



Dear Parent/Carer,

I mentioned last term that we were planning major refurbishments across the Trust over the summer holidays.

Catcote Futures moved into the Learning and Skills Centre on Warren Road, all the classrooms were ready in September but we were unable to finish all the vocational and sensory areas in time. The final area of flooring will be laid before we return in January so we will be fully functioning. I have to commend the staff and students for their tolerance and hard work over the past term but also thank them all for ensuring that student targets were met and learning was not disrupted. In early February you will be invited to an open day at the Centre when you will have the opportunity to have a tour of this fantastic provision.

Most of our Sixth Form students also moved into the premises vacated by Catcote Futures at our Brierton site. Again, this transition has been a great success and we are very happy with the way the students have adapted to their new routines.

The main site on Catcote Road has had classrooms altered and more sensory areas have been created equipping us to better meet the needs of our students.

We were successful in our bid to The Academies Condition Improvement fund and received a grant to help replace our aged Jacuzzi. We have also committed some of our own funds to give the Hydro room a complete refurbishment with new showers and changing area. Work will be completed in February.

It has always been our aim to meet the needs of our 'special children' to the best of our ability. The demand for places at our school continues to increase every year and we will continue to do our best to meet demand.

As with every other public service, education continues to face crippling Government funding cuts and Catcote is not exempt from these. We will do everything in our power to maintain our current service, but we are facing very difficult times ahead.

On a happier note, we have had a great term. Our new students have settled in very well, our shop and café are doing good business and 38 students now access work placements in these two areas alone. We have been awarded the full International Schools Award for the third time and our Erasmus projects have seen staff and students visit Sweden, Italy and Germany. There is so much to share, lots of which is inside the newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it.

On behalf of everyone at Catcote can I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alan Chapman, Head Teacher.

Catcote
Futures
your choice, your future

Catcote
Academy
working together, achieving success

6th Form Visit Beamish

Two 6th Form classes have stepped back in time when they visited Beamish Museum. Students got a feel of how it would have been to live in the 1820's, 1900's and 1940's with no creature comforts' such as TV's, mobile phones and computers. Students had to make do with skipping, sitting on hard benches in school and going down the mines to work.

All the students commented that it must have been a hard life back then to live from day to day, although they thought the sweets were very good! Students travelled by vintage bus and tram to get to the various places to see.

All students agreed that Catcote Academy is a much nicer, warmer and more comfortable place to come to school than Beamish but would love to return again to see the things they missed this time.



6th Form Careers Workshop

6th Form were visited by Jaz Bradley, from Sports Development Hartlepool, to introduce students to what a career in Sports Leadership may involve. Students listened to a presentation and asked lots of questions. They made a list of the qualities that a sports coach would need to possess.

They agreed that two very important qualities would be 'communication' and 'team work' skills. Students then went on to take part in various challenges to practice these skills in a 'real world' situation. Everybody had fun and were offered some experience in Sports Leadership, working within Hartlepool to see if it might be a career they would be interested in. Four students put their names forward to volunteer and are going to meet with Jaz again to see where they might like to be placed.



6th Form Visit Metro Center

Due to the excellent start that students had made in their brand new 6th Form building, they were treated to a rewards trip to the Metro Centre. Prior to going, students were allowed to choose one shop that they were guaranteed to visit whilst there. They were then tasked with sharing this information between themselves and planning the most effective route around the shopping centre, visiting each shop on a map.

Everybody's highlight of the visit was LUNCH!! We went to 'Big Lukes' which is an 'all-you-can-eat' buffet restaurant. The choice was amazing and the quality of food was excellent. There is not enough room in the newsletter to mention all of the food on offer but students did their best to eat it ALL! As you can see from the pictures, we all ate well and not many had room for their tea when they got home. The bus was a lot quieter on the way home than the way there – I wonder why?



Students did really well at this task and were able to navigate very well whilst there. Time was our only issue because there were so many other things we would have liked to have seen.



New Erasmus+ Project

At the end of the summer term we discovered that Catcote had been successful in being selected to take part in a new Erasmus+ project. The new project also involves special schools in Germany, Slovakia and Lithuania and is called 'One 4 All, All 4 One'.

The project is focused on outdoor learning experiences and aims to develop students communication skills and self-confidence. We will be taking small groups of students rock climbing in Germany, skiing in Slovakia and sailing in Lithuania over the next two years. At the end of November, 3 members of staff from Catcote travelled to Hamelin in Germany for the first planning meeting for the project. Mrs Straker, Mr Foster and Mr Pounder met staff from the other schools involved, worked in classes in the German school and enjoyed an outing to the Mountains

where there will be a week of activities for students in June 2018.

