



Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, may I thank you all for your continued support; this is especially so this term as we lost our beloved head teacher. Mr Chapman was an incredible leader who was respected by staff, students and parents. He was a man with a big heart who cared deeply for the whole Catcote and SEND community. He has left a big legacy; one that all of us at Catcote will strive to continue. Through the 'Go Fund Me' page we raised £2660 which will be used to create a quiet memorial garden in our new outdoor learning and fitness zone.

Catcote has continued to flourish this term because of the commitment of our students and staff. Our students have continued to excel in a number of areas and there has been an extensive range of extracurricular events that are highlighted in this newsletter. I would also encourage you to visit our website, Facebook and Twitter pages for updates.

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved an array of awards this term which recognise the excellent work happening in Catcote. In September we won the 'SEND Champion' national award for excellence in careers and our extensive employer engagement. We achieved the Eco Schools Silver Award for students' work in environmental action and learning. Recently, we also won an 'Inclusion and Diversity' national award for our partnership between our Sixth Form and Lindisfarne Care Home.

In previous newsletters, we have told you about our plans to develop our school field to make it more accessible to all learners by creating an outdoor learning and fitness zone and we have been fundraising for this project for a number of years. I am delighted to announce that we have secured enough funding to start work after Christmas and this will take 16 weeks to complete. In addition to this, we have introduced the OPAL initiative (outdoor play and learning) which aims to give students the opportunity to explore, cooperate and learn through outdoor play in a range of situations.

Please enjoy reading our Christmas newsletter, which highlights all the amazing work this term and, once again, thank you for your continued support. I would like to join with my colleagues at Catcote by wishing all our students and their families a very Happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to the opportunities that 2020 will bring.

Lisa Greig, Acting Head Teacher

Catcote
Academy
working together, achieving success

Catcote
Futures
your choice, your future

SEND Award

The Careers and Enterprise Company, in partnership with the Gatsby Foundation celebrated the work of schools, colleges, businesses and careers professionals at their annual award ceremony on Friday 27th September at The Royal Society of Chemistry in London. Over 200 nominations were received for the 12 categories and the winners were chosen by a panel of independent judges.

Catcote Academy were delighted and honoured to win the Category for “Special Educational Needs Champion’ for excellence in careers. This is a national and prestigious award and reflects our whole school approach to careers education. It is a testament to the visionary leadership of our CEO Mr Alan Chapman and the hard work and commitment of all the staff, employers and students who have contributed to the continuous development of the careers programme for many years. The judges commented that “Catcote Academy have demonstrated extensive employment engagement operating in a disadvantaged community and also made a serious contribution to the creation of the Gatsby benchmarks.”

Representing Catcote at the awards ceremony were Careers Leader Jackie McGarry, Work Related Learning lead Amanda Metcalf, and students Abbey and Chloe.

Jackie said “Receiving the award on behalf of Catcote Academy is a real honour and reflects the hard work and commitment of all staff, students and employers to develop a structured careers programme across the Trust. Careers and enterprise is at the heart of everything we do; it is embedded within all key stage areas of the curriculum and across all learning pathways to prepare our students for adulthood and ‘the world of work.’ Our ultimate aim is to increase the amount of young people with special educational needs who gain paid employment.”



Catcote Academy and Catcote Futures would like to thank all of our partners who have supported us over the years, including our Enterprise Adviser Mark Rycraft, our Enterprise Co-ordinator Philip Todd, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Talentino Career Development Company and our large network of employers that enhance our careers offer.

Amanda said “We are overwhelmed to have won this award. It’s fantastic that Catcote Academy and Futures have been recognised for innovative programmes which have been developed to take careers and enterprise forward over the last five years. The personalised programmes of each young person is tailored to their needs and offers them ‘real life’ work experience. These meaningful encounters with employers lead to work placements and supported internships raising aspirations and a sense of self-worth.”

Amanda added “The girls really enjoyed the experience of going to London and were fabulous representatives of Catcote Academy.”

Police and Riot Van Visit

A big thank you to 'Coggy' from Hartlepool Neighborhood Team for bringing the riot van to Catcote Academy for our students to have a look around. It was an event all students took part in. PC Coggin also explained the role of a Police Officer in the community and their day to day duties. Students then got the opportunity to ask about the different careers available within the police force.



