



Dear Parent/Carer,

We have reached the end of another very busy and successful term across our ever growing provision. The term started extremely well as we welcomed our new Year 7 students. It is hard to believe that they have been here such a short time as I see them settled into their new classes, moving confidently around the school with happy faces. Catcote Futures is now an Independent Specialist College and we are already dealing with enquiries from students from across the region looking to study with us in September 2019.

Catcote continues to flourish because of the commitment of students, staff and parents and we celebrate outstanding achievement as well as the personal enrichment and development of our students.

Over the last term, our students have continued to excel in a number of areas and our focus on their progress has been ongoing. Once again there has been an extensive range of extracurricular events which highlights the willingness of students to get involved and staff being prepared to go the extra mile in organising such a wide range of activities.

Sadly at the end of this term we will be saying farewell to Mr Rowntree and Mrs Chapman who are taking early retirement. We wish them all the very best and thank them for everything they have done for us over the years.

Please enjoy reading our newsletter, which is crammed with stories of success, talent and creativity.

I would like to join with my colleagues at Catcote by wishing all of our students and their families/carers a very Happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2019.

Alan Chapman, Head Teacher



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 14th December, everyone in school joined in Christmas Jumper Day by wearing a festive jumper. We supported 'Save the Children' to help create a brighter future for children.



Class 10 Reindeer visit at Richardson's Garden Centre

Class 10 decided to visit Richardson's Garden Centre again this year to visit and feed the reindeers. Class 10 have a keen interest in animals and this is shown by how enthusiastic they were on this visit! They showed a good understanding of being calm and quiet around them, enjoyed feeding them and interacting with them - even when the deer climbed up on the fence. Class 10 each brought £1 in to buy feed for the reindeer.

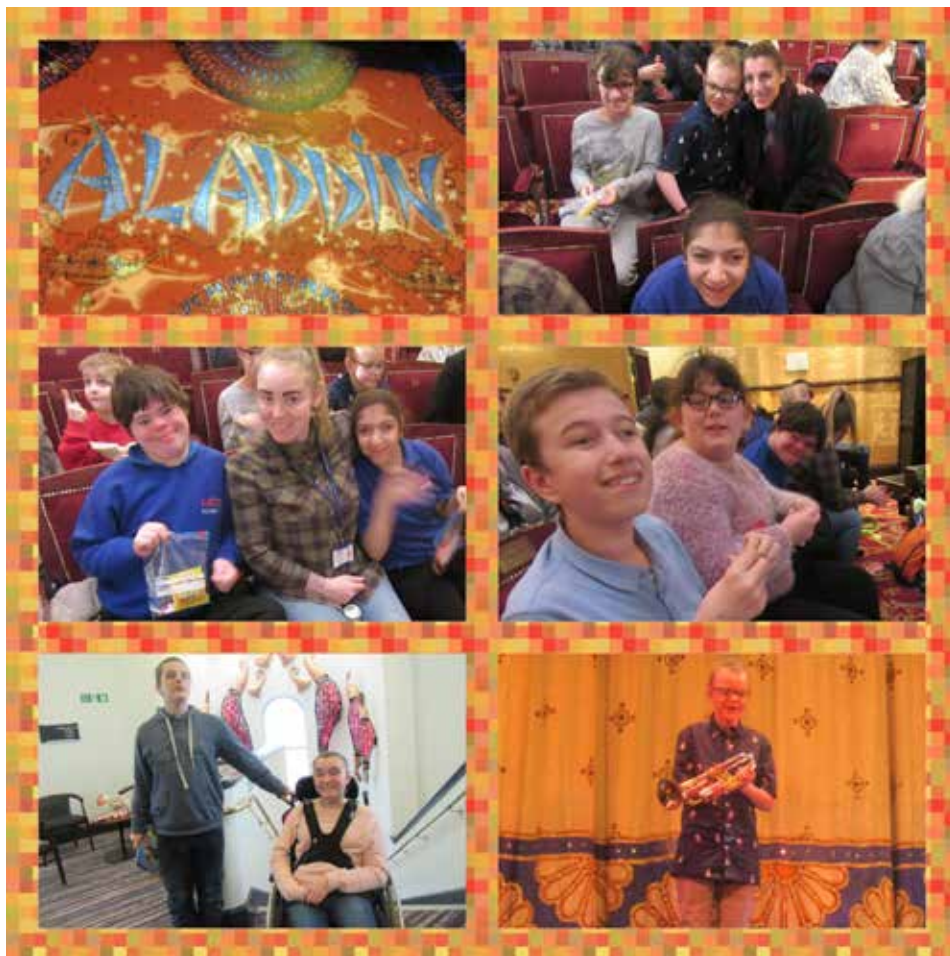


Children in Need



On Friday 16th November, students from Monday's assembly group took part in a walk to Ward Jackson Park to raise awareness for Children in Need. We all enjoyed the walk and helped raise £350 across the trust.

