

A header image showing a tropical beach scene with a palm tree in the foreground, a clear blue sky, and a turquoise ocean. The text 'Summer Newsletter 2022' is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

Summer Newsletter 2022

Dear Families,

Once again, you will see from this newsletter that this term has been packed full of fun and exciting learning opportunities for our students. We hope you enjoy looking through this newsletter and our social media sites.

It has been a particular busy time on the Academy site. Our new extension was finally completed, and it was lovely to welcome all students back on site. We are delighted with the build and as you will see from the photos on page 22, it has been built to a very high standard. The extension comprises of 13 general teaching classrooms for red pathway students, 3 specialist rooms (Art, Food Technology and Science) and a small hall. Students and staff have settled in very well.

Over the coming years we will be improving the internal decoration on the main site at the school, Sixth Form and Catcote Futures, in order to match the high standard of the new extension.

To further alleviate capacity issues, we are exploring options to extend our PMLD provision within the school and create some further hygiene rooms. Capacity continues to be an issue at our Catcote Futures site and we are exploring ways we can extend our ASC provision. We are also currently in discussions with the Local Authority to look at developing Adult SEND provision within Hartlepool.

Our outdoor fitness and learning zone was completed in 2020 and we are now keen to open its use to the local community. On the 16th of July, we had a launch of the area with various local organisations attending. The hope is that our local community including our local SEND community will be able to benefit from its use after school and on weekends.

Last week, Catcote Futures received their first full inspection. We will be able to share with families the grading in September when we will have received the official report. Our learners and staff were amazing and did themselves and the college proud!

May I take this opportunity to once again thank you for your unwavering support especially over the last few years. Our Catcote Family has become even stronger through these challenging times and we are even more committed to driving the Trust's vision in creating excellent education for your children.

Have a lovely Summer and we look forward to welcoming all students back in the new term on the 5th of September.

Kind Regards
Lisa

Raft Building

Class 12 have been enjoying their visits out in the community this term, with the highlight being a trip to the Tees Barrage to take part in a Raft Building experience!

They didn't stay dry for long, but had lots of fun! Students took part in races and games and worked excellently as a team!



Angela Read Art Visit

Great visit this term from Angela Read, collage artist. Students enjoyed listening to Angela's journey as an established artist and her passion for taking it forward as a new career. Angela worked alongside students bringing their designs to life ready for Catcote's annual 'Trashion show'. Link 2 students shared lots of questions linked to employability within the creative sector, design ideas and creative aspirations. Thanks Angela, for championing the arts and focusing on what students can do!



Animex academy

Creative arts students from Catcote Academy took part in a 'Make a stop Animation in a Day' at Teesside University in collaboration with alumni of the Animex Academy. Students were involved as a team to create a three-minute stop motion animation inspired by their own ideas in just one day. Students prepared a script, comic strips layout, character development and scenes before the event. Throughout the morning, they brought their characters to life using plasticine, props, voice memos and sounds recorded using the stop motion programme on an iPad. Students took part showing their finished video along with other schools from the region at the end of the day. The creative arts staff and students from Catcote would like to say a big thank you to Robin Webb (Animation and filmmaking), Teesside and Animex Academy for inviting us along to have the opportunity to take part in this amazing event and supplying refreshments. Great creative Day!



Autism Acceptance

The month of April is Autism Awareness Month. This year is special for 2 reasons;

- Autism Awareness has been rebranded as Autism Acceptance this year to celebrate neurodiversity,
- The National Autistic Society (NAS) is celebrating 60 years of supporting autistic people and their families.

To celebrate, learners across the Trust learnt about autism, focussing on the strengths of autistic people.

Some classes also completed challenges around the theme of '60' including 60-minute dance-athons, 60 piece puzzles, 60 second timer challenges and decorating 60 biscuits with neurodiversity logos.

Throughout April, classes have been encouraged to consider their special interests and add them to our giant neurodiversity collage. This art piece has taken on a life of its own as more and more learners took part. The final result is fascinating and impactful in equal measure and features a wide range of special interests from Super Mario to car tyres to Richard and Judy! Thanks to all of the learners who took part in this project, we are very proud of the final result.



World Book Day

Class 2 had an amazing time for World Book Day.

Both staff and students around the school dressed up as their favourite characters.

