



# Easter 2023 Edition

*We hope you all have a lovely Easter break.*

Dear Families,

Once again, you will see from this Newsletter that the students have had an amazing term and have been involved in a variety of rich learning experiences both within and outside of school and college. We hope you enjoy looking through this newsletter and our social media sites.

We have continued with our refurbishment programme across the Trust to improve the provision for our current and future learners. This has included updates to our coffee shop and bistro areas, the creation of new meeting spaces at the Academy and new reading areas across the school. Further improvements are planned to take place during the Easter holidays. We are also pleased to announce that in the Summer holidays, automated gates will be installed at the school, which will add further security and safety.

Our discussions with the Local Authority regarding future growth continue, which have included conversations around the local offer for adults with SEND and off-site college provision for our students with Autism following an employability pathway. I will continue to keep you updated on the outcome of these meetings.

This term, we have also been working closely with a local graphic design company to support us with our branding. This has included designing colourful elements to be installed within the school and updating our administration templates, such as letterheads. We will be working on additional branding for our College after Easter. As part of this work, we also incorporated our new values, which we hope you will agree capture, the ethos of our Trust. Our values and examples of the new branding can be seen on page 5.

We continue to be recognised locally and nationally for the work we do within the Trust. We have been able to welcome visitors again and have presented at several conferences to share good practice, particularly around our Post 16 and 19 provisions, employability pathways and our approaches to supporting readiness to learn.

Have a lovely Easter and we look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 17th April.

Mrs Greig  
(CEO)

## HRH Queen Elizabeth II

Kayla Stirrup, Evie Latimer and Leona Jenkins attended a town wide memorial to commemorate HRH Queen Elizabeth II. The students joined other schools from around Hartlepool planting trees at Summerhill in memory of the late Queen. Well done girls, you did Catcote proud.



*Kayla Stirrup, Evie Latimer and Leona Jenkins. Excellent work girls. Well done!*



## Reading Chair Project



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 opportunity 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 products will be used as reading chairs around school when they are complete.





## Keith Robson Illustration Visit

KS5 Creative Arts students had an amazing opportunity to see original artworks of illustrator Keith Robson.



Keith created some of the most iconic illustrations for comic books such as Dandy and Beano. Keith shared his passion for drawing with our students; they were fascinated by his creative career over the years, which still continues today. Keith is teaching illustration freelance around the town. We would like to thank Keith for a great visit and sharing his style of working.



## Wiggleton Grange Bug Hotel Project

Over the past couple of weeks our KS4 Creative Arts and Forest School work related learning groups have been designing and making a bug hotel to be placed outside of Middleton Grange Shopping Centre. Students were given a live brief to follow; they have implemented and adapted creative ideas throughout the project to complete thier vision. We would like to say a huge Thank You to Ben Glaister Smith and the staff of Hartlepool College of Further Education for working with us last term. Our students have enjoyed making new friends and learning new skills.

The bug hotel will be sited soon and it will help promote bio diversity which benefits lots of different types of mini beasts including ladybirds, bees, spiders and woodlice. Minibeasts can then use the bug hotel as a safe space to shelter, lay their eggs, raise their young and seek refuge from pedators.





## Parkers Donation

Catcote Parents, Friends and Staff would like to thank Parkers Bakery for their very generous donation of buns and cakes, ready for our Valentines disco. This really helped us to keep the costs down and to make the disco more affordable for all families.



## The Quality in Careers Standards Reassessment



The Careers Team are currently working towards reassessment for the Quality in Careers Standard award.

This award will recognise that we provide an outstanding programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance activities that satisfy the national requirements.

Our aim is to achieve this by July 2023. We will keep you updated on our progress.

