



Dear Families,

Once again, you will see from this newsletter that the students have had an amazing term and have been involved in a variety of rich learning experiences both within and outside of school and college. We hope you enjoy looking through this newsletter and our social media sites.

Throughout the year we have continued with our refurbishment programme across the Trust to improve the provision for our current and future learners. This has included decoration and new carpets on all sites. Further improvements are planned to take place during the Summer Holidays. We are pleased to announce that we are still on track to install new automated gates at the Catcote Academy site which will add further security and safety.

We are also pleased to announce that we have been able to grow our offsite sixth form provision and we will be opening up a new sixth form centre near Throston. Students who will be there in September have already received letters.

As part of our quality assurance, we invite external partners to come into the academy to review our quality of education. In May 2023, three external senior leads, one of which was an OFSTED trained inspector visited the school and carried out various activities over three days to look at the quality of education. We are pleased to share with you that we were acknowledged as a 'leading school' (highest grading) in Leadership at all levels and Quality of Provision and Outcomes'.

We continue to be recognised locally and nationally for the work we do within the Trust and we are delighted to tell you that the college won the NATSPEC 'Innovative Award for Mental Health and Wellbeing'. This is for the work they do around 'Sensory Forest Bathing', you can find more details later in the Newsletter.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. Have a lovely Summer and we look forward to welcoming all students back in the new academic year on Tuesday 5th September 2023.

Mrs Greig
(CEO)



6th Form



This term, we have continued working closely with a local graphic design company to support us with our branding. New colourful wall elements are now a feature within our offsite 6th form provision and at Catcote Futures, our Post 19 college.

Catcote Futures



NATSPEC Awards

Catcote Future has been honoured with a prestigious, national NATSPEC award, for best Innovative Approach to Mental Health and Well-being. Learners from Futures watched live as the announcements were made online across the country. The Catcote Futures Sensory Forest Bathing entry beat off lots of competition with over 50 entries from specialist colleges throughout the UK. Teacher, Lyndsay who devised and delivers the programme, collected the award at the annual NATSPEC Conference held at Stratford upon Avon. We are extremely proud to have received this award and the recognition for all the brilliant work which takes place at Catcote Futures.



Well-being

Staff at Catcote Futures took part in a team building and well-being day at Baby Moon camp site in Guisborough. The day was dedicated to reconnecting with nature, rejuvenating spirits, and fostering a stronger sense of unity within the team.

Staff engaged in a variety of team-building activities and immersed themselves into the woods for a guided forest bathing experience. The day provided a great opportunity for staff to bond, reflect and allowed time to look after their overall well-being. A great day was had by all.

Some of the staff are following this up with an adventurous 10km staff sponsored hike before the end of term, so a huge good luck to them raising money for Catcote Parents and Friends Charity.



Shaun on the Tyne Painting



St Oswald's Hospice visited Catcote Academy to share an assembly with students about our 'Shaun the Sheep' sculpture. We are proud to be part of the project and support the Shaun on the Tyne event journey; our students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity around the North East. Working with Emily from St Oswalds, our sculpture will be part of over 100 'Shaun The Sheep' sculptures that will form a trail throughout Newcastle in July and August 2023. It has been painted by students from across the school, with every student having a fingerprint with the final element of the design.





Reading Corner

This year at Catcote we have been working really hard to improve our reading curriculum offer around the Academy. Over the last term we have purchased a new phonics and reading scheme, new furniture and created widgeit signs to improve access to the library for all students.



Reading corners have been established around the Academy to encourage a love of reading and new fiction and non-fiction books

have been purchased. These books have been levelled to match the newly implemented reading scheme, to give students more opportunities to read and broaden their vocabulary and cultural capital.

It's all about the Reading

We have recently invested in a new reading scheme called Rapid Plus. This runs alongside our reading intervention scheme Fresh Start. All students in our Red Pathway have a weekly reading session where they read a book at their level and complete activities linked to what they have read. We listen to every student read in these sessions. The students appear to be enjoying the new books, as the fiction and non-fiction texts are current.

We have a Yoto player in The Hub! A Yoto player is a screen free audio player for students. The Yoto Player plays audiobook stories, music, activities, sound effects, radio and podcasts.

