

Dear Families.

Once again, you will see from this newsletter that the students have had an amazing start to the new academic year and all our new starters have settled in lovely. Staff have worked extremely hard this term to create fun and exciting learning opportunities. We hope you enjoy looking through this newsletter and our social media sites.

It was lovely to see you all at our Christmas Fayre and College coffee morning which have been our first family events since the pandemic. I hope you would all agree that the handmade gifts that the students made in their enterprise lessons were amazing and all the proceeds will help students and classes to continue to make further products supporting them in developing key skills.

Since returning in September, we have had a number of works going on across the Trust to improve the provision for our current and future learners. These developments help us to continue to meet the needs of our SEND community. Within the Academy we have extended our provision for our most complex learners creating two larger classrooms and we have also made adaptations to the environment outside some of our classes in order to create further regulation spaces. At Catcote Futures, we have been able to replace our roof which was in need of repair. Across the Trust, we have also continued to rollout our maintenance plan and are investing heavily in updating our teaching environments including new lighting, storage solutions, carpets and blinds.

In our Summer Newsletter, I highlighted that we had recently had a visit from OFSTED who had inspected our Catcote Futures provision. I'm delighted to now be able to announce that the college received Good overall with Personal Development and Behaviour and Attitudes being graded as Outstanding.

Have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to welcoming all students back in the new year on Thursday 5th January.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!







6th Form Foodbank Project

Arts Bytes



Sixth Form class S4 were visited by Lisa from Hartlepool Foodbank. Students are learning about the work the Foodbank does in the town. They asked Lisa lots of great questions and she was very impressed. They plan to do more research and develop a project with the Foodbank. We have arranged a visit to their new 'Donation Station' at Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and their premises on Church Street next year. The first of the students' pictures has been put up in the window of the 'Donation Station' with many more to come.

Check back to see what the project will involve and what skills students will develop.



Catcote Academy are taking part in Art Bytes. Art Bytes is a national EdTech programme that utilises a bespoke, immersive, virtual gallery to offer young participants the opportunity to see their art exhibited online. They engage with new technology from the safety and convenience of their own home or school. Art Bytes will build learner confidence and nurture talent. Catcote Academy encourage future cultural engagement in and on the online gallery.

Our Creative Arts students are working towards individual artwork which will be shortlisted online for a public vote. The winning artist from each school will see their work displayed in our virtual gallery. Art Bytes culminates every June with a celebration event at a high-profile cultural venue in each of the nine regions of England.



Children in Need 2022

Catcote Academy has celebrated Children in Need by taking part in a Catcote Pudsey Catwalk to show off students' fantastic outfits!

We have also taken part in a Pudsey Bear cake competition, where each class was given a cake to decorate and enjoy!

We managed to raise £161 for this amazing charity!



Catcote Spotlight

Once again, the "Catcote Spotlight" digital media group have smashed their task of creating another fantastic music video. "Odds Are" by the Canadian rockers, Barenaked Ladies has been in development for most of this term and is their most ambitious project to date.

Based at the Catcote Academy Sixth Form site, the talented students (under the expert tutelage of Mr. Hann and Miss Lynn) had to research, rehearse and learn their roles. This resulted in yet another excellent performance by all the students involved.

Most of the video was recorded at the Hartlepool Centre for Excellence in Creative Arts (CECA) working in their green screen room with their ICT assistant Chris Miller. This has been the group's fourth project working in conjunction with the Hartlepool CECA, one of which was working with Teesside DJ Paul "Goffy" Gough which is covered in a separate article in this very newsletter.

"We love going to the CECA and working with all the staff there" said Connor Taylor, a student at the Sixth Form, "I'd never actually heard the song before but we had a lot of fun making the video for it. I actually really like it now and some of the Barenaked Ladies' other songs, I like what it's about and the nice message it sends. I think that we have done brilliant with the video and its came out really good".

The "Catcote Spotlight" Digital Media students and Mr Hann are currently really busy working on two new projects that they hope to finish and unleash on the world before Christmas!