They also visited the Christmas markets in Hamelin and Hannover, and participated in the 'Pied Piper Tour' of the town.

Staff are really looking forward to our students being involved in this project and getting to experience new activities and meet people from other countries.



Class 8 Reading Afternoon

In October, Class 8 enjoyed organising and hosting a reading afternoon for Classes 7, 6 and 4. Class 8 prepared a display table to show off their class reader 'The Midnight Gang' by David Walliams. Students could bring their own books to read, explore books in class or listen to stories read by a member of our class. It was lovely to see so many students enjoying books together (and enjoying the cake on offer!) We look forward to seeing other classes coming to join in the reading fun next term!



Sweden Visit 9th - 13th October

Day One

We have celebrated Christmas (yes that's right, on the 9th October). Sadly no presents but a wonderful choir. After this our students took part in team building activities and once again they were great. 10 out of 10 for effort. We finished the day with a tour of Norrkoping which is beautiful city.



Day Two

We visited a large town called Linkoping and made our way to the old town. It was like Beamish where they have moved and rebuilt old buildings. We visited an amazing science museum, which was full of interactive experiments. The students were encouraged to touch and explore by play. After visiting the museum we then went to a second museum which was filled with aircrafts.

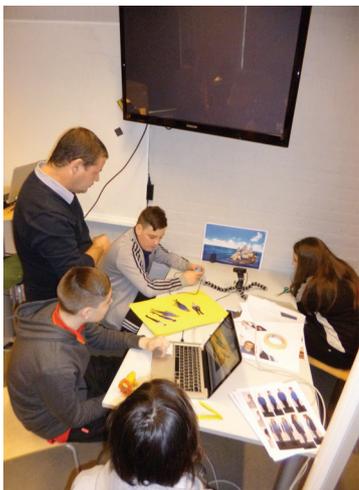
Day Three

We started the day with the students making a presentation to the other countries featuring 10 interesting facts about the UK. The students' presentations were excellent. We then set about creating a storyboard ready for our film making session tomorrow. It needed to be about a fairy tale, folk lore or legend (ours involved a sinking ship, a monkey and a noose!). Our afternoon involved taking part in sports and yet again our students put in 100% and enjoyed being winners!



Day Four

We started the day visiting vocational areas including the Hair and Beauty departments. All students were models. The boys had their hair cut and styled and the girls had their hair styled and had make up put on. During the afternoon the students made their own film about the Hartlepool Monkey. This was great fun and the students created an excellent piece of work. Finally we were all invited to a farewell evening with other staff. We had a nice meal and took part in fun quizzes. The UK decided to split into two teams to give the other countries a chance but then actually came 1st and second! It was a great evening and a good opportunity to meet other staff.



Link 3 Food Bank

Link 3 have chosen to support the Hartlepool Food Bank this term and have been researching who and how they help.

The Food Bank works with families who are in crisis in the Hartlepool area. They provide three days of emergency food to help them in times of crisis. Link 3 students decided that this was an amazing cause and set about spreading the word. They created and sent out posters around the school asking for help. The support they received was amazing. They then decided to spread the word further by sending letters home and placing a request for help on the school's Facebook page. Again the support has been amazing.

Students from all around the school came in with their bags of donations. It was a great pleasure to welcome Abi Knowles from



Hartlepool Food Bank into school for the class assembly. The students beamed with pride as they were able to hand over the food that had been donated.

Link 3 students and staff would like to thank each and every one of you for your support. After the huge success of this first collection the school will continue to collect donations in school and at the Catcote Metro in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone that supported the school book fair. We raised £100 and received some lovely new books from Usborne Publishers.

Well done to the bookmark competition winners



Spooky Spectacular

On Halloween, we had a frighteningly fantastic celebration event. Students and staff dressed up as their favourite creepy characters and enjoyed a scary selection of activities.

Mrs Lawton's class held a Halloween party, with games, apple bobbing and some freaky food.

Mrs Slimmings created a devilish dining experience in the coffee shop offering strange sweets and a slimy snot cocktail!



The afternoon saw Mr Kitson's 6th form Performing Arts group perform in a spookily spectacular concert in the school hall, singing lots of Halloween themed songs and a brilliant dance rendition of Thriller by Michael Jackson.