We have a range of stories for the students to access. They enjoy listening to the podcasts. Yoto plays daily jokes which some of the students try to remember and repeat.



We have created reading and comfortable spaces for students to have some time alone, or with their friends. All books in the reading spaces have been levelled, so the students are able to access books that interest them.



Gateshead Half Marathon

With just 6 weeks of training thanks to my injured knee, to say I was apprehensive about running the Gateshead Half Marathon would be an understatement! However, thanks to my brilliant physio, the training went well and the fantastic cause I was raising money for spurred me on. The day started with rain and continued that way for most of the race! However, it was a great course and a really well organised event. A few short, steep sections and some long steady inclines proved a challenge but still really enjoyable. Overall, I was pleased with my time of 2 hours and 32 seconds and absolutely delighted to have raised £700 for the Catcote Academy Celebration Prom. Thank you so much to everyone who generously donated to this fundraising event.



Fantastic Tina, everyone within the Academy is very proud and grateful, well done!

Hartlepool Foodbank

6th Form class S4 visited Hartlepool Foodbank. They were welcomed and shown around by Lisa and Hilary. After questions, Phoebe and Emily worked in the back, picking the food and packing a bag which would be given to one client. Declan weighed a food donation and students found out how the weight is used to measure how many people a donation of food will serve. Students showed Lisa and Hilary a piece of work they had been doing on “Fact and Fiction” about Foodbanks. It was interesting to talk to the staff as they were able to challenge and make our students consider some of the answers they had given in class.

They came away full of ideas about different projects they can do to help the Foodbank, including the offer of the opportunity for a student to volunteer in the warehouse within the shop! Thank you to Lisa and Hilary for giving up their valuable time, to provide our students with such a great learning experience.



King's Coronation

All students around the school took part in activities to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles. Students decorated their classroom and communal spaces, learnt about the Royal Family and competed in a "Great British Bake Off" competition. Classes then took part in a 'Royal Disco', had tea parties in their classes and enjoyed toasting marshmallows.



One of our teachers, Paul Sowerby, was honoured to be invited to The King's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

The invitation was 'for services to education' from the Department for Education which related to an Inclusion and Diversity Award received for a project his class did with Lindisfarne Care Home in Hartlepool.

The afternoon included full access to the historic gardens of the Palace and High Tea was served. The food was amazing, and Paul got to shake hands and chat to Camilla, Queen Consort of the UK.

It was a wonderful experience, made even more special by the King's Coronation preparations for that weekend. Another great achievement.



Hartlepool United Football Club



Students from Key Stage 3 and 4 enjoyed a visit to Hartlepool United FC. Students all received an Easter egg, had a tour of the ground and even met the Players! They had an amazing day! Following the tour, two of our students, John and Reece were invited to be Ball Boys at the Hartlepool United FC match on Saturday 22nd April. HUGE thanks to Marty Hewitt and John Sutheran from Hartofourclub1908 for arranging this. Both students had such a special day and an experience they will never forget!

Art Bytes

Catcote Academy students have had such an exciting opportunity through Art Bytes! Last term, students entered artwork into the national competition, competing against other secondary schools. The winners from schools across the region were invited to the celebration event at The Biscuit Factory art gallery, a beautiful cultural venue in the North East. Prestigious artists handed out special prizes and certificates to those chosen as regional and national winners. Well done to all who took part and thank you for the support we have received throughout the voting process. All student artwork and a live stream of the event is available to view in the Arts Bytes online gallery. We are very proud of the standard of work our students produced and exhibited into the gallery.



Channel 4 TV Skills Challenge

KS3 students took part in channel 4 schools "Have a Go" TV Skills Challenge. They learned how a TV programme can go from an idea to being broadcast on Channel 4. 60 students took part in two small screen workshops alongside a live question and answer session with Channel 4 studios. The students enjoyed working as part of a Production Team – this included roles such as Production Accountants and Production Managers; a Creative Team – roles like Script Supervisors and Actors; and a Technical Team – this includes roles like the Grip, the Camera Operators or Sound Engineers. Catcote would like to say a huge thank you to Michael Longhi and the staff from Channel 4 for an amazing day! The students loved every minute of it!



