



Summer Newsletter 2019

Dear Parent and Carers,

I have not only been reflecting on the busy term we have had but also on an amazing year. We have introduced many changes and new initiatives in order to improve the outcomes for our students. These developments have placed extra pressure on our staff but they have all gone that extra mile to ensure that all our students are making progress.

Two long standing members of staff are leaving us this term. Tracy Seymour joined our teaching staff ten years ago and will be taking up a new post closer to home in September. Carole Clouston is retiring having had a number of support roles in school, spanning 27 years. Our thanks and best wishes go out to these two valued members of staff.

I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our wider community following the mindless act of vandalism at our Futures site and the recent broadcast on 'This Morning'. What is more salient, however, has been the hundreds of complimentary social media posts we have received on the work we are doing.

Our Trust is going from strength to strength which is a direct result of the work of our dedicated staff, the support we receive from parents and carers and, of course, the hard work and determination of our students.

Despite the pressures placed on us by continued Government funding cuts to our school, you have my assurance that we will continue to provide the best service we possibly can and look forward to receiving your continued support in the future.

I hope that you have a wonderful summer and all find some sunshine.

Kind regards,
Alan

Hartlepool
Aspire Trust

Catcote
Futures
your choice your future

Catcote
Academy
working together, achieving success

Challenge Week

This term Catcote Academy, Sixth Form and Futures took part in a whole trust Challenge Week. This is the first time this event has ran and was a huge success. The aim of the challenge week was to stretch and challenge students to try something new and raise money for two wonderful causes:

Outdoor Learning and Fitness Zone:

We plan to build an amazing outdoor area, specifically designed with our students in mind, which allows them the opportunity to explore nature, learn through play and try new things. This amazing project will be the first of its kind in Hartlepool and will be an exciting resource for both the Academy and community. It will cost around £450,000 to build and we have already sourced funding for £200,000. We hope to start building the first phase in the Autumn.

Miles for Men:

Miles for Men is a North-East charity based in Hartlepool, dedicated to raising funds for those affected by cancer both within the local community and nationally. To date the charity has raised in excess of £269,000, with £127,000 sent to Cancer Research UK and over £15,000 to Hartlepool Hospice.

To date students at Catcote Academy and Sixth Form have raised a huge £1150 and Catcote Futures will increase this total even more!

We would like to thank all of the students, parents and friends for their support during this event and look forward to starting the building of the Outdoor Learning and Fitness Zone.



Mock Interviews

As part of National Careers Week, students from Catcote Sixth Form took part in a 'mock interview' to prepare them for the world of work and had the opportunity to speak to employers from various sectors. Big thanks to North Tees and Hartlepool NHS, J & B Recycling, Department of Work and Pensions, Northumbria University Newcastle, Askham Bryan College, NYBEP and National Citizenship Service for taking time out of their busy schedules to give our students an invaluable opportunity to showcase their skills and to learn about different job roles. We have been blown away by the feedback from the employers such as "I left the academy with the biggest smile on my face because I was so impressed with the young people's interviews and how they conducted themselves throughout the day" and "I was delighted to support the Mock Interview session today at Catcote College. All the students had made so much effort to create the right first impression. They were all smart, polite and well mannered and a credit to the college. All of the young people I interviewed had great employability potential".

Well done to all of the students, we are very proud of you all!!!



KS4 Careers

Link 1,3 and 4 have taken part in an 8-week project led by NYBEP and DWP.

Students have identified their own skills and qualities, and linked these to specific job sectors. They have looked at growth sectors in Hartlepool and Tees Valley, focusing on jobs within these sectors that our students can do. They then learnt about the job application process - eg writing a CV, applying for jobs online, person specifications, job descriptions and completing job applications.

This week students have been preparing for interviews. They have learnt interview skills including what to do and what not to do. The interviews were employer led. All students worked hard throughout the course and although they were nervous, they all did brilliantly. One of the employers said he was so impressed with a particular student that if he was offering real jobs, he would employ him.



6th Form given the boot

In July, students from S3 and S2 planned and delivered a presentation to their peers and three judges from the Foundation of Light. They have spent the past 10 weeks working hard to design, budget and present an idea for a brand new football boot! Well done to Team ICE for getting first place!



Gatsby Publication

We are very proud to have contributed to a new national publication on using the Gatsby Benchmarks with students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Good Career Guidance: Perspectives from the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities sector contains 12 expert perspectives on using the Gatsby Benchmarks with students with SEND, and has been developed by the Gatsby Foundation in conjunctions with The Careers & Enterprise Company and Disability Rights UK. It is intended to inspire Careers Leaders, teachers and all those working with young people with SEND across specialist provision and mainstream schools and colleges.