A big thank you to all the staff and students who helped to organise the event, a round of applause to our singers and a big well done to everyone for not getting too scared!

BSL Nativity

Students have been learning how to sign during afterschool club this year. For Christmas, they decided to put on a Nativity. All students have worked extremely hard and not only learnt how to sign a full scene, but also took part in signing and singing four songs.



The BSL group performed to a live audience at the carol concert last Thursday night, at the Art Gallery in Hartlepool, after a lovely tea



together at Sambuca's (Thanks Mr Chapman). Also, a massive thank you to the staff for all of their hard work and giving up their free time, as I couldn't have done it without you.

Manchester Christmas Market

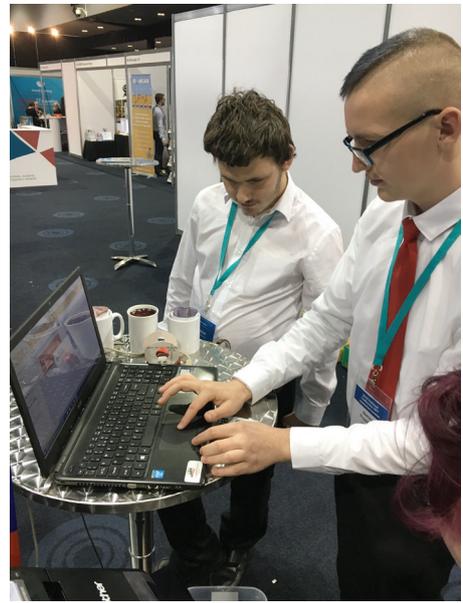
This term Catcote Academy and Catcote Futures were invited to take part in an Enterprise event in Manchester to promote and highlight the excellent work our students have been producing in a variety of enterprise activities this year.



The event took place on Thursday 30th November and Friday 1st December and was part of SSAT Illuminating Education Conference, which was attended by Barry Currell the Learning Skills Manager for Catcote Futures.

The Academy hosted an enterprise stall during the first day with 6th Form products and printed mugs from the Catcote Metro Shop. On the second day, students from Catcote Futures displayed and sold Christmas items they had been making in their Enterprise sessions.

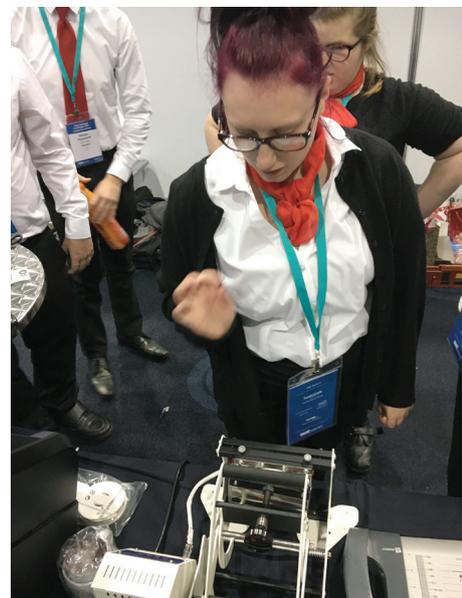
Thursday evening was crisp and cold, which fitted perfectly with the Manchester Christmas Market, which was made up of craft stalls, street food and entertainment.



All students thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the markets and we rounded it off with a stop at the Hard Rock Café to enjoy the beautiful desserts on offer.

This was an excellent opportunity for the students to enhance and showcase their communication skills and experience an enrichment activity outside of school hours.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to the staff that accompanied the young people, as without their support and care these enrichment activities cannot take place.



Catcote Futures Awards

This year's ceremony was dedicated to the memory of Michael Landreth who sadly passed away in August. The Awards were held on the 20th October at The Vestry, Christ Church. The celebrations were organised by Catcote Futures Lifelong Learning staff and students and supported by Diane Wilson, Kay Slimmings, Kelly Gooding and Angela Jeffries who made a wonderful selection of cakes. Mrs Lawton's sing and sign group provided part of the entertainment, followed by Charlie Anderson singing a solo. We were also lucky enough to have Diana Baxter from NOCN to hand out the student's certificates and diplomas. Trophies were earned for Student of the Year in recognition of hard work, behaviour and their contributions to specific curriculum areas e.g Life Skills, Business and Enterprise etc. A special mention needs to be given to 2016/17's overall Student of the Year, which by unanimous vote was Carl Rowbotham. Since joining Catcote Futures, Carl has embraced everything that Futures is about and is very enthusiastic and engaged in all that the curriculum offers him.