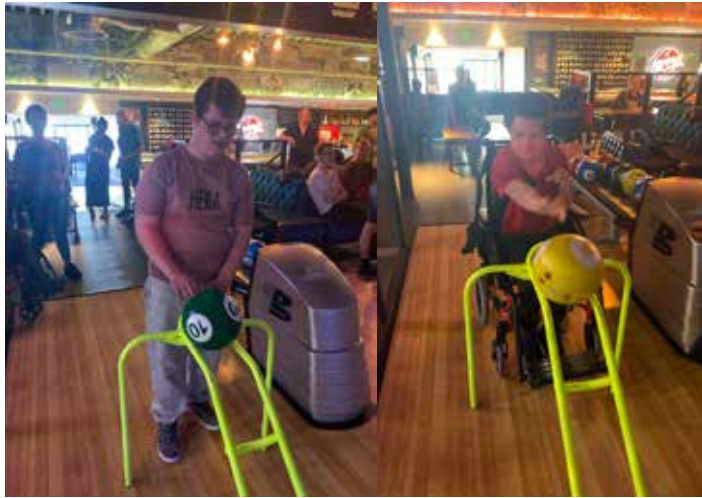
Everyone took part in story telling in the coffee shop, listening to different stories in the hall and even had their photo taken in the photo booth.

A good day was had by all and they can't wait until next year's World Book Day already.



Class 2 - Larrys Lanes

Class 2 enjoyed their end of year trip at Larry's Lanes. They had a game of bowling and had their dinner, then back to school for milkshakes and ice cream. They had an amazing time.



Class 2 - Community

Class 2 have visited lots of different places around the community. They went shopping to different supermarkets to collect ingredients for lifeskills, walked around Pets At Home to look at the fish as part of their under the sea theme in class and visited The Sensory Spot to explore lots of new sensory equipment.



Summer Ball

To raise much needed funds for our Summer ball, Sue who works for the Royal Mail Post Office, kindly completed a football card with her amazing colleagues and raised a huge £50. Staff and students from class 14 were overwhelmed by Sue's generosity so they visited her on her rounds to say a huge THANK YOU!



Judo

In May, students from Classes 10, 11 and 14 took part in a Judo taster session at Middlesbrough Sports Village. Students learned some key movements and even picked up a few Japanese words!

Catcote staff were extremely proud of all of the students for their excellent behaviour and for trying something new that was very much out of their comfort zone! Well done to all students and thank you to Adrian and Helen from the British Judo Association!



Dementia Walk

In partnership with The Bridge, Dementia Friends Hartlepool and The Young Onset Dementia Group, students were offered the opportunity to create artwork that was to be chosen to feature around, during the community dementia walk.

Before the walk, Catcote students were asked to sit down and chat with an older relative or a grandparent to talk about their memories of Hartlepool. Students then created a piece of art work during creative arts lessons, they wore on purple card on their wrist to share memories on the walk. The artwork was entered into a competition and displayed around Ward Jackson Park. Art work produced was things such as, a favourite place to visit and particular game played growing up. The staff and students from different pathways took part in the walk wearing something purple. Catcote Academy raised £120.86 for Dementia Friends.

The winners were selected by The YOD Group which

also receive a prize too. Well done Leah at Sixth Form for 'My aunties arcade'.

This event was a great way to get the generations talking, get creative and walk in a happy environment in the park with lots of wonderful people. Thank you for letting us be part of your special day.



Catcote Digital media

On Friday the 24th June, the Digital Media Group at Catcotes 6th Form had the opportunity to meet and work with BBC Radio Tees DJ and presenter Paul "Goffy" Gough. The meeting took place at Hartlepool's Centre of Excellence in Creative Arts (CECA).

The day encompassed a quick question and answers session about what Goffy's job consisted of on a day-to-day basis, what steps he had to take to get where he is today and what it was like to be a full-time radio presenter. He demonstrated the highlights of his career via a PowerPoint and explained the tenacity that he had to demonstrate to eventually become successful in his particular field.

The students had the chance to be interviewed by Paul live on air in the CECA radio station, all of whom relished the chance to hear themselves being interviewed by a real DJ.

I'm sure all involved would agree that it was a fantastic day and the students made us proud, as per usual.



Goffy was a really humble person who obviously enjoyed engaging with our students and finding out about both Catcote Academy, all of its sites and the provisions offered by the CECA. Goffy has promised to come back and work with us, once again, where the students will have a chat and introduce their favourite songs!!!

Footloose



July this term saw both the students and staff at Catcote 6th Form strap on their dancing shoes and recreate their version of the 80s-classic footloose! It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all involved and served as a way to shine a light on some amazing talent! Talent that had remained hidden until the creation of the video.

The video became a massive hit on all social media platforms with more than 10,000 views in just under a week. Keep a particular look out for our very own Mrs. Durkin demonstrating her excellent moonwalking skills!

Maybe this could be the start of a few potential Michael Jackson/Fred Astaire's dancing careers! Well done to all!!!