Crucial Crew

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 in Red Pathway visited Crucial Crew at Hartlepool Power Station. They looked at many different scenarios including deliberate fires and the consequences, substance misuse, road safety and cybercrime. Everyone enjoyed the scenarios, learning lots of information about how to keep themselves safe.



Nature Pond

Class 6 have made a nature pond for tadpoles at school, recycling an old sandpit. A friend of Catcote Academy donated some tadpoles to support with our water topic this term. This is giving students the opportunity to watch the tadpoles grow through their cycle into froglets.



Catcote Cobras

This term our football team Catcote Cobras have played a number of games against other SEND schools. Students have both hosted games at Catcote and travelled around the local area to showcase their skills. This included competing in a large football tournament hosted by Spennymoor Football Club at their home ground.



Challenge Week

Students around the Academy took part in 'Challenge Week' to raise money for Catcote Parents and Friends and to support the Celebration Prom. Challenges included hiking Roseberry Topping, community litter picking, walking 320 laps of the school, dance-a-thons and much more!

Litter Picking Challenge



Class 7 have worked really hard cleaning up the community this week. We all piled on the suncream and walked from school to Seaton, filling lots off bags of rubbish on the way. We finished it off with some chips and an ice cream as well as learning how to travel on a public bus. All together we walked 5 whole miles and the students worked as a team with a great attitude! Well done class 7!



Link 1 Dancethon

For challenge week Link 1 did a sponsored danceathon, dancing non-stop all afternoon. Well done everyone!



Bounceathon

Bouncing in with our next challenge were Class 2, Class 3, Class 4, Class 5 and LS1. On Thursday 25th May students took part in a “Bounceathon” with the aim to keep bouncing from the start of the school day all the way through until home time. We are proud to report that we bounced all day! Both students and staff had lots of fun and raised lots of money towards the end of year Celebration Prom.



Challenge Week Roseberry Topping

As part of challenge week many of our Red Pathway students took part in a hike up Roseberry Topping. They all did incredibly well with every single member of the group making it to the summit. A huge well done to everyone who took part!.



Colour Run

We would like to say THANK YOU to all of the students who took part in the Challenge Week 2023. To end the week, students celebrated raising an amazing £1643 by taking part in a colour run and disco. All the students had a great time.



Elwick Grange Tall Ships Performance

Once again, the Catcote 6th Form Spotlights media group has done us proud!

This time it was their “Tall ships” themed performance which was held on Thursday, 29th June at Elwick Grange Care Home. Dressed as pirates, the 5 students performed a set of 5 songs to the delighted residents, all the while, encouraging their audience to join in, get up and have a sing and dance. The atmosphere was simply wonderful as the group sang well known sea shanties and a selection of various pop songs in the blistering sun.

Catcote Spotlights were only one of the acts that took part in the very first Elwick Grange Care Home music festival. Other acts included; The Sacred Heart School choir singing a selection of songs from the musical “Matilda” as well as various residential singers, local artists and many more. Tori, the Events Coordinator, said that she loved having our students on board and spoke very highly of them, especially since they were the opening act.

The Spotlights media group really did out-do themselves this time demonstrating how well they work as a fantastic little, tight knit unit. A particular shout out must go to our very own Dylan who wooed the crowd with his very sweet rendition of Elvis Presley’s “in the ghetto”.

A fantastic day was had by all and to say Mr Hann and Miss Lynne were proud of their little group is a massive understatement!

Everyone wished them good luck with their performances at the Tall Ships event, which you can read about later in the newsletter.



Fab Labs

Creative Arts council students and the volunteers of this year’s Tall Ships event created bespoke tags ready for the “Wall of Fame” at the event. Their names hung alongside participants from across the town who were involved in the volunteering programme.



Careers Enterprise Challenge Week

A total of 536 students from eight schools across the region discovered careers opportunities and flexed their design muscles in this year's SEND Enterprise Challenge – competing to take home a prize in a Dragons' Den-style final.

Students met a range of employers and learning establishments including Cleveland Fire Brigade, the Northern School of Art, our local colleges and Stockton's Arts Centre, ARC, to learn about jobs and career paths.



