

# Spring Newsletter 2019



Dear Parent/Carer,

As another extremely busy term comes to an end I want to thank all my staff and students for their hard work and for going 'that extra mile'.

As well as the activities highlighted in this newsletter we have welcomed over forty visitors who have travelled from across the country to visit us and learn about our 'Preparation for Adulthood' programme. All schools are expected to have met the Gatsby Benchmarks by 2020. These eight standards of best practice are centred around careers guidance and development. The author of these standards, Professor Sir John Holman was one of these visitors and I am sharing with you the letter I received following his visit.

*Thank you for an uplifting and memorable visit to Catcote on Monday. The purpose of my visit was to learn about the application of the Gatsby benchmarks in a Special School setting, but I learned much more besides.*

*The things the school is doing for these young people and their burdened parents is extraordinary. I was struck by the constant theme of 'think about what I can do, not what I cannot' and the school's overwhelming motivation to give students an opportunity to work, in whatever way they can. The multiple ways you have built to give them experience of work – through volunteering, working in Catcote's own facilities and working outside the school with the support of a job coach, are creative and exemplary.*

*The dedication of you and your staff, and your determination to move heaven and earth to get what your students need, is the secret to it all, together with your expert understanding of the steps, often small, that lead towards independence and employment. Congratulations on what you are doing for these young people in Hartlepool, and thank you for letting me be part of it for a few hours.*

*With best wishes*

*Sir John Holman*

*Senior Adviser to the Gatsby Foundation*

We are planning open days at our Sixth Form Centre and at Catcote Futures next term and I would encourage you all to try to attend.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope you all enjoy the holiday.

Happy Easter,

Alan Chapman, Head Teacher.

## Carrot Cake Competition

To kick start our topic 'Are Carrots Orange?', Monday's Assembly group took part in a carrot cake competition. Students were involved in all stages of the process, from shopping for ingredients, weighing out, following recipes, baking and decorating their cakes. Mrs Wilson was our judge. Well done to all classes involved!

1st place - S5

2nd place - Class 4

3rd place - Class 9



## Gods and Mortals

This term Class 7, 8, 9 and Link 2 have been studying the ancient Greeks. As part of their topic they all went on an archaeological hunt at Summerhill where they found fragments of 'ancient Greek pottery'. The 4 classes worked as a team to put the fragments together like a puzzle and discovered 6 pot plates covered in paintings. Each plate represented an Ancient Greek myth that they would be studying during the topic.

Class 9 created outfits and took part in a 'Gods and Mortals' photoshoot to create epic posters. The students also made Ancient Greek helmets, swords and temples.

Well done to all the classes involved in a fantastic topic!



## Outdoor Learning and Fitness Zone

We are pleased to say that we hope to start building the first phase of the Outdoor zone in October!

We have made some successful bids for funding, and have been offered a contribution from the Trustees to top up funds from Rothley Trust, Sport England, Wolfson Foundation, Bailey Thomas, Sir James Knott Trust and Catcote Parents and Friends.

We still have a long way to go, so we are continuing to appeal for support and are making more funding application - please get in touch if you know anyone who could help us.

The Zone is intended to be used by the wider community as well as our students. Aspects of the Zone will be available for use by local groups and it has been specially designed for people with disabilities.

The development will include:

- A wheelchair 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 (that could also be used for orienteering, park runs/buggy runs)
- Specialised equipment that will measure pulse rates, and outdoor gym equipment (specially designed for disabled users)
- An assault course/adventure equipment (again specifically designed to be fully inclusive)
- A welly wash area, pond, outdoor music area for sensory play and environmental learning
- A fire pit and briefing area for groups
- An area for den building and camping that can be used for Forest School and Duke of Edinburgh
- Two newly developed junior football pitches.

We would be very grateful for any donation, however small. Please contact Sian Lamplough on 01429 264036





## Red Nose Day 'Tiger Feet'

This term Class 9 students decided they wanted to make a difference for Red Nose Day. They chose a song they all loved and made a silly music video to raise awareness of Red Nose Day and inspire people to make additional donations to the charity. The music video features all of the childrens favourite places including, their classroom, swimming pool, school gym, Hartlepool museum and the coffee shop.

