

# Chris's Journey

## From Education to Employment



### The Beginning.....

Chris joined Catcote Academy for the sixth form provision in 2009 and continued his education in our Post 19 provision at Catcote Futures. Chris was in a very structured, sheltered and autism specific pathway when he first enrolled

### Internal Work Experience.....

During his time at Catcote Academy & Catcote Futures, familiar staff supported Chris to undertake internal work experience placements in the schools Coffee Shop, to increase his skills and confidence of working in the catering sector.

Throughout this time Chris became a valuable member of the team, he showed he had a real 'flair' for cooking and gained the necessary skills he needed to take the next step.

### Supported Work Experience.....

Chris started working with support at The Vestry during the summer term 2015, as staff slowly stepped back allowing Chris to gain confidence with other people, make new friends and experience the world of work. He was able to complete several sessions per week. He loved every minute of his time there, travelling there and back independently. This filled him with a huge sense of achievement, seeking more challenges, with the confidence to fulfil them

### Supported Internship.....

In the academic year 16/17, Chris began a Supported Internship within the catering sector and he joined the catering team at Hartlepool Borough Council's Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Chris carried out a wide range of duties, including cooking and preparing buffets for large and small functions and meetings and serving customers. Chris utilised his skills in baking and confectionary and adhered to health and safety procedures. Chris

enjoyed this new challenge and said “my internship is going really well, I am enjoying preparing food from scratch to a very high quality.”

## **Inclusive Apprenticeship.....**

Following successful completion of his Supported Internship, Chris was successful in moving on to an Apprenticeship in Hospitality and Catering and became an employed status apprentice within Catcote Academy in September 2017. He successfully achieved his NVQ Level 2 in Catering and his level 3 in Food Hygiene!

## **Sustained Employment.....**

Upon completion of his apprenticeship, Chris was offered a paid position within Catcote Academy, as Bistro Manager. Chris has been sustained in employment for the past five years! Not only does he manage the Bistro, he orders stock and also mentors and supports students to gain internal work experience too.

Chris - you are an inspiration to others! Keep up the fantastic work!

Focus on what we CAN do

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**Supported Internship.....**



