

EASTER

Calcoile
Academy

working together, achieving success

2024
Edition

Calcoile
Futures

your choice, your future

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of another enriching term, I am delighted to reflect on the wonderful events and learning opportunities that have enriched our school and college community over the past few months.

You can see from this newsletter that there have been so many exciting events and celebrations that the students have embraced. Each event has not only brought joy but has also fostered a sense of unity and belonging within our school and college community. I am incredibly proud of the hard work and commitment demonstrated by our students and staff. It is through our collective efforts and shared values that we have created a vibrant and supportive learning environment where every individual feels valued and empowered to succeed.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this term a truly memorable and rewarding experience. Your dedication and support are truly appreciated.

Have a lovely Easter and we look forward to welcoming all students back in the new term on the 15th April.



Mrs Greig (CEO)

Hartlepool
Aspire Trust

Drive Vauxhall



During careers lessons, students have been learning all about different job sectors. Some of our students have expressed an interest in mechanics and sales. We contacted the lovely Sam Dyball from Drive Vauxhall who invited us to have a look around their showroom. Students from Key Stage 4 Red Pathway enjoyed the visit and learned all about the various job roles within the sector including sales, repair and service of vehicles. Students asked lots of questions and it was really informative. Thank you to all the amazing staff for the opportunity to see how the showroom operates, it was a great experience.



Kim's Journey

Students from our Red Pathway in Key Stage 3 and 4 welcomed one of our ex-students, Kim, who led an assembly talking about her journey into employment.

Kim spoke about her work experience journey with Catcote Academy, which supported her to recognise what she wanted to do for her future career.

Kim has worked at McDonalds for the past six years, starting off as a Crew Member and now, due to a recent promotion, she is working in Customer Care. She also explained how she travels to work and the importance of planning a journey so that she is not late for her shifts.

Huge well done to Kim for also recently being recognised as 'Employee of the Month' due to her commitment and continuous hard work! You're a true inspiration for our students Kim and we are extremely proud of all that you have achieved, thank you!



Hartlepool Art Gallery Exhibition Visit

Creative Art work related learning students, visited the Hartlepool Art Gallery to explore the work of legendary photographer John Bulmer. During the 1960s he captured iconic images of the north for the Sunday Times magazine before he shot to fame with his artistic work. Our students were inspired by his photography; they explored observational drawing and creating portraits from around the gallery. They also enjoyed refreshments in the Vestry; the friendly staff really looked after them and offered a very professional hospitality experience. Our students finished off their visit by looking around Christ Church, speaking to curators and learning about traditional and contemporary art.



L2E

During Careers this term, Link 2 have been learning about running their own business. They have created their own enterprise company named L2E. They created their own logo and discussed the importance of how companies use logos to advertise their brands.

Students have demonstrated lots of skills including, teamwork, problem solving, leadership and creativity throughout their enterprise. After a class discussion they decided to create a valentine's hamper, selling tickets for 20p each across the school.

Students selected Amanda to choose the winning ticket and the hamper was won by our very own Mrs Greig! Thank you to Mrs Brynes who accepted the prize on behalf of Mrs Greig.

Link 2 would like to say 'thank you' to everyone who has purchased a ticket!



Brewers Fayre

Students from Link 2 have been for a visit to Brewers Fayre on the Old West Quay for breakfast. This was a reward from their fundraising enterprise the previous term. Students were looked after by Mandy, who was extremely helpful. While students were there, they enquired about the various jobs within the restaurant. Mandy explained all about the roles and the compulsory customer service training that takes place. It was a very enjoyable morning with students asking when they can go again. Huge thank you to all the staff for making us feel so welcome!



Brook Sessions

This term, red pathway students have had further sessions with sexual health and wellbeing experts, Brook.

Their services in local communities, education programmes, training for professionals and campaigning work, means that young people are better equipped to make positive and healthy lifestyle choices.

Students in KS4 discussed sexual harassment, consent, boundaries and the myths and truths around this. KS3 students discussed my body and personal hygiene topics.