Well done to the students of Class 9 for putting all of their ideas and effort into creating a video that put a smile on everyone's face and raised money for an important charity!



## World Book Day



World Book Day was enjoyed throughout the academy with a special storytelling event in the Coffee Shop. This year's World Book Day theme was 'share a story' and it was lovely to see staff from across school joining in to share a story with students. The star of the morning was Liam Robertson who read 'Room On The Broom' complete with fancy dress and props! Well done to competition winners too for writing some wonderful book reviews.





## Erasmus Skiing Trip

We recently completed our first ever ski trip and what an amazing week it was! Brandon, Dylan W, Nakita and Chloe M from our 6th Form were accompanied by Mrs Straker, Mr Sowerby and Mr Kitson to Ruzbachy Ski Park in Slovakia as part of our Erasmus+ One 4 All project. This was the third activity week in this project, where we met up with teachers and students from Slovakia, Germany and Lithuania.

No one in our group had any real experience of skiing on snow so we all had a lot to learn! We started with putting on ski boots and skis and using ski poles for balance and pushing ourselves along the snow. One of the hardest things to master was walking uphill and there were quite a few falls along the way!

By the end of the week, everyone had made lots of progress and some were even able to use the ski lifts to reach the intermediate slopes, and safely make it down again in one piece! The girls also enjoyed some extreme sledging next to the ski slopes!

During the week we also had the opportunity to visit a spectacular cave called 'Belianskia Jaskyna', have a huge snowball fight overlooking the mountains, ride a funicular railway and look at some amazing ice sculptures. The evenings were filled with sports activities, games and music. Lots of new friends were made.



All of the students (and staff!) had an amazing time and it was an experience they will never forget.



## Murder Mystery

Wednesday 20th March saw the murder of Barry Currell occur at Catcote Futures. The students at After College Club were tasked with solving the clues to find out who the murderer was. Each team walked to the murder scene where they studied the crime scene and found their first pieces of evidence. Through solving a range of different clues and activities, the students discovered that the murderer was Tony Shilson. The students concluded their investigation with a well-earned treat of pie, peas and gravy.



## Enterprise

Enterprise has taken on a whole new meaning this term. The Enterprise Team, based in the training room above the Catcote Metro in the town centre, have been taking on new projects and learning new skills to manufacture products to sell in the shop. The Enterprise Team has expanded from all day Thursday to now include Friday morning so more students get the opportunity to learn new skills within the Enterprise/ Manufacturing work area.

We have been making lots of new products from Rag Wreaths to Terrariums, and continuing with our Shabby Chic work. Everything we have worked on this year so far has sold very quickly in the shop and the Enterprise Team have also acquired lots of new work skills.





# Inclusive Skills

## Hairdressing

Chloe M and Leah D competed in the regional heats of the Inclusive Skills 'Hairdressing' competition at New College Durham in January. They only had a few days to prepare, practise and perfect their hairstyles before competing alongside other students in a pressurised environment.

We are very proud to say that they gained 2nd and 3rd place overall against other students from other colleges in the region. Hopefully this will be enough to go forward to compete in the national NATSPEC finals in Birmingham at the end of the year.

Congratulations both to the hard-working students and staff who supported in their journey. As you can see from the picture, they were justifiably pleased with themselves!

## Healthy Eating

In March, six of our Sixth Form students competed in a 'Healthy Eating' WorldSkills UK Inclusive Skills competition at East Durham College, again competing against students from other colleges in the area. The task was to create two healthy meals from the ingredients provided. Students had to demonstrate that they were working safely and were preparing the food skilfully. Marks were also awarded for presentation and being able to say why they chose those ingredients.

Students really benefited from the experience of visiting another college environment and meeting learners like themselves. Our students were great ambassadors for Catcote and made some new friends.