The video can be viewed on Catcote's YouTube channel or on their Facebook page.



Forest School

This term, the Key Stage 4 work related learning group have taken part in a range of activities during Forest School to develop their personal and work related skills with Mr Durkin. Students have worked together, with set roles, to accomplish a range of tasks. Students have particularly enjoyed learning how to safely build a fire in the Outdoor Learning Zone by preparing their area, collecting materials, creating a spark with a flint and steel and building it to a safe size. They have cooked a range of foods from tasty treats like S'mores to lunchtime snacks such as beef burgers.

On top of this, students have used a range of tools to safely and confidently complete a range of important tasks. Students have used saws, hatchets, billhooks, mallets and knives to split wood, whittle objects and maintain the Outdoor Zone. Students have been able to improve their confidence, teamwork and competence in the process.

To develop personal skills, students have taken part in a range of team games in the Outdoor Zone to improve their leadership, teamwork, communication and social skills. Students have built tall towers, created bridges using a range of materials, designed and created paper boats and made some interesting objects like wind chimes.



GAIA Art Installation

Creative arts students visited 'GAIA' by Luke Jerram at the Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre. The students sat and watched in amazement, listening to sounds that supported the mood of the art installation. Students used their learnt photography skills to take these amazing images. Something you don't see every day, however, makes you appreciate our beautiful planet. Creative arts, performing arts and media videos 'One Vision' and 'Lip Dub' were also exhibited at Hartlepool Waterfront Festival weekend. They were watched and celebrated by many as part of the feature film on the main stage. Students had a great response to their work and to observe it in a live environment. An amazing opportunity to link with other creative careers and local events.



Queen's Jubilee

Link 2 created a range of stamps to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee this year. Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, Hartlepool Borough Council organised a number of local events and initiatives throughout the year to complement the national activity. On the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne, the students stamp collection was illuminated onto Hartlepool Art Gallery lighting up the sky with beautiful artworks alongside schools across the town, which then went onto exhibit digitally in the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

The Lord Lieutenant of County Durham, the Queen's personal representative in our area, attended the reception and was delighted at the quality of artwork produced for the event at Hartlepool Art Gallery as part of this momentous occasion. Well done Link 2!



Hakuna Matata

Mr Kitson's Performing Arts students put on a fantastic production of Disney's The Lion King Jr. Students took to the stage dressed as all the animals of the jungle to sing popular songs, such as, "Circle of Life", "I Just Can't Wait to be King" and "Hakuna Matata".

The students performed in 3 shows in 2 days and audiences were wowed at their amazing talent!

Huge congratulations to the cast and crew! And who knows... maybe one day you'll be seeing one of the cast members on the West End Stage!



Queen's 'One Vision Video'

Catcote Sixth Form work related learning students, Creative Arts and Digital Media collaborated to recreate 'Queen's One Vision' original video. The students behind the scenes worked together to find suitable filming locations, produce background artworks, making props and sourcing original wardrobe items to make their video a success. The cast studied the original Queen video to imitate the bands mannerisms and lyrics. The video was showcased at the Hartlepool Waterfront Festival weekend for the general public to enjoy. The students were overjoyed for this opportunity, developing their confidence, recognition for their hard work and creativity. Big thank you to Chris at 'The creative Arts Centre' CECA, Mr Hann and the digital media support, truly awesome, Sixth Form staff for embracing our crazy creative ideas! To Queen's, Roger Taylor for writing and creating amazing music! Mrs Kung is very proud of all students involved in the making of this video.

The video is available to watch now on You tube and Catcote Academy social media.



Pride

In June, we celebrated Pride Month and School Diversity Week! Each class decorated their own Pride flags, with some fantastic designs. They also celebrated with an outdoor disco on a lovely sunny afternoon, where they also filmed their latest LipDub to the Lady Gaga song 'Born This Way'. The students showed off their lip-synching and dance skills and gave a fantastic performance! You can watch the video on the School's social media pages.



Tweddle Farm

Class 5 and class 7 really enjoyed their trip to 'Tweddle Farm' for their end of year treat. The students and staff had a great time meeting and holding the animals, feeding the animals and playing on the playgrounds and trampolines. They finished their trip with a tractor ride around the farm. It was a great day out for all!



Job Centre Plus

Sue Willis from Job Centre Plus has been coming into the Employment Training Hub to support work with CV writing with the STEPs 2 group over the last couple of weeks.

The students now have a CV that is nearly ready to go out to potential employers and were a fantastic addition to the Mock Interviews held before half term.

A big thank you to Sue and all the support she offers to Catcote Academy and Catcote Futures.