The "Odds Are" video, as well as the other two projects, are viewable on the Catcote Facebook and YouTube channels.



Class 12 Tall Ships Visit

After learning about the Tall Ships during the Autumn Term, Class 12 visited The National Museum of The Royal Navy. They looked around The Historic Quay and had a tour of HMS Trincomalee. A great day was had by all!



Misfits

Our good friends The Misfits came to see everyone in Class 1 for their annual Christmas visit on Friday. These generous bikers brought along presents for the students and staff, and a cheque for an amazing £3,000. The Misfits Motorcycle group have been raising money for our students for 30 years and we are so grateful for their friendship and kindness. We would like to thank all of the generous people who have helped the Misfits to raise this amazing amount of money. The money will go towards creating a new sensory area within Class 1 with lights and sensory equipment. Thank you so much Misfits, we hope you all have a very Merry Christmas.



Reading Chair Project

The KS5 Creative Arts work related learning group have had the opportunity to design and upcycle their own art poem inspired chair. The chairs were donated by The Copper Kettle Café on Park Road to offer students the chance to work towards a live creative brief. They have adapted individual ideas each week during lessons, developing their surface design and furniture preparation skills. Our creative students constructed a small wooden prototype chair to bring their vision to life. The finished chairs will be used as reading chairs around school when they are complete.



Church Street Arts Detectives

Link 2 visited the Hartlepool Art Gallery in Creative Arts; taking part in 'The Church Street Detectives' challenge. Students were encouraged to answer a trail of questions on the arts and culture in the area. They looked at art history to contemporary art such as graffiti and photography. We'll done art detectives!!



Radio Tees DJ

Hartlepool born Radio Tees DJ Paul Gough, who has worked in the radio and media sector for over 30 years, has visited our school for the second time this year to share his tips and

expertise with Sixth Form students to produce their own podcast.
For the podcast, called The Music of My Life, pupils were asked to pick out two of their all time favourite songs and explain why they were special to them.
Goffy said: "It was lovely to hear how the students had grown to love particular songs and

also to hear of their plans for the future – one of the group has aspirations to become a radio presenter and another a musician and they are great career goals. I was chatting to them on air suggesting that they follow their dreams as anything is possible."

"It was a show all about the students and they all showed loads of confidence, which was plain to see and even clearer to hear. "They loved hearing their songs and sharing life stories as they took it in turns to be my special guest. Working on their own part of the show and researching it all helps in the production of radio."

The radio and media session took place at the Centre of Excellence in Creative Arts (CECA). Huge thanks to Paul and the staff at CECA for your continued support with our students.



Creative Arts Students

Sixth Form Creative Arts students have designed a range of contemporary and unique plates. The students took pride throughout the design process. The plates were designed to sell in a local gallery alongside a selection of cards for the new year.



Remembrance Day

Class 6 made a Remembrance Day wreath to raffle off in school to make money for The Poppy Appeal. We managed to make £66 and decided that 100% of the monies raised will go directly to the charity.
Thank you so much to everyone who helped

support this amazing charity.

Shelley Slimmings was the winner and she was over the moon.



Merry Dutch Christmas

Our thanks go out to the Dutch Garden Centre in Hartlepool for not only supporting many of our students throughout the year with exceptionally valuable work experience placements, but also for supplying another Christmas tree to our 6th Form this year.

Merry Christmas to all of the staff at the Dutch Garden Centre from your friends at Catcote Academy!





Festival of Thrift 2022

Trashion Show goes to the ECOuture Fashion Show!

Five students from Catcote Academy and Sixth Form were invited to take part in The Festival of Thrift's 10th anniversary this weekend. Students took to the catwalk wearing a collection of eight Trashion Show outfits that students from across the Academy designed and made. The students have had this fantastic opportunity to work in a live creative environment alongside up and coming fashion designers, models, artists and creative practitioners from across the North East.