This publication has been designed to sit alongside The Careers & Enterprise Company's SEND Gatsby Benchmark Toolkit which provides detailed advice and ideas to help schools meet each Benchmark. The publication is available online at www.goodcareerguidance.org.uk/send

Samson's Shoes

The students at Catcote Sixth Form are currently taking part in a ten-week project delivered in partnership with The SAFC Foundation. The aim of the project was to develop teamwork and presentation skills and to increase knowledge on certain topics of business and enterprise.

The students worked in teams to create and design a new pair of shoes for the club mascot "Samson." They created a business name, logo, slogan, carried out market research and advertising. They finished with a presentation in front of a panel of judges at the Beacon of Light in Sunderland.

Literacy and Maths was embedded throughout the project and it also promoted the development of essential skills such as teamwork, confidence and problem solving.



Thrive Family Course

Our Student and Family Liason Officer Lyn Younger has been working with 9 parents over a 6 weeks delivering the Thrive approach to help them understand and manage their children's behaviour and emotional wellbeing when at home.



The aim is to support families to learn more about the Thrive approach and its practical everyday application to family life.

This course helps parents and carers to understand:

- How being in a relationship helps their children's emotional development
- How children's brains and nervous systems develop
- How play and creativity is important for their child's healthy emotional development
- How to understand behaviours as communication
- How to support their child at times of challenge and change.

The key topics that are covered:

- * Introduction to the Thrive approach
- * Early Brain Development
- * Key Strategies
- * Trigger Times
- * Developing Thinking Skills
- * Moving on

All parents received a certificate stating that they have completed the course. They can now use their knowledge at home with their family.

Some fantastic feedback was received from parents, and already they are sharing information with others. This training will be used with other groups of parents and carers over the next academic year.

International Women's Day

On 8th March 2019 a group of students from Catcote Sixth Form were asked to present to 300 people for International Women's day. They spoke about their hopes and dreams for their careers and their aspirations for the future.

The event was organised by Unison and Hartlepool Borough Council and was their biggest yet.

Councillor Hamilton stated "Students eloquently spoke to the audience about what they hoped for in terms of their future and what they felt needed to happen in order to be accepted as valuable members

of the workforce. The students were supported on stage by staff from Catcote Sixth Form, who gently guided them through their speech. Again, the students received much warmth from the audience and I believe, received the biggest cheer of the night."



Erasmus Visit to Nida, Lithuania

A group of students and staff recently visited Nida, Lithuania as part of our Erasmus+ project 'One 4 All, All 4 One'. This was the final visit of this project involving students and was focused on coastal activities. As you may have seen from our Facebook posts throughout the week we were very lucky with the weather and this meant that we could enjoy lots of outdoor activities, including visiting the beach and swimming in the Baltic Sea!

As on the other trips that were part of this project, we met up with staff and students from schools in Germany, Slovakia and the host country, Lithuania. Our group was made up of Alfie B, Bradley B, Emily B and Sophie T accompanied by Mrs Straker, Mr Kitson and Mr Sowerby. The activities in the week included a tour of Nida, the small town where we stayed; a trip on a boat to visit a bird sanctuary and fishing village; a visit to an aquarium and Dolphin Show and fishing. We visited the beach several times and also enjoyed smoking and eating freshly caught fish (although, sadly, we didn't catch them!). In the evening, each country took a turn to run some team games and activities – as ours was the final night and Mrs Straker's birthday, we chose to introduce our friends to some traditional English party games, including Duck, Duck, Goose, Musical Bumps and Musical Statues!

Each of the students had to overcome some challenges during the week: being away from home; eating different and strange foods and sharing rooms with people they had never met before. Being able to communicate effectively with the other students was also quite difficult but, by the end of the week, everyone was getting along well and some new friendships were forged. Our students were a credit to Catcote, pushing themselves outside of their comfort zone and experiencing new things. Although we were all happy to arrive back home, everyone very much enjoyed their experience and took a lot from it. The staff are very proud of the way our students handled the week – well done!



Inclusive Skills Catering Competition

Students from Catcote Academy, New College Durham and The Oaks Secondary School all competed in a WorldSkills UK, Inclusive Skills Catering competition on Tuesday. Lyndsay Stevens from Cafe One77 (Families First - North East) came to judge and commented that the standard from every competitor was exceptionally high.

She marked the dish prepared by students including a surprise 4th dish based on the cooking skills demonstrated and the presentation and composition of the food.

It was a very tough hour and all competitors concentrated really hard to complete their challenge. Scores and photographs are going through to the competition organisers to decide if any of our competitors will be selected to go to the national finals in Birmingham. Fingers crossed for all in the regional heat.