Pantomime Visit



On Thursday 13th December, the students from Classes 3 and 4 went to the Darlington Hippodrome to see their performance of Aladdin. The students enjoyed themselves immensely, most notably Liam who was invited onstage to join in the performance! A massive well done to Demi for sitting through her first full Pantomime!

Fire Station

In December, Link 1 went to visit Hartlepool fire station. We learned about the role of the fire service, how to keep safe at home and what to do in the event of a house fire. Students had a ride on the fire engine, used the water hoses and dressed up in the fire fighters uniforms. Students had an amazing day - a big thank you to Stranton Fire Station for having us.



Pets at Home

In October Link 1 went to Pets at Home to learn about the different jobs the staff have to do each day. We looked at lots of pets including rabbits, rats, guinea pigs, mice and fish and learned how to look after them. We held the rabbits and guinea pigs and helped to test the fish tanks. Students had a lovely time and learned about the jobs involved in working in a pet shop . Thank you Pets at Home.



Food Bank



Link 3 have decided that they would like to help others as part of their PSHE lessons. As a group, they have chosen to continue to support the Hartlepool Food Bank. The food bank supports families in food crisis by providing three days of emergency food. Students researched the foods most in need and created posters to spread the word. They were overwhelmed by the support they received from across the school. They invited the Food Bank coordinator Abi Knowles into school to present her with the enormous amount of food donations. Link 3 would like to say a massive THANK YOU to all parents, carers and students for their amazing support of such a worthy cause. You have all made a difference in someone else's life.

Tesco

Students from Catcote 6th Form visited Tesco Extra in Hartlepool and were shown around by Selina their Community Champion. They visited many areas which customers don't get to see but which are vital to the smooth running of the store.

After the busy Christmas period, Selina is going to run some functional maths workshops to help students prepare for independent living, focusing on how to shop on a limited budget and how to buy ingredients for family meals.

Our students are looking forward to doing maths in a real-world environment as this will prepare them for their 'functional' exams and for life after college.



Catcote Dance Academy

Catcote Academy has been lucky to have Zac Healey from Ruff Diamond in school again this year. He has been working with a group of students in one of our Be Healthy options every Friday afternoon to create an amazing dance routine. The students will be performing their routine at the Christmas disco.



Lantern Walk



The students in the Monday assembly group took part in a lantern making workshop followed by a lantern walk and singing in the woods. The students crafted lanterns using willow and tissue paper to look like the stars and the moon and then paraded up to Summerhill where they sang some of the songs from our Christmas performance and shared some hot chocolate, mince pies and biscuits. Well done everyone for taking part!

Table Cricket

Catcote Academy received funding from Lords Taverners charity to offer 6 sessions of table cricket in November and December this year. Table cricket is a great sport for students to play and Class 2 had the chance to take part this year. Students really enjoyed these sessions and developed lots of different skills including hand eye coordination, self-confidence and motivation, independence, communication and social skills.



For many young people with a severe physical or learning disability, particularly wheelchair users, participating in cricket and other forms of sport is not possible. Table Cricket provides the opportunity to play in a competitive game. The emphasis is on teamwork and sportsmanship in an informal and enjoyable environment. Thankyou to Oliver who delivered the fantastic sessions!

Dracula

Link 3 have been learning all about Bram Stoker's Dracula in their literacy lessons. The students decided they would like to learn a little more about the story so they decided they would like to visit the Dracula experience in Whitby. The experience is a unique tour through the Dracula story and the connection to the town. Afterwards, students walked up the steps to visit the Abbey where enjoyed the views and then enjoyed traditional fish and chips.



Visit to Auschwitz

Two of our 6th Form students were fortunate enough to go to Poland on a Lessons from Auschwitz visit organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust (UK). Prior to the visit, they attended an orientation seminar where they met a Holocaust survivor and heard her story. They also took part in some exercises to prepare for what they were going to see in Poland. The visit went well. It was a very busy day, starting at 4am and getting back home at 10.30pm. It was an added challenge as neither of our students had been on an aeroplane before. Students visited the site where the local synagogue was situated before it was destroyed, Auschwitz work camp and Auschwitz death camp. It was a very emotional day, which ended with a speech from a Rabbi who made the trip with us.