OPAL

This term we have introduced a range of new and exciting equipment as part of our Outdoor Learning and Play (OPAL) programme. Students now have the use of giant building blocks, a full-size sand pit boat, scooter boards, a tyre track area and two window washing stations! The introduction of these activities are the start and we look forward to continuing to improve the students' experiences in unstructured time to ensure they have every opportunity to socialise, play and learn outdoors!



Exciting news!



We are going to start work on the Outdoor Learning and Fitness Zone!

I am pleased to let you know that we have secured enough funds to build our Outdoor learning and Fitness Zone, after several years of planning and hard work. We have received grants and donations from Sport England, Bailey Thomas, Beatrice Laing, Bernard Sunley, James Knott, Rothley Trust, Wolfson and Garfield Weston, Lindisfarne Care Home, NE Security, Car and Commercial Testing, Miles for Men, Beau Snowdon's grandparents and P Hume (Logan's Nana), as well as funds from the Academy.

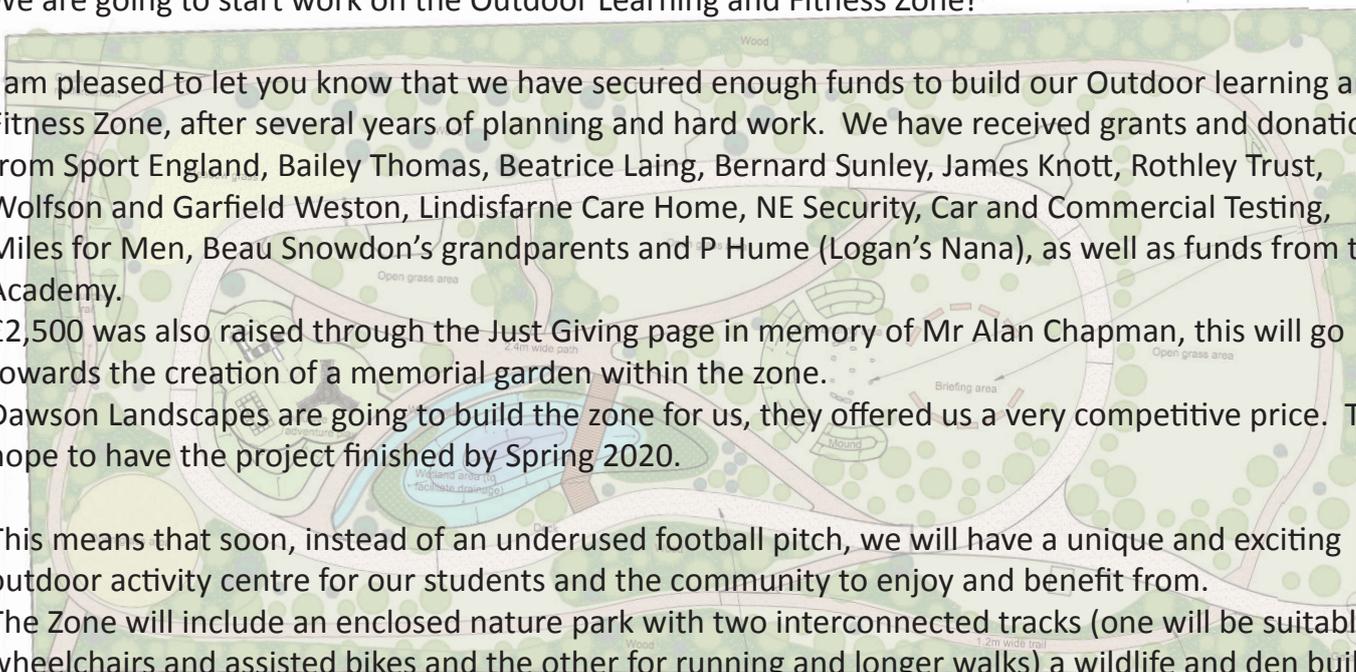
£2,500 was also raised through the Just Giving page in memory of Mr Alan Chapman, this will go towards the creation of a memorial garden within the zone.

Dawson Landscapes are going to build the zone for us, they offered us a very competitive price. They hope to have the project finished by Spring 2020.

This means that soon, instead of an underused football pitch, we will have a unique and exciting outdoor activity centre for our students and the community to enjoy and benefit from.