The event was sponsored by Middlesbrough-based international industrial services firm Altrad, which also set the challenge – to build a vehicle using reclaimed and recycled materials and create a method of communicating the importance of sustainability.

Mentors from the firm, including a number of operations, engineering and project managers were all on hand in schools on Monday 15th May to kickstart the week.

The week ended on Friday 19th May with an opportunity for students to present their vehicles to a panel of judges from Altrad – including UK Onshore Vice President Karl Bramwell and Lee Tranter, its Operations Manager: North East, Yorkshire and Humberside – with Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen awarding trophies to the winners.

Mr Durkin's class won the award for Most Impressive Idea for Team "Wheely Fast" for their amazing TikTok video about their passion for recycling in school.

Students from Miss Carter's class were given an award for excellent problem-solving skills and Micha, one of our Sixth Form students, was awarded a special trophy for her confidence in presenting to the whole school.

Mayor Houchen said: "It was a pleasure to meet the students and see all their fantastic responses to the challenge. As we continue to lead the way in the clean energy schemes of the future, sustainability is front and centre of everyone's minds and it was great that the challenge reflected this. "Events like these are crucial to give all young people a quality insight into the world of work, get them thinking creatively, applying their skills and discovering new ones, to make sure no one gets left behind.

"I'd like to congratulate the students for their winning entries and thank all of the schools and organisation's that got involved with this valuable programme, as well as Altrad for its support."

Tony Jester, Altrad's Executive Vice President of Operations, said: "We are delighted to be able to

work with the Tees Valley team to support this very worthwhile STEAM event. These types of events are essential to help develop skills and knowledge in a hands-on way, furthering our young people's ability to work across disciplines through project-based learning."

Well done to all the students who took part in the Enterprise Challenge Week. It was a huge success and we are already looking forward to next year's event.



Catcote Academy Celebration Prom 2023

Friday 30th June saw our 2023 leavers getting dressed up and looking fantastic for their Celebration Prom! It was a great night, with everybody celebrating and enjoying themselves. Thank you to the staff, students, parents and carers who organised or attended the event. It gets better every year! ***We hope you enjoy some of the photographs from the evening.***





Picnic and Paint

In the summer term, learners at Catcote Futures have enjoyed an activity named “Picnic and Paint” as one of their summer lesson choices.

Learners enjoyed several sessions at the Art Gallery including exploring pencils, graphite and charcoal by wandering around the Gallery taking in all the works of art, choosing their favourites and pulling up a chair to sketch them. A separate session saw learners explore watercolours, they learnt how watercolour paints are made, the process of creating a landscape painting and the equipment they would need to create a painting in watercolour. Learners then created their own piece by

choosing 3 objects, doing a wash and then going from light to dark building up the layers. A further session saw us learning how to read a portrait before loosening up their fingers and having a go at drawing self-portraits!

Another “Picnic and Paint” session saw learners visit The Fishermans Arms on the Headland. Learners enjoyed looking at all the artifacts and the memorabilia around the place, they were all drawn to different things and completed a variety of sketches. Learners enjoyed walking up to St Hilda’s to draw a seascape and the church itself, admiring the various murals along the way.



Art Exhibition

Learners at Catcote Futures have been studying impressionist painters.

They researched techniques and practised various mark making to create an impressionistic representation of a still life, landscape or portrait.

Before half term learners were invited to Hartlepool Art Gallery for the opening of an exhibition displaying their own art work.

Whilst walking around the students were in awe and made the following comments.

Abigail said “the pictures look awesome, it’s amazing that they are in an exhibition”.



Mark said “I feel very proud seeing my work on display, I’m going to tell my mam to come and have a look”.

Abbey said “it’s amazing, I’m going to come with my PA on Thursday”.

Paige also said she feels “very proud”.

Shelby recalled creating the artwork “I enjoyed using the sponges”. Shelby used different sponges and textured bushes to stamp the paint on.

The remaining art work is for sale at Catcote Futures.

McDonalds Visit

6th form classes S3 and S4 enjoyed a visit to McDonalds at the Burn Road site. Franchise MD Jasper Maudsley spoke to the students about how he got started in the business 42 years ago and how he eventually worked his way up. Students then enjoyed a tour of the different areas including the crew room and the storage room as well as experiencing the chilly temperatures of the fridge and freezers.