Brook is an online resource that anyone can access for advice, support or information @ [Brook.org.uk](https://www.brook.org.uk)



Elwick Grange Care Home

Students from the Key Stage 4, Hair and Beauty Work Related Learning Group, had a wonderful morning at Elwick Grange Care Home. Students carried out treatments for the residents and staff including, hand massage, manicures, and painting nails. They really enjoyed chatting to the residents and staff. We are looking forward to working with Elwick Grange on future projects.

Well done to all involved and huge thank you to Elwick Grange for giving our students this amazing opportunity.



Wheelchair Basketball



Class 12 took part in a Wheelchair Basketball event at St Hild's School organised by Northern Education Trust. Students (and staff!) loved the event and a brilliant time was had by all. Thank you so much to all involved and a big well done to Class 12 for being so open-minded, eager and supportive of one another - Miss Leighton, Miss Wallace and Miss Ervine are very proud of you all!



Around the World

As part of their 'Around the World' Topic, Class 12 visited Travel Agents' shops in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre. We had a great time looking at the windows, flicking through the brochures and chatting to staff. We even got to bring some brochures back to school to continue the learning!



Class 6 have loved their around the world topic this year. They have had a aeroplane in the classroom and even visited Teesside Airport!



Rock Steady Rock!

Students in KS3 enjoyed an amazing experience with Rock Steady Rock School. They took part in music workshops throughout the day, where they explored a range of instruments. Students participated in their very own rock band, which was performed in front of a live audience of staff and students. Staff joined together at the end of the day to perform as a surprise rock band for the students. A huge thank you to Danielle, Chris, Conor and James @rocksteadymusicschool for the fantastic experience, bringing the world of music to our students.



Safer Internet Day

The theme for Safer Internet Day on 6th February was 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.

Mr Sowerby delivered an assembly about how technology has changed over time and that while change can be exciting, it can also be worrying to some young people.

It was agreed that students should speak to a trusted adult if they are worried, frightened or concerned about anything they encounter online. Students enthusiastically named lots of trusted adults that they could talk to. Students were then able to continue learning in their classrooms.

We are very proud to have achieved the National Online Safety 'Certified School' status for the second year in a row. This award is given to schools who have "a whole school community approach to protecting children in the online world."

As students have learned, the online world changes rapidly; this brings lots of challenges to students and to parents and carers. There have been lots of very sad stories surrounding online issues in the news lately. Catcote Academy have purchased FREE parent accounts on the National Online Safety website to help keep our parents up to date with current trends and concerns. There are lots of informative webinars and fact sheets covering all aspects of online safety. Please register for a free parent account using our link below.

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/catcote-academy>

#SaferInternetDay

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024>



Teesside International Airport

6th Form Red Pathway students spent the morning at Teesside International Airport.

Unfortunately, they did not have time to jet off to a sunnier country!

However, students were treated to an excellent and interesting tour of the airport, along with an explanation of how different parts of the airport work and the different jobs available there.

Ellie and Laura introduced the tour and told students their own career paths and how life working at an airport can be.

Shaun, who organised and was to lead the tour, was unavailable (but popped in to meet us later) so Gaff and Billy stepped in. Both Gaff and Billy were so passionate and knowledgeable about the running of the airport, from the checking in process to how to guide the aircraft to 'taxi' safely on the ground. They were both naturals at speaking to the students. The students were engrossed and participated very well, asking and answering questions.

Students ranged from those who had never been to an airport before to those who are frequent flyers, but everyone left knowing more about aviation than they did when they arrived.

Thank you to all of the wonderful staff at your amazing airport for the opportunity and experience.



Link 2 Work Related Learning

Hartlepool Vestry

Link 2 have had a visit to The Hartlepool Vestry as part of their Work-Related Learning catering lesson. They were shown around the kitchen by Kirsty, who explained all about the day-to-day jobs that are needed to run the cafe. Students were treated to a hot chocolate and biscuit by the staff, who were impressed with the questions that they asked and how polite and well-mannered they were.

Well done Link 2

Salon Experience

As part of work related learning, it was Link 2's turn to use the salon based at our Futures site.

We all had a great time even though the experience was new for most students. We look forward for the next few weeks learning more skills in the salon environment.



World Book Day 2024

World Book Day this year was a great success and lots of fun was had by everyone. It was lovely to see people dressed up as different characters and participating in the activities that were on offer. Large Story Book characters adorned the academy.