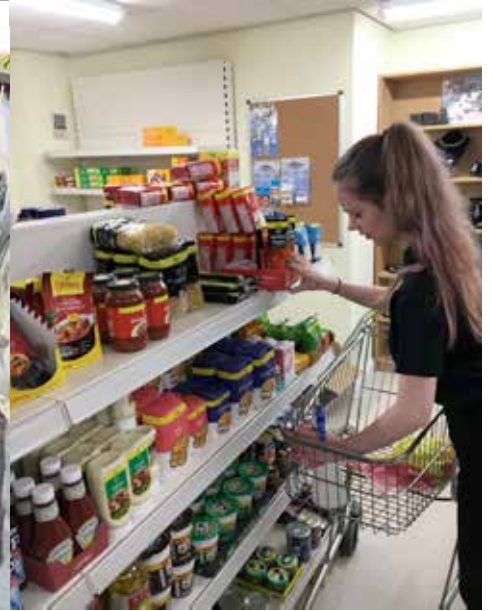
Our students are now going to be ambassadors to help educate others about the Holocaust through the lessons and stories they have heard. We were very proud of how mature, respectful and thoughtful both of our students have been throughout the trip.

They plan to make a display and visit classes in our and other schools to warn others about how the Holocaust started and how we must fight to stop that hatred happening again in our world today. They will receive ASDAN credits for their work which will add to their qualification portfolios.

Working Hart Project

The Academy is working with Hartfields to enrich student's employability skills as part of our STEPS programme.

The aim of this programme is to develop 'soft skills' within the world of work and to broaden students understanding of the requirements of an employee. 6 departments currently work with us offering placements throughout the academic year.



St Hildas Enterprise

Enterprise at Futures is not just about being creative and making fantastic products (which we do!), it is also looking for the best possible places to sell our crafts. For the second year running, Catcote Futures have been invited by the Rev Verity Brown, to run a stall at the St Hilda's Christmas Fair. The fair is extremely popular with many people supporting local charities. Our staff were kept busy all day and sold out on many items. The items produced from different groups throughout the college were great quality, proved to be very popular and generated over £300 of sales. Now that's Enterprise.



Catcote Outdoor Learning and Fitness Zone

We are still in the process of fundraising to realise the plans we have for the Catcote Outdoor learning and fitness zone. We have submitted bids to many charities and had lots of interest from them, such as Sport England, Bailey Thomas Trust and Garfield Weston who have been to visit the school. We are waiting to hear their decision.

Lots of community groups are interested in using the facilities once the building work is complete.

The development will allow us to offer a wide range of opportunities for our students to support our curriculum.

There will be:

- A Wheel chair friendly track, which will also provide space for the use of specially adapted bikes
- A rough track that can be used for more able runners (could be used for orienteering park/buggy runs)
- specialised equipment that will measure pulse rates, and outdoor gym equipment (designed for disabled users)
- Assault course/ adventure equipment (again specifically designed to be fully inclusive)
- Welly wash area, pond, outdoor music area for sensory play and environmental learning
- Fire pit and briefing area as part of an outdoor classroom
- Area for den building and camping that can be used for forest school and Duke of Edinburgh

Catcote Parents and Friends are working hard to help us raise funds towards the Zone as well as making applications for funding to charities.

We are very interested in hearing from anyone who might be able to help us in any way to raise money; please get in touch if you have any suggestions.



Erasmus+ visit to Carlton Lodge

It was our turn to host our European partner schools in September as part of our Erasmus + project 'One for All, All for One'. The project is focused on outdoor activities and we spent the week at Carlton Lodge Activity Centre in Carlton Miniott, near Thirsk.

Four students from Catcote – Brandon, Mark, Amber and Rebecca – joined students from schools in Germany, Slovakia and Lithuania to participate in team building, communication and physical activities.



Unfortunately, the weather was quite typical of the UK in September, with a couple of very windy days and one very wet day. However, we persevered with our activities and completed team games, kite making and flying, high ropes, zip wire, canoeing, problem solving, climbing, challenge course and archery.