He has shown growing maturity and has proved himself to be a very positive role model for all of the other students here at Futures. Well done Carl!

This year's awards also saw an increase in the support from parents who stated that they thought it was the best one yet so a big thank you to all who attended. Thank you also to Barry Currell and Alan Chapman for their speeches and sharing their vision for the continued development of Catcote Futures. A huge thank you must also go to all the staff and students who joined in with the event and showed everyone what it means to be a part of the Catcote Futures team and demonstrated the ethos of the Hartlepool Aspire Trust.



Catcote Futures Christmas Jumper Day

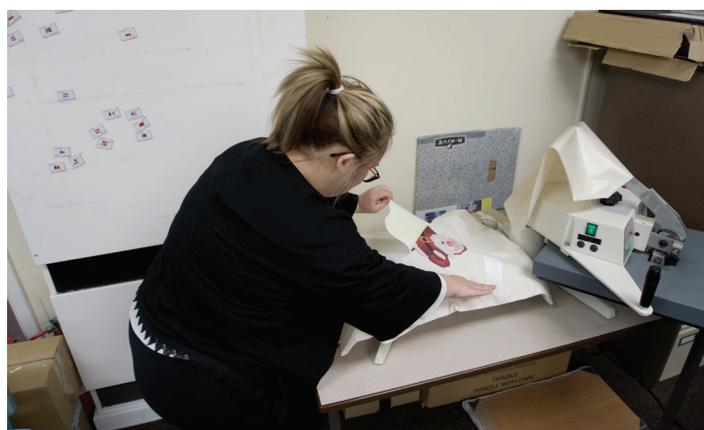
Catcote Futures was dazzled with the fantastic array of colours when we held our Christmas Jumper day. Staff and students supported the fun event and raised £74.00 which will be donated to 'Save the Children'.



CF2 Enterprise

When CF2 were given an enterprise challenge little did we know it would be so successful and take over all of our spare time. We looked at what we had available to us, including the reprographics equipment and how we could use it best. Reprographics had just had a ribbon printing machine kindly donated by "Brother" so we wanted to be able to use the printed ribbon in whatever we chose. Finally the idea of a personalised "Santa Sack" was agreed on and the students set about creating their designs.

The whole project has been a fantastic challenge and helped the students to demonstrate and develop lots of enterprise skills.



Students have researched and compared different sacks to use, selected their own designs and been involved with every aspect of the production. They have sold more than £500 worth of Santa Sacks, generating enough income to pay back all materials, enjoy a whole class treat at PizzaHut and also make a contribution to Parents and Friend.



Enterprise Classes

After the successful Enterprise business was launched last academic year, the students have continued to develop and create a range of new and exciting products for sale this Christmas. The group have made a range of different Christmas cards, Christmas hampers and decorations to be sold at the college fair.

In extending the business, the students and staff have attended a range of local Christmas Fairs in and around Hartlepool in the hope of selling their products to a wider audience of people. The fairs included Rossmere School, Springwell School, the Marine Hotel and Owton Manor Community Centre. Each fair was attended by a different student as a way of improving their work experience and social skills.



The students would like to say a massive thank you to Joanne Griggs from Candy Creations for the very generous donation that has helped to fund a lot of the Christmas products. Also a huge thank you to Gina McGuinness for donating a range of Avon Products as a contribution to Catcote Futures' raffles.



Finally the students wish to say a big thank you to Angela Jeffries and Vickie Ryan-Galal for all their efforts over this last term, and are looking forward to continue their enterprise work next term with fantastic Valentines Day and Easter products.

Christmas Surprise

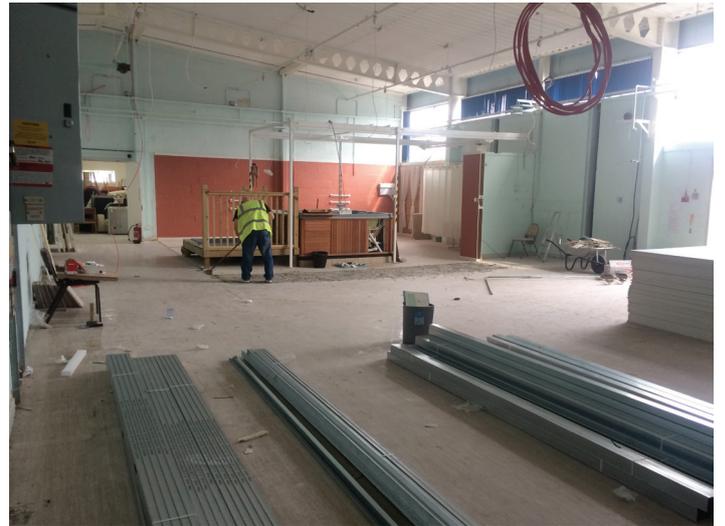
The Academy had a surprise visit from Ste Cotson from LAB GYM, this week. Ste donated two huge sacks of toys and we would like to say a big thank you.