The Zone will include an enclosed nature park with two interconnected tracks (one will be suitable for wheelchairs and assisted bikes and the other for running and longer walks) a wildlife and den building area, adventure play equipment, welly wash, outdoor gym and sensory music area.

There will be an opening event in the Spring.



Eco Schools Bronze and Silver Awards

Catcote Academy are working hard to become an Eco School and are really pleased to inform you that we have already achieved our bronze and silver awards, and are well on our way to achieving green flag status. As part of this process, we have created our very first Eco Committee who have worked extremely hard to create an action plan focusing on litter around the school grounds and the local community. The hugely successful 'Trashion Show' which was part of the work towards gaining Eco School status.

Students have helped to build raised flower beds to grow fruit and vegetables in our greenhouse area. This will enable all students to get their hands dirty!!

The Academy now has plastic carrier bag dispensers fitted near its exits. Students are keen to promote the re-use of the bags, encouraging people to place clean used bags in them for others to use. The Academy has also taken part in the switch off fortnight to promote saving energy in the school.

Also, students from across all pathways have taken part in charity events to raise money and food items for Macmillan, Children in Need and the Hartlepool Foodbank.



Green Tree Schools Award

Along with all the excellent work that staff and students have already contributed to achieve the green flag award, Mr Pounder and his students have also gained a Bronze and Silver award from the Woodland Trust's 'Green Tree Schools Award Scheme'. Well done to all involved in such a fantastic cause.



Eco Schools Sainsburys

We would like to say a big thank you to Sainsburys. When they heard about our Trashion Show last year they decided to run a raffle to raise money for us to buy a reusable drinks bottle for each student,



replacing the 9000 plastic cups we use and throw away each year. Sainsburys also offered to help with the planting of new trees and flower beds in our outdoor area on the school grounds.

ICE Bridge

A big thank you to Seymour Engineering for spending a morning at Catcote Academy. Our students from Key Stage 3 and 6th Form took part in the ICE 'Build a Bridge' project where students helped to build and dismantle a 15ft long suspension bridge. The students were able to transfer their Enterprise commandments and CORRECT skills into the challenge, including team building, communication and active listening skills and problem solving. They wore personal protective equipment and learnt about the health and safety in a work environment.



Travis Perkins Donation

The staff and students in link 3 would like to thank Travis Perkins for their kind donation of wood, glue and nails. This donation has helped our students create their cricket stools for their enterprise project, and learn valuable skills. These skills have helped students build confidence in their own abilities and enhance their chances of future employment. To say thank you, students visited Travis Perkins in Hartlepool and proudly took in their stools. John, the store manager, kindly gave them a behind the scenes tour. He was a fantastic guide who took the time to explain each area of the yard. Students gained valuable insight into the workings of the business. He explained everything from accounts to the different types of materials needed for construction. Students have previously visited a building site and now have an understanding of where the builders purchase all their materials. The students thoroughly enjoyed their visit and thanked John for his support in their enterprise.



Fight Fit Gym

We would like to say a great big thank you to Steve Cotson from 'Fight Fit Gym' based on the Headland, who has kindly donated three bags of games and toys to the Academy. Steve continues to support us and has done so for the past six years and hopefully many more. Thank you



Food Bank

Students from link 3 have been collecting for the Hartlepool Foodbank. With the support of students from across the Academy they were delighted to drop off their donations. After the weigh-in they were informed they had donated 200 meals. This could not have been accomplished without the support of staff, students, parents and carers. Thank you everyone!



Kim's Employability Journey

We would like to say a huge thank you to Kim who kindly delivered an assembly to our Key Stage 4 students. Kim completed a Supported Internship in 2018, through which she worked at McDonalds in Marina Way in Hartlepool. Kim was successful in obtaining paid work at McDonalds, working in the dining area in the restaurant.

Kim independently produced a PowerPoint presentation about her 'journey' into the world of work and confidently delivered this to students in their Monday morning assembly. It was great to hear how well she is doing and that she is really enjoying all aspects of her role.

Well done Kim!

We are very proud of you and we are sure that you have inspired lots of our students.



Careers – North East Skills event

Students from our Sixth Form College attended the annual North-East Skills Event at Utilita Arena in Newcastle. The event was jam-packed full of interactive, and informative activities to inspire our students to think about their options and choices for the future.