There was a great atmosphere in the camp with lots of new friendships made, even though there was a huge language barrier. Students helped with maintaining the keeping the building and camp tidy and clearing up after meals.

We are very pleased with the contributions made by the students from Catcote, and how they dealt with being away from home and mixing with students who did not speak the same language.



The next leg of the project will be a trip to Slovakia in February 2019 to try skiing! Four 6th Form students will be joining this trip and they are really looking forward to it.

6th Form Students

In November, Catcote Academy 6th Form took a team of talented students to Birmingham to compete in the Inclusive Skills competitions at the WorldSkills UK finals in association with Natspec. They had already won the regional heats and were representing the North East as well as Catcote Academy. They took part in ICT and Hairdressing competitions against other top colleges from throughout the UK. All did well to compete and concentrate in such a busy and vibrant environment.

We were really happy that Nakita was placed in bronze position in the hairdressing competition. This is something she can be very proud of. All competitors did amazingly well and received a certificate. They can put this achievement on applications when they leave 6th Form which will hopefully set them apart from others applying for the same job.

We plan to compete again next year and give even more students the same opportunities.

We have already competed in the regional Arts and Crafts Christmas card competition last week and placed first or second in all three levels of entry.



Parent and Friends Halloween Disco

On Thursday 25th October 2018, Catcote students and families descended on the Belle Vue Social Club for the annual Parents and Friends Halloween Disco. The students from all three sites took part in fancy dress competitions, apple bobbing and lots of dancing. As part of the evening, we were also treated to performances by the Catcote Academy KS4 Performing Arts group. There were tombolas, raffles and blind cards on the night, all raising more money for Catcote. Thank you to everyone that attended and helped raise well over £800.





Catcote Futures Choir

In November a new choir was formed at Catcote Futures. Students from across the college put themselves forward to be part of the group. Over the last half term the students have worked exceptionally hard to learn the lyrics, musical arrangements and sign actions to five different songs. Since half term the students have had three live community performances. The Annual Award Ceremony for Catcote Futures, St Hilda's Church (switching on the Christmas tree lights) and at The Vestry with the Hartlepool Community Choir.

As part of the St Hilda's, Light a Tree project, Students around the college each made their own Christmas decorations and CF5 visited the church to decorate Catcote Futures Christmas tree. The following Monday students from Catcote Futures Sing and Sign choir were invited to attend the church service and perform some of the songs that they had been practising.

The students performed really well at all events and received wonderful acknowledgements from both the audiences and the other performing groups. The choir will continue to run in the new year and there are already some exciting opportunities for the future. Thank you to all the parents, carers, staff and volunteers who have supported the choir both in college and at community performances. This is greatly appreciated. A special thank you to Tony, Rijkke and Julie who have worked with the choir during this half term and, of course, Phil Thompson for bringing it all together.

P19 Social Evening

Catcote Futures held their first social evening on Tuesday 20th November in the Learning and Skills Centre at Warren Road.

The aim of this event was to encourage past and present students of Catcote Futures to get together for a couple of hours to chat, socialise and catch up.

The evening was a huge success and 12 students attended. Refreshments were provided via the bistro, with a small budget funded by Parents & Friends.

The young people thoroughly enjoyed the evening and independently conversed and enjoyed being in the company of their peers. We had a team quiz and a game of Play Your Cards Right with prizes for the winning team, supplied by the Enterprise group.

The quizmaster was an Academy student, who compiled, printed and delivered the quiz. This fulfilled one of his aspirations, which was to be a gameshow host! Who says dreams can't come true?!

Staffing was voluntary, which highlighted the goodwill and commitment staff have to the Trust, which was very heart warming.

We plan to host another evening In January with a view to increasing it to two evening in February and March.

If the demand is there and it continues to be successful with increasing numbers, we would hope to see this become a weekly event.



CF3 - Enterprise

Throughout the autumn term the students in CF3 have been very productive in creating a variety of products to sell at Christmas events. The students have all engaged extremely well and contributed to the creation of different products such as, Glitter Glasses, 'Magic' Reindeer Dust, Christmas Star Wreaths and 3D Christmas trees. The students have applied a wide variety of skills to make the different products and amazed staff, peers, parents and visitors with what they have made. Great work CF3!



Awards Ceremony

What a wonderful year of achievement 2017/18 was!

Once again Catcote Futures held our annual awards ceremony at the Hartlepool Art Gallery. This was a great opportunity to bring the whole college together to recognise the magnificent work from all our students in achieving a 100% pass rate for all accreditation.