## New Branding





# RED NOSE DAY

17th March 2023

Pupils throughout the school had great fun fundraising for Red Nose Day. The theme for the day was dress from “red to toe”. Our business and enterprise challenge responsibility - “show it”, was to decorate a cake with icing and red sweets to share with everyone in class. Students in Yellow and Blue Pathways attended a “red to toe” disco which they thoroughly enjoyed. Students from Class 4 and 5 were responsible for collecting and counting the money raised, which was a total of £118.87.





## A Huge THANK YOU

Students and staff at the Academy would like to say a huge Thank You to Jackie Gate's dad John, who has very kindly made a donation to be spent on equipment within the school. The money has been used to buy play equipment for the bottom yard, and as you can see, the students are over the moon! We are very grateful.



## Annual Choices Event

Catcote Academy held their annual Choices Event on Tuesday 14th March. There were over 25 external providers in attendance to help students and their parents/carers consider the opportunities available and to make an informed choice with regards to their future career. 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 sectors.

The event was a huge success with positive feedback from providers, staff and students alike.





## Daniel Lyon Presentation

On 18th March, students from Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 attended an assembly delivered by ex-student Daniel Lyon. Daniel confidently delivered an amazing presentation about his journey from Catcote Academy to Teesside University.

Daniel attended Catcote Academy from years 7 to 11, he then accessed Hartlepool College of Further Education where he studied Art and Design before moving on to study for a BA (Hons) in Comics and Graphic Novels through Teesside University, where he is currently in his final year.

You could hear a “pin drop” in the hall throughout the presentation. Daniel is an inspiration to all our students! The feedback from staff and students alike was outstanding! We are all so very proud of Daniel’s achievements, determination and talent and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.



## Shaun the Sheep arrives at Catcote!



Our learners across the school will have the opportunity to decorate their very own little Shaun sculpture and raise funds for St. Oswald’s Hospice by taking part in an art adventure featuring this much-loved and instantly recognisable character.

Along with the rest of the flock, our sculpture will be displayed throughout Summer 2023 at venues across Tyne and Wear for everyone to admire and enjoy. After the trail, our little Shaun will be returned to us! We will adopt him and keep forever.

By being part of Shaun the Sheep on the Tyne, we will raise the profile of our school, giving our learners an exciting learning opportunity. The charity has partnered with creative producers Wild in Art, Shaun the Sheep creator Aardman and Headline Partners and Newcastle City Council to bring a ewe-nique art adventure that the whole family can enjoy.



## Presentation from Hartlepool College of Further Education

On 15th February, students from Key Stages 3 and 4 enjoyed a presentation by Michaela Knowlson from Hartlepool College of Further Education. They learnt about the variety of courses available, had a virtual tour of the college and had the opportunity to ask lots of questions about future options.

Huge thanks to Hartlepool College of Further Education and Michaela for delivering this to our students.



### CF1 switching it up!

This term, CF1 have been including a wide range of assistive technology into the sessions. They have been using switches to conduct many cookery sessions throughout the term, leading up to making some gorgeous cake jars to take home for Mother's Day. All of the learners were well engaged and enjoyed using the various switches to complete these tasks, building up on the switch work as the sessions developed. They got some amazing feedback from each learner about how the cake jars were very appreciated and were very scrumptious!

## World Skills Inclusive Skills Online Training Competition

On Wednesday 22nd March, S4 went to the Hartlepool College of Further Education to compete in a World Skills UK Inclusive Skills Online Safety competition. They were met at the front door by Ronnie Bage and taken to the room by some great student representatives. Our students took their places with other students from Hartlepool College of Further Education and Newcastle College.

They had to create a PowerPoint on various online safety topics. The entries were judged by a team from Cleveland Police Cyber Crimes Unit. The judges found it very difficult to separate the winners as they were all of such a high standard.

Well done to EVERY student! We are especially pleased to say that Lillijade from Catcote Academy was the winner of her category! Thanks to Christine Deane for organising and hosting such a great event for our students.





