's Maddison Clarke and Katie Graham were invited to the Crucial Crew Presentation Lunch held at The Conference Hall. At the presentation Katie was awarded Runner Up and Maddison Winner for their postcard entries. The girls enjoyed a lunch with a number of students from schools in the town. They received 'Love 2 Shop' vouchers and a bag of stationery goodies. The girls had a fantastic morning and enjoyed the experience!



## Class 6 Trip

As part of Class 6's reward trip we visited Jump 360 for a morning of trampoline activities followed by a visit to Stewarts Park. The class had a great time; we are not sure who enjoyed it more - the students or staff!



## Food Technology



Class 6 have been developing their skills in the kitchen to make some healthy snacks. Lillijade and Micha are pleased with their pizza quiches!

## Forest School

As part of Class 6's Forest School lesson we visited Saltholme Nature Reserve to participate in the RSPB National Bird Watching Week. The students had a great morning visiting the centre and taking part in activities. The girls interacted with members of the public and developed their understanding of birds and wildlife.





## Art Room

Catcote Futures Art Room is a wonderful new resource where we have had the opportunity to set it up a recycling zone. The theme for art this year has been 'Reduce, Recycle and Reuse'. We have made many interesting products from the collection of items that have been donated to us, many of which have been sold at the Christmas and Easter Fayres. We are collecting a wide variety of items for the Art Room and would welcome any donations of beads, fur and other fabrics, old pale coloured/white T shirts, white cotton bed sheets. We especially need small individual glass jam pots!

This year all of Catcote Futures students have had the opportunity to research an idea, plan and prepare their idea and then produce work to a high quality. The students have looked at colour and texture and have produced some amazing collages to highlight what they have learnt.

Lifelong Learners have been producing canvas pictures by spraying inks through a diffuser and then painting textile paints on to their chosen image to produce a very professional piece of work.



## Friday Afternoon Options

This year Catcote Futures students have had the opportunity to take part in non-curriculum activities every Friday afternoon. The activities have included sessions at a local pub playing darts and pool, jacuzzi, Zumba exercise and relaxation, all of which were extremely popular!



Photography has also proved popular and the recent windy weather presented the group with some amazing photographic opportunities with the sea hitting the sea wall up on the Headland. A walking group has been established with students doing different walks each week to build up their stamina in preparation for an all day walking adventure in July.

For the less adventurous and less active students, or just for those that need to wind down after a busy week, we have offered Sensory Therapy and Relaxation sessions.

Once the weather improves next term we are also hoping to offer some of the activities for a full day session so visits can be arranged to areas of interest further afield. Students will be involved in choosing, planning and organise the visits.

## Career Choices

In February Catcote Academy hosted its annual 'Choices Event' with over 31 colleges, Training Providers and employers attending the event from Hartlepool and across the Tees Valley to provide information, advice and guidance to our students. This event was really well supported by parents and students worth fantastic feedback received.



## Careers Path of Life

At Sixth Form this term we have been working with Susan Willis and David McCormick from the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) to develop an individual 'Career Path of Life'. Students have then progressed to presenting about their career choices and will identify what skills they need; learn about searching for jobs and putting together an application form; and will finish with mock interviews. We hope to continue with Career Path of Life with all students in Years 9 – 11 over the coming year.



## Fanrkie and Bennys

This term students across the Academy have been visiting Frankie & Benny's restaurant to learn about employment in the catering industry. This series of employability sessions proved to be a great success and the students had the opportunity to create and taste their own pizzas!





## Womens International Day

A special event to celebrate International Women's Day was organised by Unison's Self Organised Women's Group and Hartlepool Borough Council on Thursday 8th March 2018 at The Vestry, Hartlepool.

The event was an opportunity to celebrate the inspiring achievements of women in Hartlepool and to empower women of all backgrounds and nationalities to overcome any challenges they face and achieve their full potential.

Two of our Supported Interns, Kim Waring and Rachel Black presented at the event, and spoke eloquently about their personal experiences as young women with learning difficulties and disabilities, their journey throughout Catcote Academy and Catcote Futures and their hopes and aspirations to gain paid employment in the future.



Councillor Lesley Hamilton said 'They were both motivational and inspirational throughout their presentation and spoke articulately about their hopes and dreams for the future.

It is safe to say, they got the biggest cheer of the night, despite the room being fit to bursting, they both kept the nerves at bay and held a captive audience."

## Interview Day

Students from Catcote Academy and Catcote Futures 'Stepping Up' Supported Internship Programme attended mock interviews with Mark Rycraft, Middleton Grange Shopping Centre Manager and the school and college's Enterprise Adviser.

The interns worked really hard to plan and prepare for the interviews as part of their coursework in College. They learned about appropriate interview clothes, practised frequently asked questions and understood the importance of good communication and making a great 'first impression'

The students were asked a variety of questions which were very specific to their current work placements and tailored towards the sectors in which they are interested in working.

Mark Rycraft said ""Being interviewed in a formal environment will go a long way to preparing the interns for an actual job interview. Not only did they enjoy the experience but they learned an awful lot too."