Students showed great pride not only when receiving their own awards, but also when acknowledging the achievements of their peers. Diana Baxter from One Awards and Georgie Jones were our special guests to give out trophies and certificates, not only for accreditation but also for a few special awards. This year we were very proud to include a new category "Moving into Employment" which was presented to 4 students who have now left Catcote and are now in paid employment. Well done to all students and also a huge well done to the staff who work so hard to enable our students to achieve.



CF4 and CF6

CF4 and CF6 have been very enterprising all term, earning themselves a well-deserved Christmas treat! From making bacon sandwiches in the Bistro and the many Christmas markets they took part in, they have made enough money to treat both classes to a Christmas trip to Vue Cinema to see one of their favourite Christmas movies, The Grinch. After working up an appetite watching the movie, they visited Pizza Hut to enjoy a slice of pizza (or ten)!



Coffee Morning

This term we are proud to have restarted the 'Catcote Futures Student Council' to help give more recognition to our students voice and to focus on the issues important to them. One item which was high on their agenda was helping others. Catcote have a long tradition of supporting others including Children in Need, Comic Relief, the Food Bank, Fairtrade and many more. The students were quick to start by arranging our first event in September, holding a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. The morning was very busy and included a raffle for a beautiful cake made by Jody, one of our dedicated teaching assistants.

We are proud to say we raised just over £150.00 and we would like to thank everyone who attended. Jody now leads a session each week, showing students how to decorate their own cakes, which have then taken pride of place in further coffee mornings. I think the student council have shown that you can "Have your cake and eat it!"

Media Explosion

There has been a media explosion at Catcote Futures with students embracing new technologies and participating in some brilliant film making projects. The E-safety group have created a terrifying horror movie to highlight the dangers of meeting online strangers as well as an interactive video showing the effects of cyber bullying. For Christmas they made an amusing festive film where Santa corrupts his naughty and nice list after opening an unsolicited attachment from Jack Frost!



Our exploring performance group have been analysing videos of their creative arts performances to see what they need to do to improve, ready for their big show on the 19th of December! They have also been using our new greenscreen to enable them to interact with their favourite music stars!

Meanwhile our dedicated filmmaking group caused chaos in our Bistro as they filmed a Wild West style saloon brawl as part of a cowboy movie they made. This dynamic group have also made an excellent video of Christmas jokes as well as some 'Doctor Doctor' jokes to cheer up another student who is been ill. The most recent endeavour has been an hilarious music video of the Goons' classic 'I'm Walking Backwards For Christmas' to be debuted at the Catcote Futures Christmas Dinner.

Another talented group of students have begun making a weekly cookery program called "Cadcote Cooks!" which will be coming to a YouTube channel near you soon!

Curriculum manager Pete Wells said "I'm absolutely delighted with the way the students have embraced our new filmmaking technologies. They are never shy in front of the camera and their performances have been out of this world! Look out Hollywood!"

Christmas Lunch

A big thank you to our talented kitchen staff for making this year's Christmas lunch our very best yet! Around 120 staff and students enjoyed eating a delicious Christmas Dinner together, in a very warm and festive atmosphere. We would also like to



thank teacher Danielle Coulton and her class for organising places and seating, as well as helping to tidy up the lunch hall afterwards. We are sure they'll all be at the very top of Santa's good list!

Catcote Future Got Talent

Look out Simon Cowell! The amazing students of Catcote Futures blew everyone away with their awesome talent in the annual Christmas Talent Show! Students from the Exploring Performance unit finally got to deliver the finely crafted performances they have been working on all term.

The 'Greatest Show' show opened with 'A Million Dreams', beautifully sung by Demi before resident comedians Sophie and Matthew had the audience in stitches with an hilarious comedy routine. Next on the bill was Caroline who had everyone on their feet with a note perfect version of Shania Twain's 'Man, I Feel Like a Woman!'

The crowd stayed on their feet as Mathew delivered a high energy performance of 'Let Me Entertain You' which would have made Robbie Williams proud! Scott continued the Take That theme with a superb version of 'Shine' which saw many of the performance group giving moral support as backing dancers.

Sophie returned to the stage and had everyone spellbound with a fantastic rendition of Little Mix' 'Black Magic!' before the health and fitness group worked everyone into a sweat with a vigorous dance routine to 'I Believe in a Thing Called Love!'

