

Callum's Journey - From Education to Employment

Callum began his journey at Catcote Academy Secondary School and then progressed to Catcote Sixth Form. Callum attended the sixth form for three years. Throughout his journey, he has undertaken a wide range of qualifications including functional skills in Maths and English, life skills and employability skills. Callum had the opportunity to gain 'real' hands-on experiences of the workplace in a variety of sectors offering him an insight into the world of work.

The careers and enterprise programme was personalised and tailored to meet Callum's individual needs and interests. Callum's confidence has grown so much this year, with a large part of this due to him finding new ways to express himself within lessons, such as drama and digital media studies. He has become a strong, independent learner who has both acknowledged and embraced his responsibilities, taking ownership for his journey. He recognises and thrives on the idea that he is now a young adult, and he relishes the opportunities presented to him where he can demonstrate his skills and choices.

Careers and work-related learning opportunities

Callum participated in a number of careers and enterprise activities, such as mock interviews, industry visits, classroom-based, employer-led careers lessons and assemblies. In addition to this, Callum has had regular careers guidance interviews throughout his time at school and sixth form. These have been invaluable in helping Callum to identify his choices and options for the future.

Callum expressed an interest in working with animals. As a result of this, an external work placement was set up for Callum with Vanity Fur dog groomers. Callum attended his placement one day per week initially, and as his confidence grew, this increased to two days per week. Charlotte, the owner, could not praise Callum enough, stating, "He is hardworking, gets on well with all the team, and has a real talent in this sector. I see a bright future ahead."

Callum now

Vanity Fur have offered Callum an supported internship starting in September 2022! This will enable Callum to further develop his skills and gain qualifications in this sector. Chris (co-owner) stated "I would encourage all employers to consider taking a young person with learning difficulties and disabilities within their organisation. Callum has brought so much to the table. He has a great sense of humour and really is such a valued member of the team."



Focus on what we CAN do, not what we can't.

Employer engagement is at the heart of our careers & enterprise programmes across the Trust. We are passionate about creating opportunities and positive outcomes for our students; building valuable and sustainable partnerships with local employers across Tees Valley. Without their support, we would not be able to offer the meaningful work experience placements that enable and empower our students to reach their full potential.