All of the Interns felt that it will stand them in good stead for their future. Rachel Black said 'I am very proud of myself, I feel more confident and prepared for the real thing now.'

A big thanks to Mark for taking time out of his busy schedule to offer our students this fantastic opportunity.



## Catcote Futures after college clubs

We introduced after college clubs again this term in our new base. They run from 3.15 till 4.45pm every Wednesday. After college club choices are very much led by the interests and suggestions from all Catcote Futures students. The clubs provide students with different programmes and opportunity to mix and socialise with each other in more relaxed sessions.

The sessions that have proved to be the most popular this term have been:-

**Gym and Fitness Training:-** 5 students have used our small gym to improve their strength and stamina on the treadmill, cross trainer and exercise bike. They have also enjoyed doing mini circuit training sessions in our new hall. After Easter they will be building up to doing more strenuous activities outside.



**Crafts:-** A small group of students have enjoyed making their own projects using materials that we have collected for recycling in the Art Room.

**Baking/and Bistro:-** This has been another popular choice where students have been able to bake various items which have then been sold in the Bistro and the money raised has gone to fund other after college club activities, such as a meal out.

**Woodcraft:-** Students have had the opportunity to develop their cutting, sanding and decorating skills whilst designing and making their own items. These have been seasonal Christmas and Easter ideas or things of their own choosing. Joe made a fantastic mobile which showed off all his favourite things.



**CF7 Multi Activities:-** Students from CF7 have enjoyed a more sheltered programme of after college club activities since moving into the new base in September. Now they are more settled and comfortable in the new environment they are beginning to join other students in the other clubs. James has enjoyed being in Woodcraft and this week all the students will watch a short production of Oliver Twist.

Some new clubs will be up and running after Easter:- Pottery and Jacuzzi to name but two. Watch out for new things coming each term.



## Apprenticeship Success

Chris Scott is completing an apprenticeship with HIT Training. Michael Bradshaw, his Trainer Assessor, aims to The Vestry to allow Chris to be his boss for the day as part of National Apprenticeship week.

Chris took his role extremely seriously and put Michael through his paces throughout the day. I believe he was a hard task master!

Michael's said "We had a fantastic day yesterday in the kitchen with Chris being my boss, as part of the National Apprenticeship week. It was certainly entertaining for Carole & Pam!"

Chris has been completing tests and practical assessments throughout his apprenticeship and so far has passed all with flying colours.



## Fairtrade Celebration

As part of the Fairtrade fortnight activities this year, Catcote Futures dedicated their time to support students from other schools. To meet accreditation requirements, CF1 and CF2 had to work with a community interest group and plan an activity. This was a fairly good choice for both classes as it gave them the chance to once again work with Martin Green from the Hartlepool Fairtrade Town Steering Group. Both classes put together information packs with facts, games and challenges and sent them to six local primary schools. They also included an invitation to bring some of the completed work after Fairtrade Fortnight to a special Fairtrade Coffee morning at Catcote Futures. The coffee morning was planned to recognise and celebrate the work completed by other students. Our students from CF1 and CF2 did an excellent job in planning and running the coffee morning. They really enjoyed meeting the young students and helping them to enjoy the morning. The quality of work presented was so good that extra prizes were given out. Well done to all.



## Vestry Opening Times



Tuesday - Saturday  
10am - 4pm

## Official Opening Catcote Futures

Friday 2nd February was a very special day for Catcote Futures. Finally, we were ready for our grand opening. We were delighted that the Lord Lieutenant of County Durham, Sue Snowden, was able to come along and perform this very special ceremony. Sue had a tour of the new facilities here at Futures and spent quite some time talking to the students. She enjoyed looking at all the new teaching and learning areas and showed great interest in the large range of vocational options available to our students. Sue said many mainstream schools would be “envious” of the facilities we have at Catcote. Following the opening students Demi-Leigh and James presented Sue with a bouquet of flowers.



## Catcote Futures' new website

Why not take a glance at our new website? Although some parts are still under construction we hope you will find it interesting and very useful to keep up to date with the latest information and news. If you have any ideas about what you would like to be included please contact Barry Currell to share your ideas.

[www.catcotefutures.co.uk](http://www.catcotefutures.co.uk)

### HARTLEPOOL ASPIRE TRUST CALENDAR 2017/2018

2017	AUGUST 2017	SEPTEMBER 2017	OCTOBER 2017	NOVEMBER 2017	DECEMBER 2017
Monday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Tuesday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Wednesday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Thursday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Friday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Saturday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Sunday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31

■ Bank Holiday  
■ Holiday  
■ PD day Trust  
■ PD day CF  
■ PD day CA

2018	JANUARY 2018	FEBRUARY 2018	MARCH 2018	APRIL 2018	MAY 2018	JUNE 2018	JULY 2018
Monday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Tuesday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Wednesday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Thursday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Friday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Saturday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Sunday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29

CA - Catcote Academy  
 CF - Catcote Futures  
 Trust - CA & CF

**Catcote**  
**Futures**  
 your choice your future

**Catcote**  
**Academy**  
 working together, achieving success