Marshmallows were cooked around the campfire while listening to stories and an author entertained students, reading extracts from his children's book.

Students could have their photos taken in the photobooth and participate in a Harry Potter quiz or write their own spells.

The "Jack in the Beanstalk" story and activities proved to be a popular choice and students got to plant their own beans.

Cakes decorated with the covers of books and juice were served in the coffee shop.

There were a range of activities prepared by staff in the classrooms too!



Students took part in an immersive story during World Book Day. Students planted a range of beans and created a small bean shoot from art materials. Students then added them to the beanstalk centrepiece in the “Jack and the Beanstalk” sensory story.



Careers Event

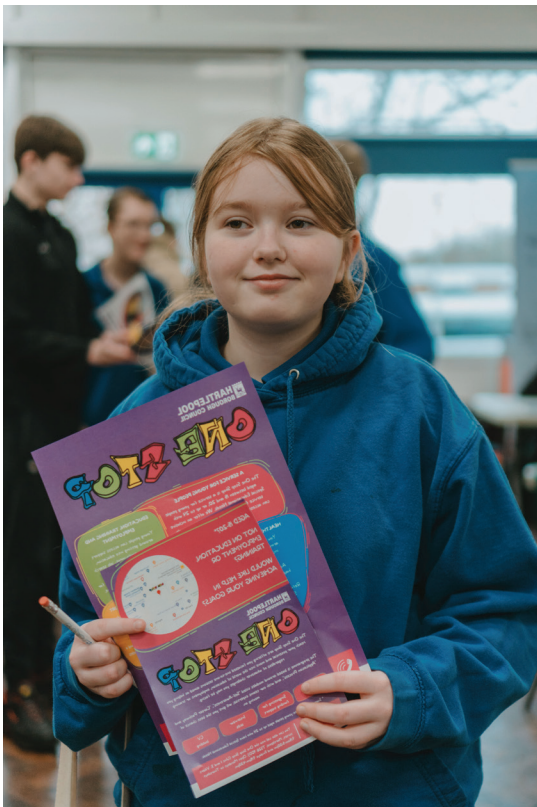
Catcote Academy held their annual Choices Event on Tuesday 12th March 2024. There were over 20 external providers in attendance to help students and their parents/carers consider opportunities available and to make an informed choice with regards to their future careers.

Students from across the Trust had the opportunity to explore and to discuss their future career options and to find out more information about opportunities from a variety of outside agencies including training providers and colleges from across Tees Valley. Key employers also attended the event including J&B Recycling Ltd and Newcastle Building Society. The employers spoke to the students about employer expectations and specific job roles within their sector.

The event was a huge success and we have had such positive feedback from providers, staff and students alike.

Thanks to all the providers who took time out of their busy schedules to attend this annual event.





Cultural Delights

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our new "Cultural Delights" wellbeing scheme here at Catcote Futures!

This term, our students have taken the lead in spreading joy and goodwill throughout our college community. Through this initiative, students have the opportunity to choose special days throughout the term and create tokens, gifts and handouts to share with both staff and fellow students.

We're delighted to share that our students have partnered with the community champion at Asda and the wonderful Laura from Domino's Pizza, who have generously donated popcorn, hot chocolate, and pizzas to enhance our celebrations. The feedback from both staff and learners has been overwhelmingly positive, and we're delighted to continue this celebration of goodwill.

Catcote Futures New Greenhouse

We're excited to announce the arrival of our new greenhouse at Catcote Futures!

Our learners will now have the opportunity to dive deeper into horticulture, with this dedicated space enabling hands-on learning experiences and development of gardening skills. We're so excited about the positive impact this will have on our learners, and can't thank enough the fabulous Chris Young for his timely installation, and the support from the Greenhouse People who supplied us.



Employability Skills at STEP's



This term has been a resounding success for our STEP's learners, marked by remarkable growth in both their confidence and work skills. With the invaluable support from our dedicated job coaches, learners have thrived in their placements, exceeding expectations and demonstrating new found abilities. The partnership between learners, staff, and job coaches has been instrumental in fostering a supportive environment conducive to success. We are looking forward to the next term, confident that our learners will progress even further.