****Winners will be announced this Friday****



Little Shop of Horrors

Students from Catcote 6th Form Performing Arts group have been performing in their latest musical, 'Little Shop of Horrors. Audiences were wowed as they watched the students excel themselves as the weird and wacky characters in Howard Ashman and Alan Merken's 1982 musical about a 'strange and interesting plant' from outer space.

Seymour Krelborn, played by Jake Calder, is a down on his luck orphan who encounters an alien plant that gives him everything he's ever dreamed of, but at a terrible, bloody price. The plant, played by James Hannant, brings him success until he finds out what it needs to grow – blood! Things go terribly wrong as the lives of people around him are in danger of being eaten by the plant. From Mr Mushnik, played by Connor Baldwin to Dr Orin Schrivello, a sadistic dentist, played by Luke Wray, and even his long-term crush, Audrey, played by Chloe Chawner – nobody is safe! But who will survive the plant-ocolypse?!

Mr Kitson, Director was extremely proud of his students and staff's hard work, saying, "I am absolutely amazed and so proud at their achievement! To go on stage and perform is difficult enough, but for these students who have additional needs makes it all the more special. I want to thank them for making my job the best in the world!" The students performed in three shows to packed audiences who all loved the show and can't wait to see what they do next!



Incredible Eggs

This year the students had the opportunity to watch and learn about the lifecycle of ducklings. We were very successful and all 6 ducklings hatched in total. We had three different breeds; Khaki Campbell, Indian Runner and Cayuga. The students learnt how to care for the animals and about the importance of the incubator and what role it had to play in the hatching experience. Students were very enthusiastic and the science room was very popular over the eleven days that they were here in school! Students improved their observation skills over time, research skills, communication skills and some prediction skills. Next year we are hoping to extend the experience and learn about in supporting native and pure breeds and the importance of conservation. The students can't wait till next year.



Beacon of Light

Sixth Form students enjoyed a visit to the Beacon of Light in April. They participated in a number of sports activities including football, dodgeball, table tennis and basketball. They had the opportunity for a tour around the sports facility and gained invaluable skills in teamwork, communication and learnt about the various careers paths in the sports sector.



Class 7 Caravan Holiday

Class 7 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Catcote's Caravan at Crimdon Dene Holiday Park. The sun shone brightly as we spent a day out of the classroom. In the morning, we spent time on the beach where we paddled in the sea and sunbathed on the sand. For lunch, the students planned food for everyone to share and in the afternoon, we spent time in the swimming pool and adventure playground! All the students and staff had a brilliant day and we hope to visit again before we break up for the summer!



Bell Boating

Students from class 6 have been to a Bell Boating event at Tees Barrage International White Water Course in Stockton. This involved students from other schools in the local area. They all took part in races against the other schools and we came 1st in one of them!

Both students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the day and we have been asked to go back again next year.



6th Form Inclusive Skills Awards

On 24th May winners of regional Inclusive Skills WorldSkills UK competitions from Catcote Sixth Form visited East Durham College, Peterlee to celebrate success at a well-deserved awards ceremony. They joined students from winning 6th Form colleges from around the region at the Regional Skills Awards! We had students take first place in Painting and Decorating, Art and Design and Healthy Living. Students were presented with their trophies in front of a packed audience. All of the students and staff are exceptionally proud of the achievements and are eager to compete again next year.



Inclusive Skills ICT

Two students competed in the final competition of the academic year, WorldSkills UK Inclusive Skills "Software Solutions for Business" at Northumberland College in Ashington. This involved creating and amending documents and spreadsheets and using email.

Students competed under really tough, real-life and time-sensitive conditions.

We have been informed that Reece has been selected to represent the North East colleges at the national Finals in Birmingham in November! We wish him good luck in his preparation. Look out for an update in the Christmas newsletter and on our social media.

Staying Safe Online

On 1st May 6th Form students attended Hartlepool College of Further Education to participate in a WorldSkills UK, Inclusive Skills 'Being Safe Online' competition.

21 learners took part from Catcote Academy, Abbey Hill, Hartlepool College of Further Education, and Official New College Durham. All students worked to exceptionally high standards. Congratulations to the 2 students from Hartlepool College of FE for winning the Intermediate and Advanced levels.

All students practised work-related skills while in a competitive environment and represented the Academy exceptionally well. Judges from the North East Cyber Crimes unit were impressed with our students' entries and encouraged them to ensure all our students follow their advice.



Parents & Friends Summer Fayre

The Summer Fayre this year was a fabulous event; we had the biggest attendance ever with over 800 people coming through the gates!!