The students and staff would like to say a huge thank you to the Festival's Creative Director Stella Hall, Fashion Lecturer Abigail Dennison from Teesside University and Bloomin Art for inviting us to be part of this amazing weekend experience.

We are very proud of our students' resilience, positivity and approach to the experience, they were great representives of Catcote. Well done!

James said "That was the best thing I have ever seen, I wanted to stay out there on that stage!"

Whilst Lucy commented "My hair and make-up feels so nice, I feel like I'm famous!



Macmillan Coffee Morning

S1 hosted this year's Macmillan Coffee morning. We set a challenge for everyone in yellow pathway; they were given £5 per class to bake something to contribute to the sale. We were almost sold out within 10 minutes! We made £232.55 for the Macmillan charity. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who baked and bought goods from our coffee morning.



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Year 8 Enterprise

Over the last 3 weeks, Year 8
Enterprise students have been visiting workplaces in order to gain meaningful encounters with employers. Students had the opportunity to look around the 3 workplaces, experience some of the job roles on offer and discuss potential options for employment.

Staff and students would like to say a big thank you to the staff at Hartlepool College of Further Education, Catcote Metro, Santa's Grotto at Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and The Suit Direct Stadium Hartlepool United FC for making us feel so welcome.







Santa's Grotto

This year, students from our KS4 and Sixth Form have been working really hard in partnership with Middleton Grange Shopping Centre to help run Santa's Grotto. The grotto has been open every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday over a four week period in the

run up to Christmas.

Students have really enjoyed welcoming children of different age groups to the Grotto when visiting Santa! Students from each class have been making enterprise items and selling these outside the Grotto! This is a community initiative and students have really enjoyed learning new work skills, handling cash, speaking to members of the public and being part of 'The Elf Squad!'

Students have thoroughly enjoyed this magical experience and all proceeds made from this exciting project will be given to three charities; Catcote Parents & Friends, Air Ambulance and also Wharton Trust. who will use the funds to buy food items for working families who are struggling with the cost of living crisis!



Well done to all who have taken part and thanks to Mark Rycraft, Middleton Grange Shopping Centre Manager, for giving our students this amazing opportunity!



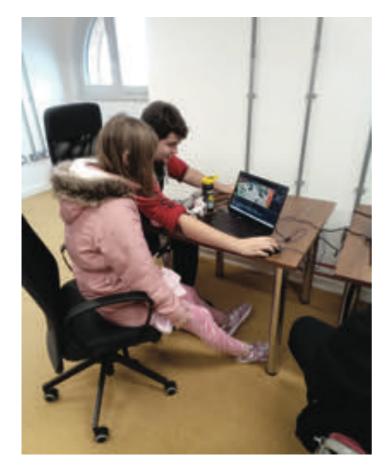


Tanglewood Games

Huge thanks to Tanglewood Games and The BIS Hartlepool for working in partnership with Catcote Sixth Form students on a gaming project!

Cameron, Clarissa and Billy met the team at Tanglewood at the The BIS Hartlepool, and had a chance to play through a specially-built level for them. They pushed the level to its limits, then learned some skills at editing a game level and the mechanics. Billy played with the speed and gravity sliders, Clarissa built new rooms and trees in the level, and Cameron asked the team a lot of questions about game design.

The team there are great, and the students did brilliantly today; we're looking forward to going back and working with them during work-related learning.



Sound Mirror

Creative Arts students had the opportunity to enter the 'Sound Mirror' excavation area at Clavering Road. Students spoke to the Tees archaeologists and local sound artist Rob Smith. Rob demonstrated how the mirror would have worked and how his creation would help with the dig, environment and culture. The students learnt that the sound mirror was the only early warning system Britain had until radar was introduced in 1938 and stood alongside five other mirrors along the North-East coast until it was demolished in the 1960s to make way for housing.