The individual performances ended with a powerful rendition of 'The Climb' by Vicky, which really blew the roof off before the whole group performed a manic, chocolate themed '12 Days of Christmas!' to thunderous applause!



Euro Xmas Decorations

As long ago as May, Catcote Futures were thinking about Christmas and applied to take part in a European Christmas Tree Decoration exchange. Only a handful of schools from across the UK were successful with the application. The project has linked almost 500 schools from across Europe including Spain, Italy, Romania, Poland, Croatia, Slovakia and Catcote Futures from little old Hartlepool. Each school has been given up to 30 European partners and asked to share what Christmas means to them.

Over the past 2 months, Catcote Futures have been creating handmade Christmas tree decorations and an information pack containing details about our Christmas traditions. There were 25 other countries in our group. After creating the decorations, safely packing them and addressing the envelopes, our students visited the post office to send our very special parcels to our new international partners. This was all completed by early November and then as December came, so did our parcels from Europe. Each day we received more and more deliveries with very special and unique messages.

Our classes have enjoyed reading about all the different countries traditions and making some of their recipes. We have put up a Christmas tree to display all the wonderful decorations we have received from the countries involved.



Sambuccas

CF8 and CF7 have worked very hard this term on various enterprising tasks and their chosen options at college. To celebrate the end of a great term both classes joined together for a well-earned treat, a meal at the Sambuccas restaurant. We all enjoyed our meal and had a lovely time!



Supported Internship

Alice is following a Supported Internship this year. A fantastic opportunity offered through Mary Lambert's Cafe in Hartlepool's Villiers Street. Alice will be working up to 3 days in work placement and 1 day a week in college to achieve her qualifications in Employability.

Eric Lambert and his staff work closely with Alice and her Job Coach Sue, to develop her skills within the hospitality industry and to enable and empower Alice in the world of work.

Well done Alice, you really are focussing on what you CAN do!

An even bigger 'Well done' to Mary Lambert's for engaging with Catcote Academy and Catcote Futures to offer invaluable work experience and skills development for young adults with special educational needs.



Poundland

Poundland in Hartlepool have been a fantastic partner after nominating Catcote Futures as one of their five charities of the year. As a result, we have received lots and lots of donations from their customers.

Catcote Futures Enterprise groups have been extremely creative and have used these donations to make a lot of enterprise crafts, which we have then used as raffle prizes,

given out as gifts and sold at local fairs, such as St Hildas and Ye Old Durhams.

Many thanks to Mark and Sarah from Poundland.



Hartlepool Community Singers

Hartlepool Community Singers once again kick started the Catcote Christmas traditions with a magical performance at the Art Gallery. This is the third consecutive year the singers have performed a charming Christmas concert with all proceeds going towards Catcote projects. This year's show had a little extra magic with a very special performance by Catcote Futures Sing and Sign Choir and a guest appearance from Santa. The evening was very well attended, the venue was delightful and the singing beautiful. However, the real magic was the moment Santa thanked the students for their part of the evening.

Thank you again to the Hartlepool Community Singers from all at Catcote.



Farewell

This Christmas will see the departure of two much valued members of staff from Catcote Futures.

Angela Chapman who has taught at Futures for 10 years, has decided now is the right time to start her retirement plans with the intention to spend lots more time with her family.

Colin Rowntree has been at Catcote since 2006. Colin's role as Business Development Manager has seen many changes as the school has transferred to an Academy and almost trebled in size. Over the last 5 years Colin has worked from the Futures site and it is here where he will be greatly missed. We would like to thank both Angela and Colin for all the hard work and dedication over the years and wish them both a long and very happy retirement.

Welcome

As one door closes others open and we are very pleased to welcome Shirley Hayes to the Catcote Futures team.

Shirley has a wealth of experience in the commercial pottery world and as a SEN teacher. Shirley's background in the arts and her vast experience in teaching makes her the ideal person to continue the exciting growth and development at Futures.



After half term we were delighted to welcome Michelle Butler on to our staff.

A teacher with a wealth of experience and is already settled and making a difference in our sixth form.



Autumn term attendance

The winners of this term's attendance award are Class 7, with attendance of 98.34%. Second place goes to Link 2 with 98.29% and Class 11 are in third with 98.19%.

Attendance at the Academy continues to be better than the national average for special school so well done everyone!

2019
happy new year

**Catcote
Futures**
your choice, your future

**Hartlepool
Aspire Trust**

**Catcote
Academy**
working together, achieving success



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