It was really great that one of our teams won the competition! The judge was particularly impressed with the organisation and team-work demonstrated as well as the final preparation of the meals. Both of our teams did exceptionally well as you can see from the photographs.

## Painting and decorating

The week after the Healthy Eating competition, we again visited New College Durham to compete in the regional WorldSkills UK 'Painting and Decorating' competition. Students worked very hard practising their masking, painting and brushing skills for two weeks leading up to the competition.

All the hard work definitely paid off with Catcote 6th Form having TWO 1st place winners. Well done to everyone involved!

Next term, we will continue the competitions in 'Employability' 'Customer Services' 'Staying Safe Online' and Information Technology. Hopefully we will be reporting success in these competitions in the next newsletter.



## NHS project

This term the NHS approached Catcote Academy to support them with getting the message out that 14+ Health Checks were being introduced. They wanted to create a message by young people for young people to highlight how important it was to stay healthy and to have these checks completed every year from the age of 14.

Research has shown that a large proportion of deaths of people with a learning disability/difficulty could have been avoided if they had had annual check ups to prevent a simple health concern from getting worse by being left untreated for any length of time.

The STEPS group decided they would like to be a part of this programme and spent some time designing a logo and strapline to promote this programme.

They came up with designs which could be put onto t-shirts, posters, mugs, key rings, magnets and badges.



The NHS were so impressed with the designs and the work the young people in STEPS had completed that they invited the group to speak at a conference in Darlington explaining their work and promotional tools. The presentation was fantastic and the students represented themselves so well.

From this presentation the group have been asked to make up a promotional sample box for every Doctors' surgery in Hartlepool and to present their message at different conferences across the country to promote the 14+ Health Checks.

They are also going to make a short film, which can be shown in Doctors' surgeries and played at the up and coming conferences.

This is a great achievement and, as their teacher, I am very proud of their hard work and use of their communication skills.



## Post 19 Social Evening

Catcote Futures has opened its doors to past and present post 19 students on a monthly basis since November.

The aim of these evenings is to enable young people to socialise in a safe environment, catch up with each other and to see how they are getting on in their lives.

Refreshments from Bistro included hot chocolate with cream, which appeared to go down very well and fun quizzes to take part in.

Our next planned social evening is on Tuesday 30th April at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you soon.



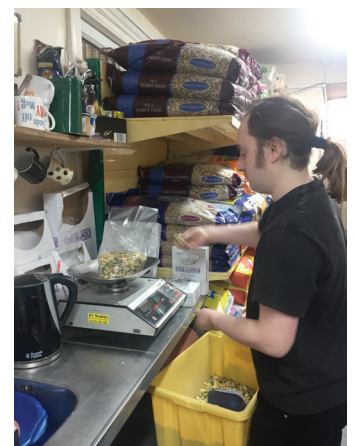
## Work Placements

We have had some exciting new business partners join our work programme this term. The young people working on the STEPS programme have the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and contact with real employers for up to 3 days per week in the work areas they are interested in.

This term has seen young people going out to work in the following areas:

- Pedigree Cutz
- Marks & Spencer
- Premier Inn
- Sam's Snooker Hall
- Dot's Place Café
- CraftWorkz
- Stranton Pets

We are also excited to announce we will be working with Niramax Recycling Plant in the garage and their sister site at Tofts Industrial recycling tyres; Footprints Day Nursery and Lindisfarne Care Home.



## New age Kurling

Students from Class 4 and S5 attended the Tees Valley New Age Kurling tournament. Students had to push the stones towards a target to score points. We entered three teams and all teams won matches in the group stages. Well Done everyone!



## Chinese New Year

Students in the Monday assembly group held a Chinese New Year Event. All students contributed to creating a dragon to kick off our event by decorating sections of the dragon's tail with their classes. On the day we made Chinese rattle drums, watched our dragon dance and ate some Chinese food. All the students enjoyed themselves.