Work Experience

STEP's students have enjoyed being back at their work experience after the Christmas break. They have been learning new job skills and growing in confidence. We are very lucky to have built up fantastic relationships with our placement providers. They are very supportive of our students and recognise their full potential. Students are transferring skills that they have learnt to their life at home and we are very proud of them.



Girls Football Event

We extend a big congratulations to all the girls who proudly represented Catcote Academy at the girls' football event hosted by Beaumont Hill Academy in Darlington.

The team showcased a wonderful mix of seasoned football enthusiasts and newcomers eager to give it their all on International Women's Day!

Their collective effort resulted in an impressive second-place finish in the tournament, demonstrating their dedication and teamwork.

Special recognition is due to Amelia, our star player, who not only emerged as the top goal scorer but also earned the title of Most Valuable Player. Her outstanding performance undoubtedly contributed to the team's success.

Well done to each and every member of the Catcote team for their hard work, sportsmanship, and commitment. Your achievements bring pride to our school community, and we look forward to more exciting endeavors in the future. Keep scoring girls!



Catcote Cobras

We are thrilled to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the Catcote Cobras, our incredibly successful boys school football team! Throughout the season, the Cobras have demonstrated remarkable dedication, teamwork, and a passion for the beautiful game.

Their hard work and commitment to improvement have truly paid off, as evidenced by their impressive performances on the field. From strategic plays to lightning-fast footwork, the Cobras have consistently showcased their skills and determination, leaving spectators in awe.

What's even more impressive is the noticeable improvement seen in every player. Whether it's mastering new techniques, refining their tactics, or simply growing stronger as a team, each Cobra member has shown tremendous growth and development throughout the season.

Congratulations to the Catcote Cobras on an outstanding season! Your achievements on the field are a testament to your hard work, perseverance, and unwavering passion for football. Keep up the fantastic work, and continue to inspire us all with your determination and success!

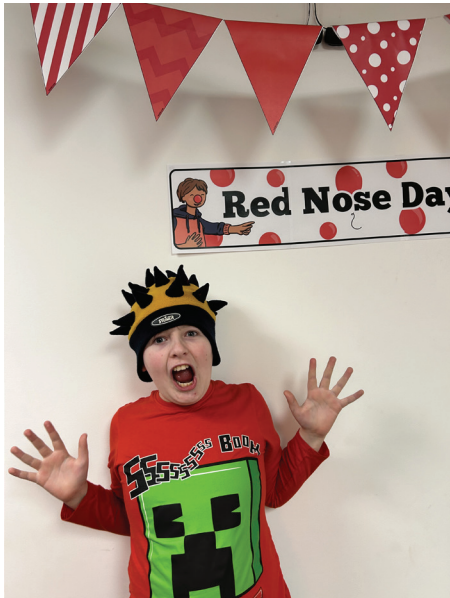
Go Cobras!



Red Nose Day 2024

On Friday 15th March, students in the Yellow and Blue Pathways celebrated Red Nose Day by dressing in red, attending a Red-to-Toe disco and using a photo booth to take some funny pictures. Lots of fun was had by all and we raised £156.81 for Comic Relief!

Well done everyone!



Comic Relief 2024

In the spirit of laughter and giving back, we recently came together to celebrate Comic Relief in a unique and delightful way. With cupcakes, coffee, and comedy, we embarked on a morning filled with joy and support for a great cause.

The morning began with a quiet hour where we enjoyed our favourite cupcakes and sipped on freshly brewed drinks, setting the stage for a morning of laughter. It was a chance to unwind, connect with friends and colleagues, and enjoy some delicious treats.

As the quiet hour drew to a close, anticipation filled the air as we prepared to dive into the main event: a pre-recorded comedy show. With side splitting jokes, the show had us roaring with laughter from start to finish. It was the perfect way to lift spirits and spread cheer, all while contributing to a cause that helps those in need.



School Games

Key Stage 4 and 5 students participated in a games afternoon arranged by Kate Robinson, School Games Organiser from Dyke House Sports & Technology College. This is the second games afternoon Kate has kindly organised.

On this occasion, our Sixth Form BTEC Employment Skills students used the opportunity to use their 'Teamwork' skills to work together to plan some of the activities themselves!