Jasper introduced them to the new technology and the facilities they use every day, especially with regards to the deliveries. We also discussed the possibility of our students attending a work placement at McDonalds and one of our students is now set to start there in September. What an amazing opportunity!

The visit ended with a drink or a McFlurry of their choice. What a treat!"



Bloomin Art "Fish Annie" Workshop



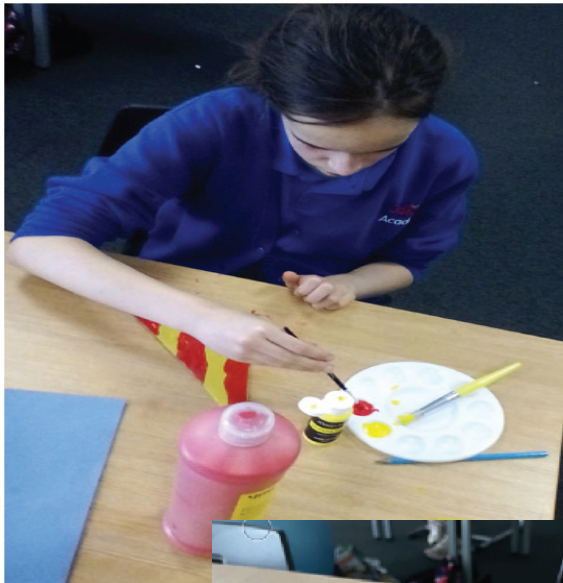
KS3 and 4 Creative Arts students had the opportunity to work with Bloomin Art to create fabric fish ahead of the tall ships event. The fish constructed by students were handed out free to visitors by a performing artist. She shared the history of the Headland's 'Fish Annie' who sold fish from her pram around the fifties. KS3 students have been developing sewing skills in lessons while learning about local inspirational people.

MIMA Visit

Creative Arts students visited the MIMA art gallery to explore a range of contemporary artists that showcase worldwide and around the Tees Valley area. They enjoyed walking around, speaking to curators and learning about the history of the building.



Chitty Chitty Bin Bin



Students were excited with the Careers Challenge week from Altrad, researching and designing a car from recycled items. Class 8 and Class 13 were all involved deciding which car to make and working well as a team. Class 8 made a PowerPoint to explain their experience.



Class 13's - East Durham College



Class 13 visited East Durham College's animal care centres where they learnt how to care for a variety of animals including; snakes, spiders, lizards, rabbits, horses, pigs, rats, skunks, cows and many more.

Visits like this are so important as they really give our students the opportunity to consider routes in different sectors.

It was a fantastic morning and everyone had a great time.



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Students from Catcote Academy have successfully gained their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award after they took part in their expedition, camping out on the Academy grounds. Students covered the necessary conditions which were navigation, cooking a hot meal and setting up camp. On the second day they went canoeing and exploring around Cod Beck in Osmotherley. The aim of the expedition was “the impact litter has on the waterways and surrounding banks. The students found lots of litter in the water as well as disused BBQ’s on the banks. DofE Lead, Mr Pounder, said “What a great couple of days. The students were all enthusiastic and we had some great characters”. The camp went ahead with the help from Parents and Friends charity who supplied funding which enabled Mr Pounder to buy new tents and essential equipment.



The Biscuit Factory - Newcastle

KS4 Creative arts students visited The Biscuit Factory in Newcastle today. The Biscuit Factory was the host venue for the Arts Bytes competition in June. Three students were nominated for prizes with work exhibited along with other schools. They enjoyed exploring the contemporary art exhibits in a beautiful architectural building with an extraordinary history. The students felt relaxed and have been inspired to apply new techniques to their own work. One student said, “She felt calm and confident in her style and hoped her work could be there one day!”. Visiting the gallery has given a new excitement to visiting other arts and culture venues around the Northeast or when they are on holiday.