They had the opportunity to have face-to-face discussions with employers, industry experts, Colleges and Training Providers from across the region who were on hand to offer impartial advice and guidance.

They attended a wide variety of stands and enjoyed speaking to the different organisations who were exhibiting at the event.

Students really enjoyed the day and feedback from them was very positive. They have a better understanding about what the future has to offer them. One student said "It was amazing to see all the opportunities together, I was asking about apprenticeships and found out loads".

We have made this an annual event for our students, to help give them the very best information and choice for their future.



Interfaith Week

Classes across the Academy have been celebrating Interfaith Week. Class 1 made black poppies to remember people from other faiths and to add to the carpet area. They also made purple poppies to remember the animals.

Class 8 have been researching super heroes and decided to look at religious super heroes; Hercules and Malala Yousafzai. They created posters and pictures.

Class 10 have been watching Newsround every day. This has had sections on different religions and students have discussed the similarities and differences. They also looked at important times of the year and how people are remembered for what they did in the past.



Class 11 chose to look at Remembrance Day in more detail and visited some local memorials. Some were also chosen to take part in a local event at Summerhill and read a poem out to a large crowd. We have also been looking at the six different religions around the world. Students have been researching the symbols and religious artefacts associated with the faiths, as well as discussing why these are so important to people.

Class 12 have been looking at different religions and their beliefs. They looked at different artefacts and learned why they are important. They took part in activities in the classroom.

Class 13 had a Buddhist morning taking part in meditation, daily teachings and practiced kindness. Link classes invited Luke Taylor a pastor from New Life Church in Billingham, into school for a lesson. He discussed his religion and explained why he chose to follow his calling. Students interacted really well and asked lots of interesting questions. This was very well received by all students.

6th Form Student Council

Running alongside the General Election, 6th form have been holding their own elections – to form a brand-new Student Council to represent students' views. Two students from each of the groups at our Brierton Road site have volunteered and been nominated to be student councillors. These students have already made a suggestion to leadership about a change they would like to see and we look forward to a decision soon.

Meetings next year will be regular and be ran by the students themselves on the issues that affect them. Staff hope this process will help students with independence and becoming more confident.

Captain Cook Project

This term Catcote Academy 6th Form students took part in a community project to explore the life of a local hero Captain James Cook. Over the course of the term we followed his journey from a working-class childhood to an esteemed explorer in the Royal Navy. Students followed his journey around the world by focusing on important parts of his life and identifying the reasons why he was successful and relating this to their own experiences.

Throughout the project they had the opportunity to visit Marton where he was born, Great Ayton where he was schooled, Staithes where he worked as a greengrocer's apprentice and Whitby where he worked in the Royal Navy. Students had a great time following his journey and were rewarded with a trip to Captain Cook's Monument to commemorate a great project. Throughout the year, 6th Form will be basing our learning around projects where we will allow students to demonstrate and practise the skills required to prepare them for adulthood.



Employer visits – NHS



Students from Catcote Sixth Form College spent the day at the University Hospital of Hartlepool. They had the opportunity to learn about the different jobs available within the hospital and also got to speak to staff carrying out a wide range of roles, including Doctors, Nurses, Health Care Assistants, Physiotherapists, Ward Clerks and Surgical Support Staff!

All of the students really enjoyed their visit and were surprised to find out how many jobs existed within the NHS. As a result of the visit they are more aware of the opportunities that could be available to them, including cleaning, catering, laundry, gardening and porter duties. It really has opened their eyes about the opportunities in this sector.

Students really enjoyed applying and receiving plaster casts to each other's arms and trying the equipment in the rehabilitation gym.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust who took time out of their busy schedule to show our students the invaluable service they provide to us all.



Diversity and Inclusion Award

Catcote 6th Form were awarded “Best Programme or Initiative of the Year” at the inaugural “Diversity and Inclusion Awards” sponsored by Coca Cola European Partners. This was one of five awards presented at a celebration evening at the “World Skills Show” at Birmingham NEC.

The award celebrates organisations who have successfully broken through the barriers which traditionally exclude certain groups from society as a whole. It recognises those going above and beyond in their support for young people from a range of backgrounds, championing difference and inclusivity in the Further Education (FE) sector.



Our 6th Form was recognised for the work they have been doing with Lindisfarne Care Home, bringing two marginalised groups together, people with additional educational needs and older people, most of whom live with some form of dementia. There were nominations from organisations from across the country. The judges were particularly impressed with how the relationships between students and residents had developed with both groups gaining confidence and having opportunities to experience new things together.