Autumn Art

CECA Visit

The Autumn term has seen Catcote Futurelearners busy working away in our shop Catcote Metro, located in the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre. A move that has allowed us to produce the wonderful products you have all come to love in, an environment where you are welcome to come and watch (and hopefully buy).

Halloween Art kicked off the Autumn term with everything frighteningly spooktacular. From felt to ceramic pumpkins the group made them all and don't forget the mushroom houses that kept springing up around the college.

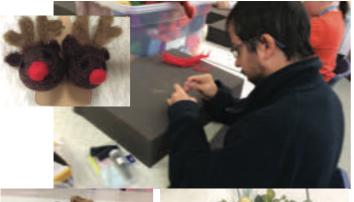
As soon as Halloween was over, we started gearing up for Christmas. Felted reindeer and snowmen, together with FEMO Santa's, snowmen and even Christmas puddings, we have made them all. We are now busy making the last of the Christmas wreaths and ceramic Santas before we all go off for a well-earned rest.

Friday 9th December, some of the learners and staff from Catcote Futures had an amazing day at CECA, the Centre for Excellence in Creative Arts. The day started with great fun in the studio, recording a couple of Christmas songs before moving into the media suite and dance studio.

After lunch the learners entertained the crowds with a few more Christmas songs

before starting the afternoon activities. These included making bags and table decorations. Everyone had a brilliant day and enjoyed demonstrating their skills in front of others.











CF7 Enterprise

This term, the learners in CF7 have been working very hard in their Enterprise sessions. They have been using lots of functional skills such as communication, functional maths, team work and applying our Enterprise Commandments.

They have been working hard to assemble boxes, sort and match sweets and products, make labels and stick important information onto our products.

Everyone has really enjoyed Enterprise this term and it was lovely to see so many of the Catcote Futures community at the Christmas Fair recently.

Great Work CF7!



Ghosts, monsters and legend

This term in CF2, learners have been learning vital skills by studying all manner of vicious beasts and scary creatures! At the beginning of the year, the learners had adventures with the Loch Ness Monster, which led to lots of activities with water, Scottish food and culture as well as interacting with the beastly Nessie herself!

In the second half of the term, the class embarked on a mountain climbing adventure where they encountered a very large, hairy, and thankfully playful Yeti. This led to fun and developmentally appropriate games of hide and seek in the classroom as the learners avoided the lumbering beast! Thankfully, he turned out to be a very friendly chap, who was very fond of snowball fights, sledging and ice cream, which is always fine by us!

Other notable creatures that we've studied this term are a witch who was trying to make an ugly potion, a bunch of disgusting minibeasts who were feeling under the weather and a silly boy who wouldn't follow the Firework Code. What a fantastic start to the year!

many of our more complex learners. We have amalgamated our 'Sensory Explorers' and 'Aiming High' pathways to create three brand new classes. This has allowed teachers to focus even more tightly on learners' individual outcomes and has helped us to tailor our curriculum to their needs even more. As well as this, we've been able to reduce the age range of the learners in these classes, to further help teachers concentrate on priorities for learners at different stages of their lives and educational journey.

Pete Wells, Curriculum Lead, said "The shake-

New class structures

s year has seen a radical shakeup for

Pete Wells, Curriculum Lead, said "The shakeup has worked really well and has allowed us to focus much more tightly on teaching the right content to the right cohort of learners. The three groups are working really well, mixing for some sessions and concentrating on real areas of need for others. I can already see massive progress in some very complex learners that I am convinced is a direct result of our restructure! I'm absolutely thrilled!"











Great North Run

On 11th September, 7 members of staff from across the Trust took apart in the Great North Run to raise funds for Parents and Friends of Catcote. It was a great day and everyone crossed the finish line. An amazing amount of money was raised, and the total was in the region of £2000, which goes back to our learners for various things, whether it is towards Prom or activities throughout the year. Money is also used to help towards the discos and events which are held for the whole Trust.

We would like to thank everyone for their support and sponsors. The staff had a great day and were well fed on route with all the sweet treats offered from spectators. The atmosphere was amazing.....but whether we do it again next year remains to be seen!