Catcote Academy Trashion Show 2023

Our students and staff at Catcote Academy worked extremely hard to provide a fantastic show which “wowed” the judges at this year’s Trashion Show. It was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Students had the opportunity to design and make thier own costumes before they were showcased to the juding panel, staff and students. ***Excellent well done!***



Trashion Show Central Hub 2023 - "Inspired by the Sea"

The Catcote 'Trashion' show inclusive event aims to raise awareness on environmental issues and to offer a greater understanding of our throwaway society through art and design. Students and staff at the Academy worked together for 8 weeks to create mood boards, fashion outfits and accessories fit for the runway, using upcycled and recycled materials inspired by this year's Tall Ships event. Students have learned about the fashion industry, landfill and the large impact on biodiversity linking to recycling! As a result, the students have become passionate about promoting the negative impacts; apparel supply chains are directly linked to soil degradation, conversion of natural ecosystems and waterway pollution.

The Trashion Show was performed live at the Central Hub on Monday 3rd July to the wider public. The audience were amazed at the creativity, quality and styling of the costume construction. The exclusive guests at the show were in awe of how the students promoted their creativity, resilience and confidence on the runway.

Staff have been committed to ensuring that their students reach their full potential from models' reporters, designers, creative directors to student arts council representatives. An immense amount of work went into the event, designing, costumes, hair and beauty. A huge thank you to Hartlepool FE college, Creative Arts Centre and Learning Curve for their collaboration to help make the show a success. This fifth show went down a storm, the students and staff are so creative, they enjoyed showing their creations off with pride on the catwalk with loud music. Huge thanks to Catcote Sixth form's 'Spotlights' Digital Media group for a fantastic live music performance, sponsors and employers who supported the Catcote 'Trashion Show'.

Focusing on what 'we CAN do, not what we can't!'



Tall Ships Races Hartlepool 2023

'Catcote Spotlights' performed over the 3 days at Tall Ships Races. Students performed with an energy that electrified the crowds, encouraging people to sing and dance along with them.



17 Students from Catcote Academy and Catcote Futures had a wonderful two days volunteering as Quay Mates for Hartlepool Borough Council's Tall Ships Races Hartlepool 2023.

They carried out a wide range of duties including dealing with members of the public to answer any questions they may have about the event. They enjoyed seeing the Tall Ships, browsing the stalls and helping out in a friendly and extremely professional manner.

Students demonstrated their skills for work including teamwork, problem solving skills and communication skills.

What an absolutely fantastic couple of days we all had and we could not be prouder of each and every one of them!

Huge thanks to Hartlepool Borough Council for giving our students this amazing opportunity. Thanks to Jasper and his team at McDonald's Hartlepool (nucleus) for their hospitality too!

Memories have been made that will last a lifetime.





Students from across the Trust have had the amazing opportunity to be involved in the creative and volunteer programme for the Tall Ships event. They were given two challenges throughout a morning workshop to develop their team building skills ready to participate in the event. Our students gained experience in working collaboratively with the Tall Ships creative events committee, to look at the map history of Hartlepool and create boats from recycled materials, promoting sustainability ahead of Catcote Academy's annual Trashion show in July. We would like to say a huge thank you to Jamie Kelly and the team for providing their time and expertise to support our students, developing such important skills and giving accessibility to new experiences within arts and culture around Hartlepool.



Catcote Futures Awards Night

The second annual Catcote Futures Awards night took place on Friday 30th June 2023 at Hartlepool Rovers Rugby Club. This evening was to celebrate the achievements of our learners over the last academic year and to enjoy a night of music and dancing.

The music was provided by the very talented singer Lauren Chiverton, with table decorations created by Catcote Futures and balloon arch created by the Special Events committee. The amazing trophies were made by the Shirley and the Glass Making class. A very big thank you has to be given to Catcote Parents and Friends for funding the event.

There were 15 categories of awards, with nominees and award winners being mentioned and receiving a special gift on the evening.



Constellation and Friends Summer Production

In June the members of the Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group, Constellation and Friends showcased their amazing talents in their summer production. Many of the stars are attending or have attended Calcote Academy and Catcote Futures. Most of the younger performers are from one of our feeder schools, Springwell. They performed to a full house, each one giving an outstanding performance, after months of practise. A massive well done to all.