The programme was possible due to the great support the College receives from all of the staff at Lindisfarne but, in particular, Manager Beryl Anderson. Beryl has opened up the care home allowing students to experience and work in the hair salon and kitchen, as well as work alongside entertainments, cleaning and maintenance staff. We have lots of students in placements at Lindisfarne and we hope that with the recognition of the award, continued support from staff at college and Lindisfarne and a lot of hard work, students will be successful in gaining paid employment after education.

World Skills Finals



It was another successful year at Sixth Form in the Inclusive Skills regional heats. Two of our outstanding 6th Form Students won their heats and went on to compete alongside the best of the best nationally in ‘Catering’ and ‘Software Solutions for Business’ at the Inclusive Skills competitions at WorldSkills UK at the NEC Birmingham.

Everybody competed at such a high standard in an exceptionally intense atmosphere, watched by hundreds of visitors.

Unfortunately, our students did not manage to win a medal but we were very proud of the way that they congratulated the winners of their categories. This demonstrated our students’ maturity. They were great ambassadors for Catcote Academy. Very well done to Reece and Brandon for reaching the national finals.

Inclusive Skills Competitions

6th Form continue to compete regionally in the Inclusive Skills competitions. The first one of the year was the Arts and Crafts competition. All of the students in 6th Form competed in an internal competition to find the best artist in a 'basic' and 'advanced' category. Our internal competition was judged by our receptionist, Lisa, who remained impartial. She chose three students at the basic and advanced levels to go through to the regional final at Stockton Riverside College.



Six of our students went to the regional finals and competed against students from six other colleges. The competition lasted an intense hour and some superb work was done.

Although none of our students won on this occasion, it was a great learning experience. Students used many of their CORRECT skills, preparing them for adulthood, independence and the world of work.



Coffee Shop Enterprise

This term S2 have taken control of the 6th Form coffee shop as part of their employability and enterprise sessions. We have worked very hard to rebrand our coffee shop, research and taste test products, complete customer surveys, advertise our goods and learn effective customer service skills. Students work on a rota based system so that each student gets the opportunity to serve customers and develop their money skills. We are proud to say that our profits are 3 times higher than those of last year and this is all down to the hard work of students in S2. As part of the sessions, we also discuss events around the 6th Form, to which we have donated some of the enterprise funds to organise parties and purchase decorations for special events.



Working at J&B Recycling

Emma has been working at J&B Recycling for 3 years and is really becoming a part of the team. Emma works in the office doing tasks such as photocopying, scanning and shredding. Due to her hard work, Emma has now been invited to attend the staff Christmas Meal at the Stag and Monkey. Emma feels like she is part of the office team and is very excited to join her colleagues for the festive celebration. Emma said, "I like working at J&B because I like the staff and they are all kind and helpful"

We would like to thank all the staff at J&B Recycling for their continued support and wish them all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Tees Amp Visit

On Tuesday students from link 2, link 3 and link 5 attended the Tees AMP site in Middlesbrough. They were greeted by the site manager who explained all about site safety before they could access the site. He explained all about the various trades needed to complete a building. Students were particularly interested in the bricklaying trade as some are considering a future in that area whilst others enjoyed learning all about the construction industry. All students enjoyed their visit.



Aladdin Pantomime



Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Catcote Futures held their annual Macmillan Coffee Afternoon on Wednesday 25th September. Parents and carers were invited to join us for an afternoon of coffee, cake and conversation. A massive thank you has to be given to the students from the Supported Internship and STEPS programmes who helped to run the coffee shop for the event, and to the students of Catcote Futures who made all of the cakes that were enjoyed.

During the coffee afternoon, a very different event occurred. Aileen, who is in charge of the kitchen at Catcote Futures, raised money by getting her head shaved. She 'braved the shave' by getting Amanda Metcalf to shave off all of her hair in front of the students and parents.

The afternoon was very enjoyable and successful, with a grand total of £601.90 raised. Well done to all involved!



Annual Christmas Concert

The sounds of Christmas carols once again filled Hartlepool Art Gallery to the delight of many. For the fourth consecutive year, Hartlepool Community Singers have worked alongside Catcote Futures to put on a superb Christmas Carol service. Anth and Matthew were a great hit with the audience and the choir as they performed their singing with signing actions. The evening, in addition to providing great entertainment, also raised £435 through ticket sales and a very popular raffle.