## World Skills UK Inclusive Skills Employability Skills Inter-College Competition

On Monday, 20th March, Sixth Form's S3 attended a WorldSkills UK Inclusive Skills Employability Skills inter-college competition at East Durham College, Peterlee. Prior to the competition, students were given a brief, telling them what the competition would involve and what resources would be provided on the day. The students had to design a poster for the perfect employee for a new role at Northumbrian Water - Project Assistant for their new campaign #BinTheWipe. The students had a mentor from Northumbrian Water working with them to offer advice and guidance.

The students performed brilliantly and staff could not have been more proud! Not only did they work together as a team to produce a fantastic poster detailing the skills and qualities that the new employee would need, they communicated fantastically well with their mentor and many members of Northumbrian Water were impressed with their great ideas and the work they produced. They also made contacts with the Apprenticeship Team giving our students further opportunities in the future.

S3 did not win the competition, but were just one point behind the winners! They had a fantastic day and they really got a lot from the experience.

When they returned to Sixth Form, students presented their ideas and design to all of the staff and students there too!

#FocusOnWhatWeCANDo #Inclusion



## Praise Event

To acknowledge our students excellent progress and love for learning we host a “Praise Event” to celebrate their success. Students are given a gold star on pieces of work in their book that stand out and their teacher thinks they should be proud of.

Students came to the schoold hall which had a fabulous display of balloons, postcards, pens and goodies. This is to entice our students into presenting their work to an excellent level and motivate them to share their good practice with one another.

All students were invited along to share with staff what they have done to make them feel proud. It was an excellent success and the children all thrived during and after the event took place.

Here at Catcote Academy we are all so proud of our student’s development, we enjoy watching our pupils grow with confidence.





## A group of six people, including three students in wheelchairs, posing in front of a display of children's books. The books include titles like 'Sachar', 'The Worst', 'The Boy in the Tower', and 'The Magic of Moses'.



Everyone looked absolutely amazing in their costumes and a great day was had by all!

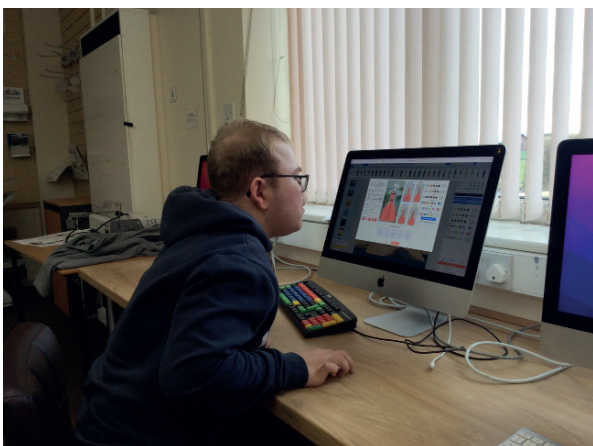




## Catcote Futures stories - Adventures of Princess Aria

This term, the story making class has been using a new programme to create their own story – The Adventures of Princess Aria. They have focused on a comic strip style of storyboard and using the computers have been able to independently add their own ideas into the class story, choosing their own background, characters, items and even emotions and expressions. The class has looked a lot at feelings and emotions within the characters and how they might act in certain scenes. The group worked amazing as a team creating the main character – Princess Aria, and the side character – CatDog (based from a cartoon many of them knew). They were able to use a mix of their own imagination and took ideas from well-known stories to help build the foundations for their own story.

It was a lot of fun to create and it was great to see the class work so well together, getting the chance to use this new programme to their advantage.



## CF7 Functional Skills

This term, the learners in CF7 have been developing their functional English and Maths skills. As part of these sessions, they have been working together to make shopping lists, reading and matching words and symbols, taking part in community visits, applying functional money skills and interacting with the local community in the café. Within the sessions, the learners have also been working on their functional writing skills. They have been very busy making posters for the many special events this term. The learners have worked hard to match, recognise and sequence letters to make words and sentences for the posters. Their posters have been put on display across the college for everyone to see. Great work CF7.