Kate put together six different activities for all students to try. Kate was assisted by some fantastic sports students from Hartlepool Sixth Form. These students advised and guided Catcote students very well and should be really proud of themselves!

As you can see from the photographs, our students had a really fun afternoon.



Adventures of CF3

Since September, CF3 have been studying the local area, with the focus this term on the Hartlepool Marina.

They have visited the Royal Navy Museum Hartlepool, saw a lighthouse, boats, ships and learnt many key facts about Hartlepool.

Learners also visited the marina, walked around Navigation Point, observing the different bars, restaurants and of course the many boats and beautiful yachts. They experienced walking over the lock gates and learned that if the bell rings they would need to calmly walk off and could then watch the gates open for the boats to pass through.

Finally, CF3 went to the Mecca Bingo, and were shown around by the manager, Neil. They were able to help with opening up by turning on all the machines ready for the day. Learners Reece and Adam were given the opportunity to stand at the caller's stage and call out bingo numbers in the microphone. Reece and Adam really enjoyed being a bingo caller.

All the learners had a chance to practice the cash line bingo, and cross off the numbers using the counters.

Watch out next term when CF3 continue to learn about the local area by exploring the coastline including the headland.



STEM Cell Charity

Our very own Mr Kitson visited Class 12 to talk about his recent donation through the Anthony Nolan Trust. Mr Kitson was contacted by the charity in Spring last year to say that he had been found as a match for a person in desperate need of stem cells. In December, he travelled to Sheffield in order to undertake the process of removing and donating the cells. Class 12 (and all of us here at Catcote!) were very proud of Mr Kitson and had lots of questions for him. If anyone wants to join the register to be a potential stem cell donor, that could save someone's life who is battling blood cancer, to follow this link <https://www.anthonynolan.org/help-save-a-life/join-stem-cell-register>



Did you have to have any needles?

Mr Kitson: Yeah, before I went, I had to give myself some injections in my tummy to make the stem cells grow in my bones and be released in to my blood. Then, in the hospital, I had to have one needle in my right arm and one in my left arm. They took my blood out of one arm, put it through a machine and then put it back in in the other arm.

Did it ache?

Mr Kitson: Yes, it really did ache. When the stem cells were growing in my bones, I felt like I'd been at the gym all day but I hadn't.

Did it hurt afterwards?

Mr Kitson: I wasn't aching afterwards; I was just really tired. I had to sit in the hospital chair for about 6 hours and then I went back to my hotel, ate a burger and fell straight to sleep. I was just very tired!

What was it like when they took the blood?

Mr Kitson: So, when they were actually taking it, I was pretty chilled. I was quite interested in what was happening so I was looking at the machine a lot. Then, I was just watching things on my phone and the staff kept offering me drinks and biscuits. It was fine, I just had to sit there for a long time. I didn't mind it though. It was nice and quiet!

How long did you have to stay there?

Mr Kitson: I got there at about 8 in the morning and I left at about 2 in the afternoon.

The video we watched said 4-6 hours. That's a full school day!

Mr Kitson: Yeah, it is a full school day. About 6 hours.

I could not sit still for a full day. I would have just fell asleep!

Did you get to know anything about the person before you did it?

Mr Kitson: Before I did it, all they could tell me is that it's an adult woman and where she lives.

Woah, it was a girl?!

Mr Kitson: Yeah, it was and I still don't know anything more than that. After one year, it's up to her if she wants to contact me and let me know how things have gone. They asked me if I would be happy for her to contact me and I said yes. So, it depends what she has said. Maybe in one year, I'll hear from her.

How did you get there?

Mr Kitson: I went there on the train. I had to go from Hartlepool to York then York to Sheffield and then I walked to the hotel. To get to the hospital, I got a taxi.

How much did it cost?

Mr Kitson: Well, it actually didn't cost me anything because the charity paid for it. The charity paid for my train tickets, they paid for my hotel and my taxi and then they gave me money for food too.

How did you feel before it? I've been to hospital loads and I sometimes feel a bit nervous and sick.

Mr Kitson: So, I'm a bit weird. I don't mind hospitals. They're there to make you feel better aren't they! I knew it was a bit like giving blood and I've done that before so I wasn't too worried. I was just worried about sitting still for so long.