A huge thank you goes out to Phil, Claire and Jodie for supporting the students, to Joan for her organisation and providing raffle prizes, Ange and the enterprise team for 2 wonderful hampers and of course to the performers; Hartlepool Community Singers and Anth & Matthew from our singing and signing group.



CF3 Enterprise

In preparation for the enterprise events during the autumn term, students from the 'aiming high' pathway have been working very hard on a variety of different projects. The students have been helping to prepare products such as personalised name decorations, glitter glasses, sweetie jars, angel wing decorations and more. The students have also been applying their communication and calculation skills as part of the process. Some of the students have also helped to make price tags for the products, matched and sequenced letters, followed various instructions (e.g. verbal, visual or symbolled) and used assistive technology. Great Work CF3!



Children In Need

On Friday 15th November 2019, Children in Need came to Catcote Futures. A fun afternoon was organised by the Special Events Committee, with several activities including a pastoral challenge and the official duck race.

Each pastoral group was given the challenge of creating a sweet treat for Pudsey. The classes were tasked with the guidelines of it being ready for 2pm and having to contain the colour yellow. A range of different creations were made including decorated cupcakes and an iced cake, which were judged by Barry. CF1 and CF6 came out victorious.

The afternoon continued with the official Children in Need Duck race. Each student was given one of the ducks to cheer on, and the race was streamed onto the big screen in the hall. After an eventful race, the champion duck was named as Beakwell Tart.

The students and staff paid a donation to wear something yellow for the day to help raise some extra funds. A raffle was also organised for the day, with students winning a range of different sweet treats. Overall a very fun day was had by the students, with a total of £119.90 being raised for a fantastic cause.



Christmas Market

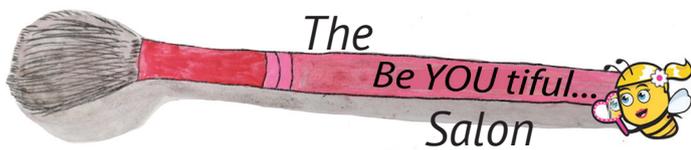
Thursday 28th November 2019 saw Parents and Friends hold their first ever Christmas shopping night at Catcote Futures. The event, which ran from 5-8pm, opened up the college to stalls from the wider community, offering a range of Christmas products.



The support from the students, parents, staff and friends of Catcote was amazing with over 300 people attending. The range of products available included Christmas wreaths, Christmas Eve boxes and hot chocolate sets, sweet hampers and lots of cakes. In addition, Parents and Friends ran a raffle, bottle tombola and a cake stall. We were even lucky enough to be treated to a visit from Santa and his elves. All visitors received a complimentary mince pie and glass of mulled wine.

A massive thank you to Amanda Metcalf and her Parents and Friends team for running the event and for the members of Catcote Futures staff who gave up their evening to help the night run smoothly. The event raised over £700, which will be used to help fund equipment and run events across all the sites in the Trust. The feedback we have received from the event has been very positive, and we are already looking forward to next year's shopping evening!





Over this last term, a team of students at Catcote Futures has been working together during Photography and Graphic Design to create a new name and logo for the Salon at Catcote Futures. They have been learning all about photography skills, computer based skills, team work and the process around creating a product. The students had a lot of fun, not just using photography to create this logo, but also painting, drawing and using different art resources which were then scanned into the computers and manipulated using Photoshop to create some great work. Over the last two weeks, the students also had some fun making some Christmas images. We took photos around college and used the green screen to dress us. They were then imported into Photoshop and they worked as a class to choose the background and decide how the images would look. They worked very hard to complete this task over the term and successfully renamed the salon the 'Be-you-tiful' Salon, with its own unique logo.



Catcote Court

The Monday drama group at Catcote Futures got a special visit while studying law and order. PC Geoff Coggin was able to visit the group for a morning to talk to them about what it is like to be a police officer. The group had a great time listening to him telling stories about the times he has been out and about in Hartlepool and got a chance to look around his van. One staff member even found out what it was like to be handcuffed and locked in the back! The group have since been completing sessions of Catcote Court! This has involved acting as if they were in a court room, with a judge, a victim, a defendant, Police Officers and even a jury. They have used the knowledge provided by PC Coggin to give information in court and even used these sessions as a chance to arrest Santa for trespassing! Thankfully he was given a non-guilty verdict!