The sun was shining and the atmosphere was great. Everyone was enjoying the live music including Michael Rice, our Eurovision entry; the funfair rides from Blizzard Beach and the lovely stalls selling a range of goods.



We raised over £1700 this year which is a fantastic amount; this money funds other amazing events we put on in Catcote Academy and Catcote Futures, such as the Summer Ball, Summer School, Residential trips and Challenge Weeks.



A big shout out to Phil Thompson, Kelly Gooding and Angela Jeffries for all the beautiful cakes and scones they made, they went down a treat. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Parents and Friends Team for organising and supporting this event.



A massive thank you to all the students, parents, carers and staff who support this fantastic charity and the events they host. Without their kind donations these events could not take place.

If you think you could offer 2 hours each half term to support this charity please get in touch, we always welcome new members.



Summer Ball 2019

What a turn out this year at our Summer Ball! We had a large cohort of leavers this year, with 19 students in Year 11 and 12 in Year 14.

Of of this group, 26 of our leavers attended the Summer Ball so we could congratulate them on their achievements and say goodbye.

This is such a lovely event to host and attend; the students looked fabulous (some we didn't even recognise straight away) and to see them arrive in a big party bus just made everyone smile.

Students start their journey with us at the age of 11 and grow into such lovely, kind young adults who are getting ready to step out into the world.



This journey couldn't be highlighted any better than in the slide show Mr Kitson organises and produces for us every year; and every year making parents and staff cry!!! A big thank you to him as we know how much work goes into this kind of production.....especially at the end of the year.

We would also like to thank our Parents and Friends charity which supports and sponsors this event every year to keep costs as low as possible and provides the transport and trimmings which make this event so special.



ITV - This Morning

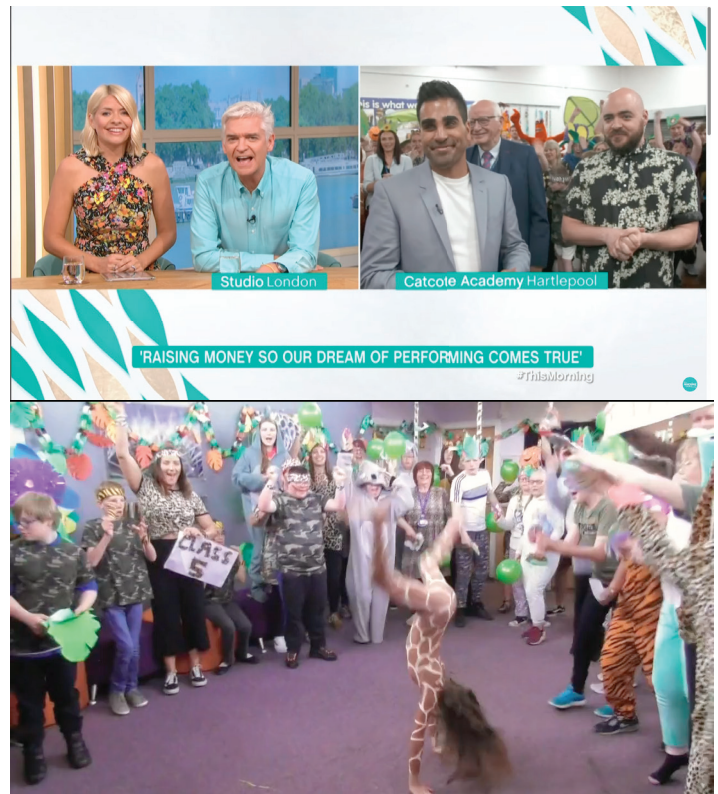
One of the most effective ways our students learn is through Performing Arts. Students learn to express themselves in different ways and develop confidence; we have seen incredible progress that has exceeded all expectations. Students who, when they first arrived at Catcote, found it too difficult to enter an assembly are now performing on stage for hundreds of people.

The sad part is that we receive virtually no funding for performing arts projects and with endless government cuts facing all schools we fear that our children will miss out on this valuable experience.



We won't let that happen at Catcote, so we have to take matters into our own hands and raise our own money. For the second year we have created our own version of an American craze - a Lip Dub! They are so much fun to film and watch and we involved everybody in the school, from students to teachers, admin staff, and our legendary headteacher!

We uploaded the video to Facebook on Wednesday last week and initially thought it would be a nice thing for parents, students and friends of the school to enjoy and if they could donate some money to our GoFundMe page, then that would be brilliant. What we didn't expect was the amazing response from people all around the world! The biggest surprise was when we had a call from ITV's 'This Morning!'