Catcote Futures Learning and Skills Centre

From Warren Road to Catcote Futures Learning and Skills Centre.

This year has seen an enormous change for Catcote Futures with the relocation from Brierton Lane to Warren Road. While the new site gave Catcote Futures the fantastic opportunity to increase the range of activities we offer our students, it also gave the staff the headache of modernising the building to meet our high standards.



This has taken a little longer than expected but we are all very pleased with the results we have achieved. We are now proud to have on site a fully equipped Hair Salon, Reprographics work shop, a Gym, Jacuzzi and even our own rebound trampoline. We have a great wood work shop which is proving very popular and in January students will be able to take part in pottery sessions. We do still have more changes to make which will all be complete ready for our official opening in February 2018.



The pictures shown give an idea of the work involved and the standards we hope to achieve.

Hartlepool Community Singers

Once again Hartlepool Community Singers worked with Catcote to help raise money for the Catcote Nepal project. A very special Christmas Carol service was organised to take place at the wonderful Art Gallery. Joan Turner from the Hartlepool Community Singers donated lots of raffle prizes and even took the lead in selling tickets for this now annual event. The evening was spectacular. We were treated to an amazing



performance not only by the Hartlepool Community Singers but also by the Academy's Sing and Sign group who brought a tear to everybody's eye. We also enjoyed a visit from Santa which was a great surprise for the students taking part and in the audience. The final sum of money raised has not been calculated yet but it will be put with the rest of the fund to help build a nursery in the Nepal village of Baraphedi which was totally destroyed in the 2015 earthquakes.

Remembrance Bench

In August of this year, Michael Landreth, one of our CF5 students sadly passed away. His family kindly requested donations in lieu of flowers be made to Catcote Futures. The money raised has been used to purchase a memorial bench which has been placed in our sensory garden. Michael's parents Kath and Derek, along with other members of the family visited the garden with CF5 to officially commemorate the bench to Michael.

Catcote Futures students and staff will remember Michael fondly and would like to thank the family for their kindness and continued support.



New Opportunities

This year our Lifelong Learners have had the opportunity to experience new ventures including working at Catcote Metro in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

Some students have individually accessed the shop for work experience whilst a small group have been working in the upstairs workshop to develop their Business and Enterprise Skills.



This has given them the chance to work from the conception of an idea through construction and finally to the sale of the finished product in a real life retail work environment.



Each student will have the opportunity to continue to learn about all areas of the retail industry through practical tasks in the workshop which they can then transfer to working on the shop floor.



Attendance News

This term we have been monitoring each class' attendance and we have a 1st, 2nd and a 3rd place.

Well done to S5 (Mrs. Church) with 99.40 % attendance in 1st place.



2nd place goes to Link 1 (Mrs. Gray) with 96.96%



3rd place goes to Class 2 (Miss Laythorpe) with 96.77%



Parents and Friends

Catcote Parents & Friends hosted the annual Christmas Fayre in the school hall on Wednesday 20th December.

The attendance from parents and family was absolutely fantastic.

The students have worked so hard this year in producing some fantastic Christmas gifts, so a big well done to them and their staff teams.

The money has been counted and we raised a massive £1,821.20. All I can say is wow!

Thank you so much to all who support our Trust with all of their fundraising events.

The funds raised make a big difference to enhancing the curriculum for all our students.

Have a Merry Christmas!

*Save the date

9th February, Valentines Social Evening, please come along and enjoy the entertainment and fun!



HARTLEPOOL ASPIRE TRUST CALENDAR 2017/2018

2017	AUGUST 2017	SEPTEMBER 2017	OCTOBER 2017	NOVEMBER 2017	DECEMBER 2017
Monday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Tuesday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Wednesday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Thursday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Friday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Saturday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Sunday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31

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

- Bank Holiday
- Holiday
- PD day Trust
- PD day CF
- PD day CA

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

- CA - Catcote Academy
- CF - Catcote Futures
- Trust - CA & CF



Merry Christmas from everyone at Catcote