Catcote Futures Singing and Signing Group

This term, learners across Catcote Futures have been learning the lyrics and sign actions for a selection of seasonal songs. They have been working extremely hard, practising twice a week as well as during some of their recreation time to prepare for our performances.

Although one of the planned performances at Hartlepool College of Further Education didn't go ahead, the learners performed in front of a live audience and sang and signed brilliantly at the Catcote Futures Christmas Fair.

After the performance, Joan from the Hartlepool Community Singers came and congratulated the learners and also gave them a lovely Christmas gift for all their hard work. Joan brought bags of sweets for some of the other learners too. A special thank you to Joan for her kindness and generosity!

Very, very well done to all the learners for taking part in the Singing and Signing group this term, you made us all so proud! Finally, a big thank you to Lisa Relton, Helen King and Phil for all their hard work throughout the term of running the group.



Golden Ticket

This term, CF1 have been looking at the story of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Learners have had a great time exploring a sensory story, experiencing and participating in a range of sensory exploration both with items and food and have made some art work based on the story. The learners got to engage with a range of sensory items, such as balloons, snow, the use of switches and, of course, chocolate! Sensory sessions

included messy food play using edible paper, fruit tasting and making our own hot chocolates. This has been a very fun topic and the learners have had the chance to explore a wide range of experiences based on the story that many people know.



Hartfields

This term, marked the return and continuation of the great working partnership between Catcote Futures and Hartfields Retirement Village. Hartfields have been a great supporter of the STEPs programme, our pathway to independence and employment, over the years. Students



had a visit at the beginning of term, they were shown around the village and completed all the health and safety paperwork and activities. They then went on to work with the domestic team gaining great experience in a brilliant working environment.



Ida Hodgeman Donation

We were very saddened to hear Ida Hodgman, a very dear friend and supporter of Catcote Futures, passed away early in the summer. Ida has volunteered in classrooms and was a Governor at Catcote for many years and is well known by many staff and learners. Ida requested that donations made during her funeral should be shared with Catcote Futures.

A donation of £166.31 will now be used towards our Hydrotherapy Pool.



OFSTED inspection

During the second last week of term (before the summer break), Catcote Futures were visited by Ofsted. This was our first ever full inspection as a specialist FE College. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors over a 3-day period (12th -14th July) and was extremely thorough. The full report was not published until September and it is available to read on our website (www.catcotefutures. co.uk) but some highlights are as follows. We are very proud to report that our overall effectiveness was judged as being Good. However, we are particularly pleased that the inspectors were able to see for themselves some of the brilliant work that takes place throughout Futures and graded us as Outstanding for the areas of 'Behaviour and Attitudes' and 'Personal Development'. This is huge credit to our learners and excellent team of staff.



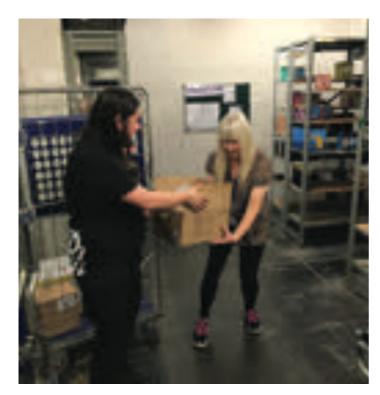
Job Carving

Catcote Futures prides itself on preparing our young people for the world of work. The Careers programme taught in the classroom is supported by a fantastic offer of work experience in the community, across a wide range of work placements in a variety of work areas.

These placements are sourced by a fabulous team of employer engagement leads and job coaches. This also involves our job coaches going into the workplace to complete a 'shift' to experience the job first hand and enhance their own knowledge of the work place itself. This 'job carving;' offers further information to enable the job coach to break down tasks for the young person matched to the placement.

The employers who currently work in partnership with Catcote find job carving a great way to build relationships with the job coaches prior to the young person joining the work team. This supports the employers to develop a better understanding of the young people they are offering work experience to.