This Morning told us they would be sending a camera crew to us with one of their reporters, Dr Ranj and doing a live broadcast from our school hall! Everybody was so excited and couldn't believe that our video had touched the team at 'This Morning' so much that they wanted to share it with their viewers. But that was nothing to when they told us live on TV that they had donated £3,500 to our GoFundMe page meaning we hit our target! Then when Holly and Phillip told us they were giving us £2,500 each of their own money we couldn't contain our emotions!



Since our 'This Morning' appearance we have been all over the news, from Hello! Magazine and the Daily Express to Prima Magazine and the Daily Mail! All of this media attention has allowed us to raise over £12,000 at the time of printing!

This was such an amazing experience for all of us at Catcote and we cannot thank the 'This Morning' team enough for their support and overwhelming generosity. The money they have helped us raise will help to pay for things like microphones, sound systems and lights and enable us to produce musicals, that are very expensive to put on. It will literally change the lives of some of our students and allow them to grow in confidence and self-esteem in unimaginable ways.

If you still haven't seen the videos, look on the Catcote Academy Facebook page or the 'This Morning' website! And if you would like to donate to our fund, search for 'GoFundMe Catcote'.

It's been an incredible year for Performing Arts at Catcote and Mr Kitson would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff and students who have help make it a year we will never forget!



Mock Interviews

Catcote Academy currently delivers a study programme called STEPS, based in the training room above Catcote Metro in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

This programme is heavily weighted towards work experience and external work placements within a variety of local businesses within the Hartlepool community.

The aim of the programme is to develop the skills of young people with learning disabilities/difficulties in the following areas:

- Employability skills
- Independent Thinking Skills
- Life Skills
- Increasing confidence and maturity
- Getting 'work ready'

We aim to equip our students with the skills required for paid employment and to offer them as many opportunities as possible to experience work first hand within real and meaningful placements in the world of work.



Mark Rycraft the Manager of Middleton Grange and Catcote Enterprise advisor has championed Catcote's initiatives to increase opportunities and raise awareness within the local community.

Mark very kindly offered support to give our students the opportunity to experience a 'real' interview outside of their training room. The students were given a job description, for which they had to produce a full C.V. and complete an application form followed by a formal interview.

They arrived appropriately dressed and were interviewed individually by Mark in his offices in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

These experiences are invaluable for our young people to raise aspirations and offer meaningful encounters, which they can use to develop their skills and hopefully gain meaningful employment in the future.

The STEPS students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, despite the nerves beforehand and were so proud of their ability to complete a full interview in a very real setting. As their teacher I can't express loudly enough how well they did and much their pride and confidence has increased through this invaluable experience.

I would once again like thank Mark Rycraft for his continued support of Catcote Academy and its employment initiatives, and of course a massive well done to the STEPS students!!!!



Sir John Holman Visit

We were honoured to host a visit at Catcote Academy from professor Sir John Holman, from York University. Sir John was commissioned by The Gatsby Foundation in 2013 to research and develop a framework of 8 benchmarks that define what 'good careers guidance' looks like in schools and colleges. The Government's careers strategy is built around these benchmarks. At Catcote Academy and Sixth Form we are committed to providing a high quality and structured programme of careers provision for all of our students and are working towards achieving all of these benchmarks by 2020.

During the visit, Sir John had the opportunity to have a tour of our vocational areas at our Learning and Skills Centre and also enjoyed a visit to our retail outlet Catcote Metro. He was interested in finding out how the benchmarks are being met in a special needs setting. He met and chatted to our students about their aspirations for their future and was very impressed with them all.



McDonalds Visit

At Catcote Academy and Sixth Form College, we are keen for our students to learn about different jobs available to them and what qualifications and skills are required to compete for those jobs.

We have been working in partnership with Jasper Maudley, Franchisee of ten local restaurants in the area for the past three years. He has offered work experience placements for a number of our students, which has resulted in paid work. Jasper and his team are keen to continue to work in partnership with us to further support our careers programme, this includes employer visits, assemblies and one-to-one mentoring.

On the 6th May, a group of our Sixth Form students visited the Marina Way restaurant. They were met by Jasper and Regional Operations Manager, Ryan Norman. The students were given the opportunity to visit each area of the restaurant and speak to the staff members about their jobs and the skills and qualifications required. It was an invaluable experience as it has made students more aware of the variety of job roles available to them.

We really appreciate the support that Jasper and his team have given to Catcote Academy and Sixth Form. We look forward to working in partnership in the future to further improve outcomes for young people with special educational needs.



Futures Challenge Week

Catcote Futures held their Challenge Week beginning on Monday 8th July. The aim of the week was for the students to undertake a range of challenging activities to stretch themselves as well as raising money for charity.