# Summer Ball 2019



Catcote Academy's Annual Summer Ball will be held on  
Friday July 5th 2019

**The venue this year is The Historic Quay**

Tickets will be available after the Easter break from:

Catcote Academy main site reception  
Catcote Academy 6th form reception  
Catcote Futures reception

Tickets are £15 per person

There will be a drinks reception and canapés

Hot and cold buffet  
Awards and dancing



All students and families are welcome to join us, please note there are limited spaces so tickets will sold on a first come first served basis.

## Easter Fair

Over the spring term the students across Catcote Futures have been working hard in preparation for the Easter Fair. The students have all excelled themselves and made a wonderful variety of products ready to sell. The atmosphere during the fair was wonderful, and it was lovely to see so many friends, family, carers, colleagues and visitors. Thank you for your continued support. This year at the Catcote Futures Easter Fair a grand total of £751.33 was raised. Well done and a big thank you to all the students and staff who made the event possible and another roaring success. We would also like to thank Poundland in Hartlepool for their very generous donations to Catcote Futures.



## Zombie Outbreak



Following a meteor strike at Hartlepool Marina, terrifying zombies have been spotted at Catcote Futures! These undead menaces have been seen wandering the corridors, biting anyone who should get in the way! Thankfully, toilet-based Timelord Dr Loo was on hand to save the day!

The zombie outbreak was part of the filmmaking project which the students very much enjoyed. They learned a variety of skills through making the film, such as storyboarding script writing, editing and effective delivery of dialogue.

The project also included students from our hair and make-up group, who studied film and theatre make up effects and applied them to their peers.

Karryn Lorraine, who starred as Dr Loo in the film, said "I'm a huge fan of Doctor Who, I think Jodie Whitaker is brilliant so I had great fun being the doctor myself!" Matthew Steel, who played the evil zombie pirate Captain Aaaarrrr said "It was great! I was a very scary pirate!"

He most certainly was! Look for the film on YouTube!



## Catcote Cooks TV Show launches!

Look out Jamie Oliver, our culinary superstars at Catcote Futures have launched their own weekly, Internet-based television programme! The talented hosts of 'Catcote Cooks' teach students how to make a range of simple meals and snacks, and over the weeks have made a range of dishes from scrambled eggs with toast to chocolate brownies and biscuits.

As well as enhancing their independence skills such as following a recipe and various cooking skills, students have been working on communicating effectively with the viewer, which is trickier than it sounds! Our budding presenters have to talk almost constantly to fill in 'dead air' as well as trying to remember to smile!

Curriculum manager Pete Wells said "I'm absolutely delighted with the progress made by the Catcote Cooks Crew! Over the weeks I've seen them grow in confidence and professionalism. I'm particularly pleased with Adam, who has very much taken the lead in the sessions, coming up with very eloquent, inventive and entertaining scripts independently. I'm very proud of Robert too, who has taken it upon himself to be the cameraman. He remembers to vary his shots and is skilled at making his camera work tell the story of each dish brilliantly!"

"I also love the catchy Catcote Cooks theme tune which was written and produced by James Dean. Look out John Williams!"

At the time of writing, the Catcote Cooks website has been live for little over a week and has had over 600 visitors from across the world. You can see it, and pick up some pretty useful cooking tips, at [Catcotecooks.blogspot.com](http://Catcotecooks.blogspot.com).

## Catcote Cooks!

Sunday, March 31, 2019

### Week 9 - Easter Nests!

It wouldn't be Easter without tasty Easter Nests. Join the gang as they show you how to make these simple treats. Warning - the second video shows graphic chocolate theft!!!



## Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight's theme this year was 'she deserves', aimed at recognising and appreciating the many lady Fairtrade farmers who produce coco beans. This has been embraced by schools up and down the country including Catcote Academy and Catcote Futures. Hartlepool Town Fairtrade Steering Group, with lots of help from Catcote Futures, created a campaign linking the town with steering groups from Stockton and Middlesbrough for a combined Fairtrade project. To help raise awareness Catcote Futures created a huge model of a bar of Fairtrade chocolate which was to travel by bus, bicycle and by foot from Hartlepool, through Stockton and onto Middlesbrough. The design was created by Futures student Caroline and the model was actually made by lots of art students with the support of Shirley (Cadcote Futures art teacher).