Functional Skills in the Community

This term the learners in CF7 have been applying their functional English and Maths skills in the community. They have been working together to plan their meals over the term. They have also made and used symbolised shopping lists each week to use within our weekly shopping trip. As part of this process the learners have also been handling and using money in a functional context. They been using the self scan tills at Asda to check out their shopping and applying functional skills naturally along the way.

As a treat at the end of the term, The Black Olive on the Marina kindly treated everyone in CF7 to a delicious meal. The staff and learners all had an amazing day, and after the meal some of the learners gave Tiffany from The Black Olive a lovely card to say 'Thankyou' for their day.

What a brilliant way to end the term!



The Valiant Knights of CF2

CF2 was attacked by a fearsome dragon at the beginning of the Summer term, causing mayhem! The fearsome beast, which was made from hundreds of tactile scales, was attracted by CF2's topic of "Sir Pranceabout and the Dragon!"

Having emerged themselves in all things chivalrous, the brave knights of CF2 were quick to slay the dragon and avert a fiery crisis for all!

Teacher Pete said "We have had a whale of a time learning about the escapades of Sir Pranceabout, using and applying his quick-thinking skills to activities in the classroom. The learners had a great time making to generate all of the dragon's scales and it meant they got to experience a range of different art mediums to increase their repertoire of tactile experiences!"



Fishermans Arms

In June, the fundraising efforts for a new Hydrotherapy Pool took a huge leap forward thanks to a very generous donation from the Fisherman's Arms. Owners and operators Glenn Murphy and Hazel Whitlock made a special visit to Catcote Futures at Warren Road, to hand over £698 raised by the Fisherman's Arms magnificent customers through the Glenvirus' whiskey club and the Sunday Quizes.

Catcote Futures has been fundraising for just over a year now to replace an old jacuzzi spa with a therapeutic Hydrotherapy pool. Barry Currell – Head of College said "although this has taken a



long time, we are delighted to announce that with the very generous support from the 'Fish' we have now reached our target and work to build the Hydrotherapy pool has already begun. Work is expected to take 8 weeks to complete and the new pool will be ready for use when our young people return in September. We have been very fortunate to receive donations and offer of support from lots of people just like Glenn and Hazel and we are extremely grateful for this. Thank you to Glenn and Hazel, to all you regulars and to all the people who have supported this project".

Catcote Futures Options Morning

Every Friday morning, Catcote Futures have their weekly hobbies and interests session, where learners pick what lesson they would like to attend.

There was a large selection of lessons including walking, the salon, festival food, festival dance and sensory stories that the learners took part in. As you can see from the pictures, they all engaged in the sessions well and really enjoyed themselves.



Taking the Lead Out and About

Every Thursday morning a group of learners from Catcote Futures go out and about in the community. They have visited the Vestry, the Dutch Garden Centre and the South Hub to name just a few. The learners have been interacting with different staff at these venues and working on their money handling skills. All the learners have increased in confidence when placing orders and were an absolute joy to take out into the public.



Catcote Futures students show their star power at the CECA!

Learner from Catcote Futures have been showing their impressive creativity skills at the CECA this year. Working with Chris Miller, they have produced a range of extremely impressive video projects across the year. These have included a Doctor Who pastiche, a Comic Relief jokes video, a video which saw them transported all around the world, a video showing what they will do if they had one billion pounds and the celebratory news video highlighting some of the years successes. Teacher Pete Wells said “As ever, the students have been absolutely incredible and have astounded me with some of their brilliant ideas. Going to the CECA is a real privilege, the students get to work in a real television studio where they can see themselves portayed live onto the background of their choosing. This really helps their understanding of whatever project we are doing and certainly enhances their already amazing performances.” Pete continues “In the summer term we made the decision to go to the CECA every other week. This meant that we could film exciting footage one week, then review, edit and plan, back at Catcote Futures. This was a much more effective use of the learner’s time and meant that we were really well prepared each week at the CECA. The students also got to practice their editing skills back at college in a really meaningful and realistic way.”



Triple Awards Success for Catcote Futures's Teacher.

Catcote Futures teacher, Pete Wells, was delighted and humbled to win three very high profile awards this year. In March, Pete was thrilled to pick up the prestigious Bett Award for 'Best Special Needs Product 2023' for his Inclusive Stories platform. The judges said that they "Were impressed by the attention to engagement and accessible stories with activities which were well geared towards SEN practice. Teaching children at a very young age about diversity and inclusion - a truly inclusive, innovative, teacher-designed resource."