Monday began with a team building and preparation morning. The students had to build a tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows, with prizes for the tallest and the best structure.

Monday afternoon saw the visit of an Invictus athlete to Catcote Futures. Caroline Buckle, who is a star in para-lifting, led all the students in an exercise circuit, with every student in the college being involved.



Tuesday morning was Art Attack. All the students worked together in their pastoral classes to create a giant letter. Each class also took part in weaving a giant heart, the results of which were viewed using a drone. Mr Chapman even got involved!

We all experienced a Catcote Flower Show on Tuesday afternoon. Each class was given a selection of plants and plant pots to use to create a garden in a given theme. The judges had to pick a winner from themes including magic, insect, butterfly and sport.



Wednesday saw the three-ingredient challenge. Each class was challenged to create a well presented, unusual and delicious dish from just 3 items.

Every class exceeded expectations with dishes including ice-cream bread, sausage rolls and chocolate orange cake. The overall most successful creation was a sweet potato jacket with a BBQ chicken filling. The guest judge, Carol, was so impressed she has said it is going on the menu at The Vestry!



It was pop video time on Wednesday afternoon. Each class within the college chose a song, created a storyline, directed, starred in and edited their very own pop video. The results were amazing! Queen, The Proclaimers, Tony Christie and Bruno Mars all had a Catcote Futures-style makeover!

Thursday saw a change to our schedule due to the weather. We had planned to have a litter picking morning, followed by a colour run, but instead we arranged a whole college Talent Show. There were entrants from every class with singers, dancers, comedians and video entries all competing. It was a very enjoyable day.

Friday morning was the danceathon. Students competed in dancing in 6 different styles over the morning, with a winner being crowned at the end of each round. The judging panel found it very difficult to decide on a winner due to the effort of all the students.



Future Challenge Week cont...

The finale of the week was a whole college BBQ on Friday afternoon. Due to the work of the Enterprise groups, we enjoyed sausages, chicken and burgers.



The week concluded with an awards presentation, with students and classes being rewarded for their hard work across the week.

Hardest Working Class – CF1

Best Team Work – CF6

Most Innovative Idea – CF3

Hardest Working Student – Warren Bradley

Most Supportive Student – Adrian Dougherty

Most Motivated Student – Jamie Auton



Sports Day

For the 3rd year running we have not only held competitive sports such as running, jumping and throwing events but also ran sensory activities on the schools Multi Use Games Area. Activities included lots of target games, parachute, boccia, kurling, balloons, bubbles and sand and water play. This year we also had a speed cage and staff from the beacon of light in Sunderland to help out. Yet again the weather stayed fine and thank you for the support from parents on the day.



CF1 End of Year Trip

Over the past academic year CF1 have worked very hard to complete their college accreditation. They have experienced a range of different lessons including theatre make-up, pottery, film studies and dance, and completed outstanding work.

As a treat, the students got to pick the activities they wished to do. After a class vote, it was decided that a trip to Larry's Lanes for a couple of games of bowling, followed by a meal at Sambuca's were the preferred options.

A good day was had by all. The students enjoyed the competitive nature of the bowling. The three-course meal at Sambuca's was lovely too.

Well done CF1 for all your hard work this year!



Sweet Summer Treats in CF3

Throughout the summer term, all of the students within CF3 have been contributing towards our enterprise term topic of 'Sweet Summer Treats'. The students have actively been involved in tasks such as, shopping for ingredients, interacting with customers, handling money, finding and matching items, following instructions and many other functional life skills.

The students have also been applying their problem-solving skills, by using assistive technology to control different pieces of food preparation equipment.

Some of the students worked very hard and worked out which switch controlled the blender they were using to prepare the cold, fresh summer milkshakes. Fantastic team work everyone!



Vestry Buffet

In June students working in the Vestry prepared and served a buffet for the dignitaries and armed forces parade in June. This was a civic function attended by the Mayor and Lord Lieutenant of Durham. Students were commended for their diligence and the way they conducted themselves in a very high-pressed environment.



Praise from NATSPEC

NATSPEC, the association for organisations which offer specialist further education and training for students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, have praised Catcote Futures for its innovative approach to internet safety. Students in our media company 'Caticote Productions' have written, starred in, directed and filmed a number of humorous, but hard-hitting, safety films.

The films highlight some of the dangers of irresponsible behaviour on the Internet. Titles include "Fired Before He's Hired!" a humorous film about a young man whose friend uploads inappropriate video footage of him just before he goes for a job interview. His potential employers check his online footprint and, of course, he doesn't get the job.

Another favourite is "Cyberbullies Never Prosper!" This cautionary tale shows how cyberbullying can get out of hand and affect people's lives 24 hours a day. The end of the film sees star Carl Rowbotham hit by a car as he runs away from the bullies at college!