One of our job coaches, Sue Currell, job carved in the Boots Warehouse in preparation for two young people to join her the following week. Sue was definitely put through her paces during her shift! She gained valuable experience of the job and chatted to the Boots staff to support them with their preparation before our learners attended.



Art Gallery

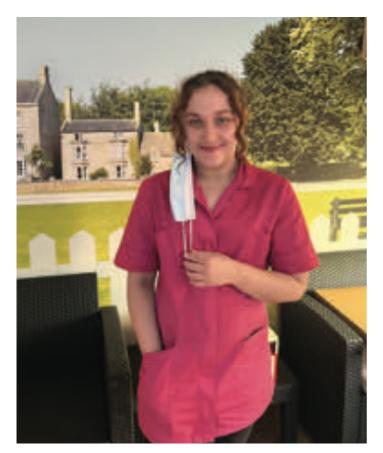
Our talented Creative Arts work-related learning students visited the Hartlepool Art Gallery yesterday to broaden their market research. Over the last 6 weeks, the group have been learning about surface pattern. They have created a range of designs that can be used across a diverse range of products to sell in galleries and shops. There has been some fantastic design work produced. Well done and keep championing the arts Link 4!



Paid Work

Nakita, one of our STEPs students, has been attending a work placement since the summer of last academic year in West View Care Lodge. Her job coach, Helen Newton, has been working closely to support both Nakita and her employer even visiting on a Saturday. Recently, Nakita was asked to do her first shift as a PAID employee at the West View Care Lodge. This went really well and Nakita is now working part time on bank staff and will continue to do so until the end of her Supported Internship in July when she will become a fully-fledged full time member of their staff. Nakita has not only grown in her work skills but confidence in her own abilities too. She has become part of the team at West View Care Lodge.

Well done Nakita we are very proud of you. We would also like to thank all the staff at the West View Care Lodge for their continued support with our learners and recognising work ready young people.





Remembrance Day Parade

For the second year running, Catcote Futures learners decided they wanted to do something to commemorate Remembrance Day. Learners decided they would take part in both the Remembrance Day Parades in Hartlepool, one at Victory Square and one at The Headland.

The learners bought two wreaths from The Royal British Legion and chose the special words to write on the cards.

The first wreath was taken by a group of 5 learners and 6 members of staff to the parade at the town centre. The group took part in the parade, sang along with the hymns and were fantastic during the two minutes silence. The wreath was placed on the cenotaph by Emma and Angela, and it was a very proud moment for the college. We even had the chance to meet the commanding officer of the parade, and she was from Hartlepool!

The second wreath was taken to the Headland parade. The learners took part in the parade, the two minutes silence and sang some of the hymns. The learners then walked and placed the wreath on the cenotaph.

Both sets of learners were a true credit to Catcote Futures throughout the parades. And a big thank you to the staff for giving up their time to help and support our learners at such an amazing event.



Catcote Futures do Children in Need

On Friday 18th November, Catcote Futures held a day of fundraising in aid of Children in Need. All learners and staff members were invited to make a small donation and wear pyjamas to college for the day.

During the morning, all of the option choices were Children in Need themed. This included group games - playing Pudsey Bear based games, model building — Children In Need style art - creating their own Pudseys.

In the afternoon, Catcote Futures held a Children in Need quiz. Learners were mixed into groups and had to compete in different rounds, including name the TV programme, name the Children in Need song and a memory round.