An ecstatic Pete said "Winning a BETT Award has, for a long time, been right at the top of my bucket list. A few years ago, I genuinely made a list of ambitions and career goals with one of them being to win a BETT Award. I am absolutely thrilled to strike that one off the list!"

In May, Pete picked up a highly sought after Education Resources Award, again for 'Best Special Needs Resource' at the Education Resources Awards in Birmingham. Pete said "This was particularly gratifying for me because the judges had clearly realised that my stories are designed to be engaging for children, as well as contributing significantly to reducing teacher workload. Knowing that my stories are making both children and teachers happy means the world to me!"



The final, and most humbling award was the Hartlepool Heroes Teacher of the Year Award. Pete was nominated by two colleagues which is testament to the work that he does. Pete said "This was extremely humbling, especially at the wonderful awards evening where I got to hear some extremely emotional and uplifting stories. I felt like a bit of a fraud for being given an award for doing something I truly love doing, and that makes me wake up with a smile on my face every single day"

The award comes with a £500 donation to the cause of Pete choice. Pete said "Sadly, we lost a beloved student this year called Dan Roundtree. His parents raised a significant amount of money which is going towards a permanent gazebo in our Sensory garden. I am adding my £500 to this, so very shortly all of Dan's friends at Catcote Futures will be able to benefit from the Dan Roundtree Memorial Gazebo. I can't think of a nicer way to spend the money!"

Pete's Inclusive Stories platform was also down to the final three for Best Solution for Learners with Special Educational Needs in the global CODiE Awards, held in Washington DC in June but was sadly pipped to the post.



Pete said quotation "While I'm a little bit disappointed, to have gotten through to the top three special needs products in the whole world is quite an achievement, especially as my Sensory Stories platform is in it's very first year. And what a year it has been!"



Goodbye and Good Luck



Miss Harrison has worked as a teacher at the academy for 6 years and has impacted many students lives. She has decided to change career path and we wish her every success for the future.



Angela has worked at Futures for 2 years as a Teaching Assistant in our Sensory Explorers pathway. She is leaving to join another special school. We know she will fit in really well in her new job and wish her every success.



Mrs Hatch has worked with us for 1 year as a member of our catering team within the Academy we wish her all the best for the future.



Beth has been with Futures since 2018. She is leaving to follow a new career in retail. We wish her well in her new venture.



Mrs Dixon has worked with us for 1 year, as a receptionist at the academy. She is leaving us to take up a new role as a family support worker in another specialist school. We know she will be amazing at this, and we wish her the best of luck.

Term Dates 2023 - 2024

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
	AUGUST 2023	SEPTEMBER 2023				OCTOBER 2023				NOVEMBER 2023				DECEMBER 2023				JANUARY 2024			
Monday	7 14 21 28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23 30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18 25	1	8	15	22 29	
Tuesday	1 8 15 22 29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24 31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19 26	2	9	16	23 30	
Wednesday	2 9 16 23 30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22 29	6	13	20 27	3	10	17	24 31	
Thursday	3 10 17 24 31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23 30	7	14	21 28	4	11	18	25	
Friday	4 11 18 25	1	8	15	22 29	6	13	20	27	3	10 17	24		1	8	15 22 29	5	12	19	26	
Saturday	5 12 19 26	2	9	16	23 30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18 25		2	9	16 23 30	6	13	20	27	
Sundav	6 13 20 27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22 29	5	12	19 26		3	10	17 24 31	7	14	21	28	

	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39					
	FEBRUARY 2024				MARCH 2024				APRIL 2024				MAY 2024				JUNE 2024				JULY 2024						
Monday	5	12	19	26	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	
Tuesday	6	13	20	27	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	
Wednesday	7	14	21	28	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31
Thursday	1	8	15	22	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	31
Friday	2	9	16	23	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	31
Saturday	3	10	17	24	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	
Sundav	4	11	18	25	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	

	Bank Holiday
	Holiday
	PD day

Enjoy your summer break and we look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday 5th September.