Look out for a brand new e-safety website from Catcote Futures in the next academic year where we will be showcasing these amazing movies!



CF4 and CF6

As part of our accreditation, 'Pet Care' and 'Feeding Animals' we had two visits to Newham Grange Leisure Farm. We had so much fun the first time we had to go back again.

The students delighted in feeding, handling and stroking the many different animals, from small pets such as guinea pigs and rabbits and large farm animals such as sheep, goats, horses and donkeys. We must not forget the farm's cat who was a favourite for some of our students.

We had a great time learning new things about all the different animals we met.

The farm staff answered all the questions posed by our students and explained what each animal needed to be healthy and happy.

Staff and students worked together to get the swinging log into action, what a team effort. We were very lucky to have the weather was on our side as the sun shone throughout both visits.



Summer Term in CF 8

CF8 has been busy this term developing their artistic and business talents and improving their health, all whilst achieving against their personalised outcomes.

During creative sessions we have been developing a living wall idea and mural garden. We have finalised the designs and will be painting the mural in the new term on our return to college. This has helped us to develop our woodworking skills and we have also been producing stenciled poppies that will make up the central focus point of the headland scene within the mural.



Inspiration for the sensory garden mural has come from our “Picnic and Paint” sessions. Over the term we have visited places like the Headland and Wynyard Park, where we have been learning to sketch and produce landscapes using watercolours. On a number of occasions we visited The Vestry, painting still life pictures using free movement and exploratory techniques to produce magnificent observational drawings.

Within the Pastoral group we have combined money skills and healthy eating and have been producing healthy breakfasts by planning, shopping and cooking. The sessions have included recognising the traffic light system for healthy eating, physical exercise and cooking on a budget. We have also been looking at different vocational areas and preparation for work, job interviews and learning health and safety signs and symbols we would expect to see in the workplace.

Our enterprise work has continued with the ‘Trash to Treasure’ theme during which we have been making doorstops and oven gloves for sale.

During the fantastic Challenge Week we created an ‘I Love Catcote’ fence art using plastic cups and a giant ‘I Love Catcote’ sign where each class decorated a letter of their choice. As a result each letter was unique and individual to each pastoral class; we had an amazing time and thank you to Danielle for organising the event.

Early in June, students turning up for horticulture were devastated to discover vandals had caused hundreds of pounds worth of damage to our facilities overnight. Intruders had entered the gardening area at Catcote Futures and slashed the newly erected polytunnel doors and end panels, as well as along the entire 30 foot long side wall. We contacted the police and handed over footage from the CCTV.

The Hartlepool Mail picked up the story and we were truly overwhelmed with the response we received. Students, parents and the local community of Hartlepool have all been amazing with pledges of help, support and even offers of money. We simply did not expect that so many wonderful people would come forward following the mindless act of just two people. BBC Look North reporter Jonathan Swingle visited the next day to interview Assistant Headteacher Barry Currell and talk to the students. They spent all morning at Catcote Futures and presented a brilliant report on the evening news. Sally Davis, parent of Scott, set up a 'Just Giving' page which was supported by fifty-eight followers and raised just over £1000. Local businesses including Bloomin Als, Stagecoach, Travis Perkins and JT Atkinson contacted the college offering their support. Dave Shepherd from the security firm Silverthorn Group and Steve Morgan from Kreative Technologies were quick to respond by upgrading our security system and setting up a 24 hour monitoring of all the cameras, all free of charge! They are also providing regular patrols, ensuring our site is safe. The police have also offered their support following the discovery of a cannabis farm elsewhere in the town. After breaking up the farm the police donated compost and plant pots to Catcote Futures instead of sending them to be destroyed. We really are overwhelmed and grateful for all the support we have received and would like to thank you all for demonstrating to us that there are a lot more good people who deserve the headlines.



Rotary Games 2019

On Sunday 7th July 2019, Catcote Futures sent a team of four students to represent the college at the Rotary Games. This is a competition based in Middlesbrough specifically designed to allow students of all ages with disabilities to compete and experience different sports. Our students enjoyed taking part in various different sports across the day including table tennis, archery, curling, darts, walking football and wheelchair slalom. We came back with a total of 6 medals from a range of different events. A fantastic day was had by all, and we will definitely be entering again next year.



Trashion Show

Eco-Schools makes a difference...have fun, get creative!