Hartlepool Masonic Benevolent Fund

Once again, Catcote Futures would like to thank the Hartlepool Masonic Benevolent Fund, Clarence Lodge and the Heortnesse lodges for their continued support and generous donations. Having already made donations towards the Hydrotherapy Pool fund, they have now made further donations which will be used to purchase additional lockers and benches in Hydrotherapy and also to buy floating aids to support our learners.

Gold Standard Award

It appears that Catcote Futures learners and staff are not the only people who think the new Hydrotherapy Pool is amazing. In February the Catcote Futures Hydrotherapy Pool was judged as the Gold Standard Overall Winner of the British Pool and Hot Tub Awards. This was based on its design, quality of build and tiling.

We are so grateful to all the people who have helped to raise the money for the pool and to A19 Pools and Spa's for their fantastic work.



Catcote Futures Enterprise

The students from Catcote Futures have been actively involved in creating hampers and various products at the Catcote Metro shop in preparation for the easter fayre. This event took place at Middleton Grange shopping centre on the 23rd March. Both staff and students eagerly participated running stalls and showcasing their hard work. Their dedication and creativity paid off as they managed to raise an impressive £750 for the student's enterprise funds. It was a rewarding experience for everyone involved, highlighting the talent and teamwork within the Catcote Futures community.



Thrive Room Project

KS5 creative arts work related learning group, have the opportunity to be part of a live brief to redesign and upcycle furniture for the new Catcote Academy Thrive room. They have started to upcycle chairs which were donated to the school and correlate a range of ideas. The group is collaborating as a creative team to develop illustrations, visualising through mood boards, sketching design plans, client goals and budget for materials. They have adapted individual ideas each week during lessons, developing their surface design and furniture preparation skills. Our creative students have explored image sizing by adapting their illustrative drawings using projectors to bring their vision to life. The project is ongoing, we are excited to see the finished outcome in the weeks to come.



Fruit Trees

Class 8 have been planting fruit trees in their outdoor zone which originated as fruit donated from the Tree Council UK. It will take a few years for fruit to grow while students can study the growth of the trees during their Forest School lessons. As well as having free local fruit, it is also helping wildlife by providing a home and food for insects and birds.



Forest school students have still been having their lessons, despite all the bad weather we have been having. We have set up our recently purchased bell tents so the students still feel they are in the outdoors. We have held World Book Day activities including reading and crafts. Students also like to relax listening to their favorite music while the rain taps on the roof of the tent.

National Have Fun at Work Day

On January 26th, we kicked off the day with epic karaoke vibes as we celebrated National Have Fun at Work Day! Laughter, music, and joy filled the air as we gathered together for light hearted fun.

From delicious cakes to side-splitting jokes, and a fabulous sing-along, the atmosphere was buzzing with excitement. It was a fantastic opportunity for us to come together, unwind, and enjoy each other's company. As we celebrated this special day, we were reminded of the importance of fostering positivity and happiness.



Meet our new Reading Book Monitors

Amy and Logan have been appointed as our Reading Book monitors. They are responsible for keeping our reading areas tidy and ensuring our books for the reading scheme are in the correct order. They are doing a great job!



Artbytes



Art Bytes is a national art and EdTech programme for primary, secondary and SEN schools, combining an inter-school art competition with a bespoke virtual gallery. It is based on 10 years experience in the North West and is proven to nurture talent, raise ambition and develop confidence, as well as support mental health and help develop vital skills for future employment. Further details on how we are supporting Artbytes will follow soon.

Below are some key dates in the forthcoming summer term the Academy:

Week commencing 22nd April - Challenge week; classes can participate in activities to help raise money for the leavers prom.

Week commencing 13th May - Careers/Enterprise challenge week; classes can participate in various careers activities throughout the week.

Week commencing 3rd June - Pride event; details to be confirmed

Thursday 27th June - Prom

Wednesday 26th June - Trashion Show

Friday 12th July - Academy Lip-dub, theme to be confirmed

Tuesday 16th July - Sports day - details to be confirmed

Friday 19th July - School disco, non-uniform day.

We wish all of our students, parents and carers a Happy Easter and look forward to welcoming them back in the new term on Monday 15th April 2024.