Catcote Christmas Fayre

Thanks you to everyone for once again supporting our Christmas Fayre, this was a huge success and we have raised a total of £1457.64. All the organisation by parents and friends is greatly appreciated for this and all the other event they have put on throughout the year.



Reprographics

The Reprographics team celebrated receiving their biggest order to date when they were asked to print calendars for the Hartlepool Art Club. Reprographics are not new to printing calendars as we print them each year for small projects. When the team were approached by the Hartlepool Art Club, they were delighted to take on 'real work' of a very high standard.



Students imported, formatted and resized each image and matched them to the correct months. Once the proofs had been signed off the students then went into production to print 500 copies. The order was not completed without issues; the students experienced lots of problems with the printer jamming but this only helped the students to develop their problem solving skills. The team quickly discovered that Adrian and Adam were whizzes at sorting the printer jams. James was excellent in coordinating the team, Karryn collected the printed copies, Anth and Jamie trimmed them on the guillotine before Connor and Karryn punched and packed the finished product. We had a tight deadline to follow which the team met comfortably. They even had time to print copies of some of the pictures onto mousemats as a thank you gift to the Art Club for the order.

CF1 - Annie

As a Christmas treat, the students of CF1 had an absolutely fantastic visit to the theatre to see the hit musical "Annie." The students were absolutely enraptured by the show, especially with the lights, disco ball and, of course, the music.

The show was performed at the ARC Theatre in Stockton by the extremely talented students of the UAL Musical Theatre group, who were also kind enough to do a meet and greet for the star struck class after the show.



Teacher Pete Wells said "The show was absolutely amazing! All of the class were completely engaged throughout. It was a wonderful experience for them and, as ever, they did us proud! I must make a special mention to the staff at The ARC Theatre, who couldn't do enough for us, they were truly superb." Before the show, the students were treated to a delicious slap up Italian meal at the Sorriso restaurant on the High Street. Again, the staff here were wonderful, making many, many adaptations to the restaurant and meals for us as well as giving us their undivided attention throughout!



Where it may be a 'Hard Knock Life' for Annie, for the students of CF1, this Christmas it's 'Easy Street!'

Autumn Outcomes

We have had a very busy time this term with work related working, community visits, independent living skills and Picnic & Paint sessions.

Work related learning found us at The Vestry, The Metro, Craftworkz, J&B recycling and the Bistro. In addition, we have had visits from the Sixth Form, working in Futures Reception, and Freelance artist Angela Reed, helping make ceramic Christmas gifts. For Children in Need the enterprise team made chocolate bars in the shape of Pudsey Bear and sold them through the Bistro. Whilst out in the community with work skills we have been researching different vocational opportunities, including visiting Tesco and Blooming Al's. My thanks to Monique at Blooming Al's who has been so amazing and kind donating Christmas gifts and spruce for our Christmas wreaths. Thanks to her generosity we are on target to raise over £400 for our enterprise fund.

We have been exploring our local community visiting art exhibitions together with a variety of cafes and restaurants. By ordering from the different menus, we have been developing money skills, budgeting and building confidence by independently ordering and requesting items. For independent living skills, we have also been visiting the bungalow at the Sixth Form, catching the public bus and confidently using our travel training skills and shopping on the way. Once at the bungalow, we cooked lunch and cleaned the bungalow practicing our independent living skills.



During Picnic and Paint we have been visiting local beauty spots around the Headland. Unfortunately, most of the time has been spent dodging the showers but when the cloud broke, we have produced great watercolours, which we are hoping to develop and have an exhibition in the Spring term.

In Make, Mould and Mend we have been studying traditional crafts and national events. Student have encountered mono printing to fresco plaster mouldings and making items for Halloween events and the Christmas Fayre. Whilst with CF1 we have made sensory props for our sensory stories making ceramic Sheldon snails and a giant Millie the mermaid for the sensory garden.