As part of gaining our 'Eco school' status and raising awareness of recycling our plastics and other non- biodegradable rubbish around school we have invited the whole school to take part in the Catcote Academy 'Trashion Show 2019'. Each class has been involved in creative careers, media/ publications and designing and making an outfit fit for the runway. The students produced fashion pieces such as bottle top blazers, paper dresses, shoes, handbags, hats/ hairpieces and a recycling bin dress for a wheel chair. Materials used in outfits included bottle tops, crisp packets, newspaper, plastic bottles and wrappers, fruit nets, cans and ring pulls.



It was a fantastic inclusive event that all students enjoyed and participated in. The students and staff are very proud of their creations. The atmosphere at the Trashion show was electric! The room was set out as a professional fashion runway with a live DJ and lighting. Everyone was clapping, posing and dancing. It was Amazing!!

We are hoping to exhibit in a public space to promote our creativity in September. Watch this space!



Lindisfarne

Sixth Form students have continued their work with Lindisfarne Care Home this term. Our students are really growing in confidence with their interaction with the residents now. As well as working generally with the residents by chatting and brightening up their day, students have started to specialise within areas of interest with a view to doing some individual placement work next year.

Students have been cooking, hairdressing, gardening, entertaining and doing odd jobs on their weekly visits, working alongside Lindisfarne staff.

Working with Jackie, our Careers Lead, we have successfully secured placements for several of our students to start in September.

Thanks to Beryl and her staff for making us feel welcome and part of her fantastic team.



Thank you Morrisons

Morrisons' distribution warehouse have been working with Catcote Academy to deliver an employability programme, including arranging a visit for the students. They have now topped that by donating a massive amount of fresh fruit for our sports day!

We would like to say huge Thank You to Bev Kime and all the staff at Morrisons for this very kind donation, our students really do appreciate it!

We look forward to continuing working together next year

Loco Maths

In May, students from our 6th Form went to Inspire 2 Learn in Middlesbrough to take part in a functional maths task based on the construction of a railway line.

Students discussed what makes good teamwork and had to ensure they used all of these attributes within the task. They had to decide on how the work was to be shared and make an action plan to get the job done in the time frame given (they even cut their lunch short to get back and finish the job!!)

Students used maths skills to cost up the railway line but also had to consider social and environmental factors. The cheapest option was not taken by either of our teams as they justified a higher cost to help stop the destruction of housing and nature.

Students also had to design train carriages and a station which would attract more customers to rail travel before presenting their projects to the audience.

It was an excellent day and we really want to thank Andy and his team at Inspire 2 Learn. We look forward to returning for another challenge soon.



Mrs Clouston retires

Mrs Clouston is retiring and leaving Catcote after 27 years. She would like to send this message to our students:

I have seen many changes throughout our school, but the thing that has never changed or will change is you, our students. You are the ones and the reason why we come.

We teach you, but you also give us so much in return. I have lots of wonderful memories and some horror stories all of which has made my time here so special and I wouldn't have changed anything.

Someone said once you work at Catcote you don't want to leave, how true is that!

As I have said previously Catcote gets into your heart and stays.

I wish Catcote every success in the future and feel very privileged to have belonged to an amazing school. But now I'm going to spend time with my family and go on nice holidays. I will miss you all so much, Mrs Clouston.



Goodbye and Good Luck

Mrs Seymour will be leaving our school today to begin a new job in Durham in September. We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Tracey for all of her hard work and commitment to our students at the academy. Tracey has worked at the academy for 10 years as a valued teacher of our students in Yellow pathway and as a TLR. We all want to wish Tracey lots of luck and happiness in her new teaching post.



Thankyou Tony

Our horticulture teacher Tony Shilson has taken the decision to retire after 12 years of sharing his skills and expertise with the students of Catcote Academy and Catcote Futures. During this time, we have seen horticulture grow from a single 8x12 greenhouse in 2007 to fantastic resources including huge greenhouses, polytunnels and raised beds at both the Academy and Futures. However we have not seen the last of Tony as he has agreed to comeback part time in September as an instructor to ensure we still have the skills to help our students blossom.



HARTLEPOOL ASPIRE TRUST CALENDAR 2019/2020

CATCOTE ACADEMY, CATCOTE 6TH FORM & CATCOTE FUTURES

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

	DECEMBER 2019	JANUARY 2020	FEBRUARY 2020	MARCH 2020
Monday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	2 9 16 23 30
Tuesday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	3 10 17 24 31
Wednesday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	4 11 18 25
Thursday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	5 12 19 26
Friday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	6 13 20 27
Saturday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	7 14 21 28
Sunday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	1 8 15 22 29

	APRIL 2020	MAY 2020	JUNE 2020	JULY 2020
Monday	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Tuesday	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Wednesday	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Thursday	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Friday	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Saturday	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Sunday	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26

■ Bank Holiday
■ Holiday
■ PD day (in)