Students Sophie, Helen and Abigail gave up their Saturday to take the huge bar of chocolate to the Vestry café and pass it on to the Hartlepool Deputy Mayor Rob Cook who then sent it on its way to Stockton. In addition to the publicity campaign, Catcote Futures also held their own Fairtrade coffee morning inviting parents and friends to sample our wonderful Fairtrade delights. The final part of the Fairtrade celebrations at Catcote involved the Academy and Futures creating their very own 'Chocolate Creations' for a town wide competition at the Hartlepool Historic Quay. CF3 created an amazing hat painted with Fairtrade chocolate and with sculptures of Fairtrade products decorating the hat. Futures art students melted white, milk and plain chocolate (all Fairtrade) and then created pictures and replicas of the Fairtrade Logo. Academy students used their Fairtrade ingredients to bake a delicious cheese cake. All entries were very impressive and received great comments of admiration from the deputy Mayor.

## Impact Days

Once again Catcote Futures has been inundated with requests from across the country from leaders in special education to come and visit our Learning and Skills Centre. Such is the demand, we put aside time and planned two 'Impact and Innovation Days' to welcome guests and to show them the fantastic work which takes place here in Hartlepool. This term we have received over 30 visitors from as far afield as London, Southampton, Lancashire and from northern regions. Leaders from Brent spent 3 days in Hartlepool with the intention of learning what they can from Catcote Futures in preparation for setting up their own Post 19 College. All visitors have given great praise for the innovative ways in which we prepare our

young people for adulthood. Chris Rollings – Head Teacher at Hadrian School, Newcastle said “thank you for an inspiring visit today. You are leading the way forward for our young adults and you must be so proud of the opportunities you are creating against all the odds! Some can talk the talk but you are truly walking the walk and I’ve come away so impressed with your achievements and plans for the future”. It really is reassuring to hear these comments from the professionals in the education sector who we value and look up to. We have already had more requests for visits and have planned our next Innovation and Impact Day in May.

If you would like your own visit to have a look around the college please contact our reception.

## Healthy Eating

On Thursday the 4th April, the Healthy Eating group at Catcote Futures had a special 3-course dinner to celebrate the hard work they have been doing over the Spring term.



The students have learnt about the importance of a healthy and balanced diet and have used this knowledge to create a range of different meals. The culmination of this lesson was to create a healthy three course meal from scratch to be enjoyed together. The students selected to have leek and potato soup for their starter, chicken curry for their main and a fruit salad for dessert. As you can see from the photo, everyone enjoyed it and there was a lot of empty plates!



## Comic Relief

Well done to our wonderful students who's hilarious video of jokes for comic relief set the internet ablaze! The video of truly awful jokes is brilliantly delivered and was enjoyed by over 7000 viewers in one weekend!

The students made the video during a comedy themed after college club session as well as in their YouTubing & Blogging lesson and delivered their jokes flawlessly. Dylan, one of the stars of the video said "I was honoured to be asked to be in the video! The jokes were very funny and I have remembered them all!"

Such was the popularity of the video, it was highlighted as excellent practice at the prestigious NATSPEC National Conference in Leicester. This was to over 240 leaders from specialist colleges and further education institutions across the UK, and the response was incredible!



## HARTLEPOOL ASPIRE TRUST CALENDAR 2018/2019

	AUGUST 2018	SEPTEMBER 2018	OCTOBER 2018	NOVEMBER 2018
Monday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Tuesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Wednesday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Thursday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Friday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Saturday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Sunday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25

■ Bank Holiday  
■ Holiday  
■ PD day (in)

	DECEMBER 2018	JANUARY 2019	FEBRUARY 2019	MARCH 2019
Monday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25
Tuesday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26
Wednesday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27
Thursday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28
Friday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29
Saturday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30
Sunday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31

	APRIL 2019	MAY 2019	JUNE 2019	JULY 2019
Monday	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Tuesday	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Wednesday	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Thursday	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Friday	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Saturday	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Sunday	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28