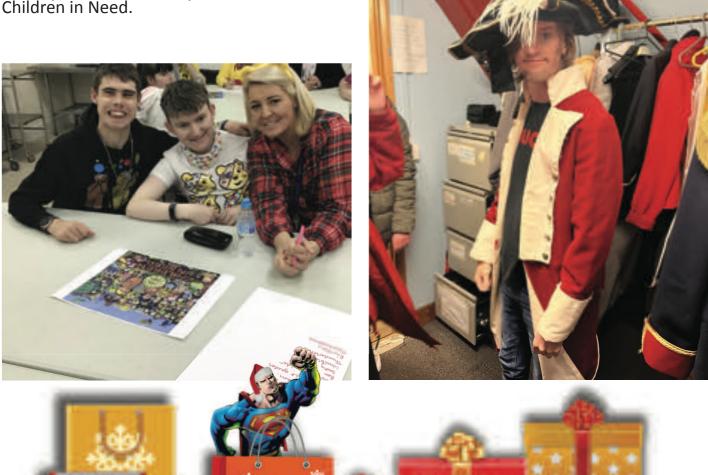
The learners and staff all really enjoyed the day and raised an impressive £120 for Children in Need

Royal Navy

The STEPs employability pathway is working in partnership with the fantastic Museum of the Royal Navy on Hartlepool Historic Quay this year.

Four of our students will be working two hour shifts each week in various roles within the museum as part of their work experience programme. Wendy Clarke met with the students to give them a tour of the areas they will be working in. The STEPs students will be job coached and supported by the STEPs team.

The students are so enthusiastic about this new employability venture, made possible by the fantastic partnership work with Gemma Honour, busy coordinating from Portsmouth and Simon Walsh, coordinating on site here in Hartlepool.



Learning Valuable Life Skills

Tesco Fair Share Scheme

The STEPs students learned about taking care of themselves over the term - starting with buttons!

As one student asked "Why do I need to learn this, my Grandma would do it?"

Why indeed? The answer, "So you can take care of yourself and become more self reliant and independent!"

Most of the students found this task quite challenging, especially keeping their tongues in their mouths when threading the needles! Gabriel was fantastic at this task and went on to support other students who were struggling.

Well done Gabriel!

The Tesco Fair Share Scheme really impacted the STEPs students this week with a fantastic donation of a variety of fruit and veg to choose from.

There was also a large donation of bananas, which we took great advantage of to make some delicious banana bread. Most students tried the banana bread with a varied result of preference. Harrison, however, greatly enjoyed it and even took some home! Thanks Tesco for working with Catcote and allowing our students the opportunities to try new things!

Next week we are making pizza with the donated pizza bases.....yum yum!













Ho Ho Santa's Grotto











Christmas Dinner

On Wednesday 14th December, Catcote Futures held their annual Christmas dinner. Each table was set and decorated by the learners in CF6, and the centrepieces were the creations of the different Enterprise classes.

We had a very lovely lunch with turkey or vegetarian meat loaf, served with all the trimmings. Lots of staff and learners also chose to wear a Christmas jumper. We were also treated to Christmas background playlist and backdrop created by the Catcote Futures film making group.

A very lovely day was had by everyone. A special thank you goes out to Sue, Carol, Aileen and James for the fantastic Christmas Lunch.





Farewells to Staff



Amanda Metcalf has worked with Catcote for 25 years. Starting out as a Teaching Assistant, Amanda worked hard to progress to becoming a teacher and then a middle leader for Work Related Learning and Enterprise. She has supported many students into employment, and develop their independent living skills. Amanda will be a huge miss to both students and staff. She is continuing to prepare young people with SEND for adulthood and is going to be working for Talentino, a charity focused on careers development organisation. We wish her the very best for the future.

Mrs Clark has worked with Catcote for 20 years, predominately with our college students. She is retiring this week and will be dearly missed. We wish her a very long and happy retirement.





Miss Mincher has worked for Catcote for nearly 2 years and is leaving us to train to be an Educational Psychologist. We know she will be amazing at this and we wish her the best of luck.

Miss McNeilly has worked as a teaching assistant for nearly 3 years at the college. She is leaving us to work in a local primary school and we wish her all the best for the future.





Mrs Hartley has worked as a teaching assistant, however has decided to take up a post in a primary school closer to where she lives. We wish her every success for the future.



TERM DATES 2022-23