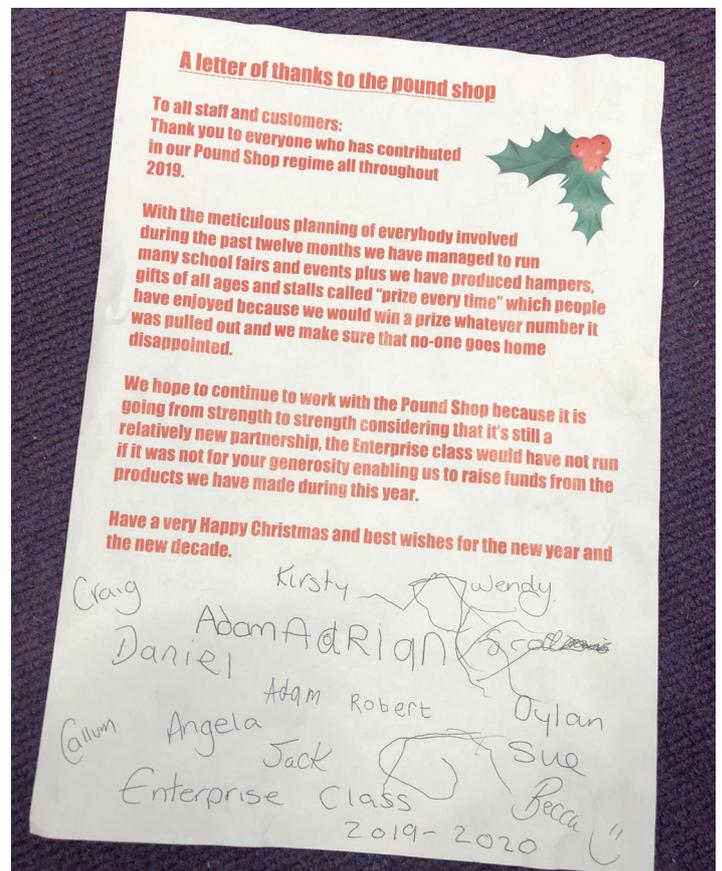
Thank you Poundland

We would like to thank the Hartlepool Poundland Store for their continued support to our Enterprise classes. Their support all year round enables us to raise valuable funds to keep these classes self-sufficient. This enriches the lives of all our students as the funds they raise are used to go on regular outings.

We also gain valuable life and work skills from working as a team to design and create many products to sell at our fayres and on our Facebook page.

Thank you to all the staff and very generous customers.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.



St Hilda's Church 'Light the Tree'

It was not just the trees; the whole audience lit up following another fantastic performance at St Hilda's Church. Schools from across Hartlepool sent a choir to St Hilda's Church on 16th December for the 'Churches Together Community Carol Service.' Catcote was represented by the singing and signing group from Futures. The event was a great way of bringing churches and schools together to support each other, demonstrated excellently when the whole church sang along as Demi and Anth stood at the front singing and signing to 'Starry Night'.

Once again, a huge thanks goes out to our performers and Phil, Jodie and Claire for all their support.



Annual Awards

On Monday 2nd December, Catcote Futures celebrated their Annual Awards Afternoon at the Hartlepool Art Gallery. The event was well attended from all the Catcote Futures students, and supported by parents and carers with over 170 people attending.

Our new students were rewarded for their smooth transition to Catcote Futures from both Catcote Academy and other providers in the North East. The Lifelong Learners were given certificates of recognition for continuing their educational journey for another year. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd year received recognition for their accreditation achievements in 2018-2019 with a 100% pass rate. These Awards, Certificates and Diplomas were presented by our very special guest of honour, Geraldine Chapman.

The sing and sign group from Catcote Futures provided some entertainment by performing two amazing songs to the delight of our audience. They were absolutely fantastic and received a massive round of applause.

The second half of the awards afternoon was taking up by presenting the individual student awards. All of the students winning the awards had been nominated by members of staff for going above and beyond in their effort and attainment throughout the year.



Congratulations to all the students at Catcote Futures for their achievements and huge appreciation to the staff for providing the opportunities to make this happen. We hope to see all the students, parents and carers in the summer for our Awards Evening.

Remembering our beloved Head Teacher



Mrs Davison is retiring

Mrs Davison, our Exams and Data officer, is retiring and leaving Catcote after 7 years.

Mrs Davison has been an invaluable employee who has been reliable, proactive, supportive and always happy to help with anything she can.

She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best in her retirement.



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)



We look forward to the opportunities that 2020 will bring. Here's wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!