Kiwi Trading

Adam started his external work experience at Kiwi Trading. The staff were very welcoming and supportive with Adam and know him quite well from his frequent visits on a weekend.

It really is like an Aladdin's cave inside, with lots of interesting items to sort, order, clean and sell. This means lots of different areas where Adam will gain a variety of work skills.

Adam got stuck in straight away – as you can see, his smile says it all!



The BIS Hartlepool

Students from our Sixth Form absolutely loved attending the The BIS Hartlepool, where they completed a workshop with the wonderful Kim & Jane from Do Creative Workshops.

Using Powertex techniques, students were able to use their creative skills to make their own Journals! Students learned about the creative industry and gained some new skills!

Well done all!



Brierton Sports Centre

Brandon began his work placement recently at Brierton Sports Centre to support the Love Hartlepool Games Project. This project offers access to primary school children who were unable to take part in outdoor activities due to Covid. The programme will run for two weeks every Tuesday.

Brandon is working with Team GB Olympic pole vaulter, Charlie Myers, to support the children. We would like to thank Katie Myers for this amazing opportunity to work with Active Hartlepool and our

outstanding job coach, Helen Newton for facilitating this fantastic opportunity for Brandon following the STEPs employability programme.



Alice House Hospice

Students from Catcote Academy's ASC 6th Form recently visited Alice House Hospice in Hartlepool to show their appreciation of the staff and the work that they do.

The visit was the culmination of a partnership project with the 6th Form, led by Ronnie Rowbotham, Manager of Linda's Place, a non-for-profit organisation.

Students looked at the different roles people have in the local community and the amazing work that takes place across the town. They then came up with the idea of giving a plant to the staff at Alice House to show their appreciation of the work they do in helping others.

The students also came up with the name, 'Seeds of Hope' to reflect what workers give to those they care for and their families, as well as designing the logo and putting the flower packs together. The packs of Forget Me Nots also came with a specially written letter telling staff how much of a difference their dedication means to so many people.

Ronnie, along with staff and students from Catcote, met with Hospice staff in the gardens of Alice House to present the gifts and enjoy refreshments.



Choices Event

Our Annual Choices Event was held this week for the first time in over two years!

It was a huge success, with over 25 providers offering information, advice and guidance. The event was well supported from a wide range of stakeholders, including employers such as Hartlepool Borough Council and J&B Recycling Ltd. In addition to employers, Training Providers and Colleges of FE were in attendance from across Tees Valley!

Students enjoyed finding out more information with regards to qualifications and routes into their chosen careers. This annual event enables our students to have meaningful encounters with key providers to help them to make an informed decision about their future career options!

Parents and Carers also attended the morning's event and this also gave them the opportunity to ask any questions!

Huge thanks to all the employers and providers who attended the event which, we really couldn't do without you all!



Cleveland Fire Brigade

Sixth Form S5 and S6 met Andrew from the Cleveland Fire Brigade UK, who spoke to them about road safety and fire safety. The students found it very informative. They also had fun in the braking challenge!



Four Seasons Care Home

Students in Link 2 have had the opportunity to create their own art therapy sessions and work alongside residents at Warrior Park Care Home. Warrior Park offers residential care for those who need help with daily tasks and nursing care for people who have complex medical needs. The home provides both residential dementia care and 24-hour nursing dementia care for residents. Link 2 will be working with residents each week planning and delivering sessions such as drawing and sketching from the gardens, watercolour, music/dance therapy, singing and reading creative stories. Link 2 will develop and adapt each week during life skills and work-related learning sessions, linking to a career pathway for those students looking to gain experience in the health and social care sector and creative therapies. Mrs Kung is very proud of her students' approach to this new environment. They have shown maturity, kindness, natural ability and passion when communicating with residents and to their quality of workshops. Thank you to Warrior Park for the warm welcome, Link 2 think you are all wonderful people! Four Seasons Health Care



Lindisfarne Care Home

Some fantastic news this week and some great examples of an employer observing the skills our young people possess and demonstrate when at work. Lindisfarne Care Home/Gainford Care Homes have offered Courtney a full-time position as activities co-ordinator following her Supported Internship with the STEP's Programme based in the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre. This fantastic work opportunity will consist of Courtney working 4 days a week from 9.30am till 4.30pm.

Lindisfarne have gone even further this year, by offering other young adults following the STEP's programme, a work placement in their kitchen, grounds maintenance and within their care sector for September 2022. An exciting time now and in the future.



West View Lodge

Nakita has been on her work experience at West View Lodge for a few months now and is making fantastic progress, increasing her time from 2 hours once a week to 2 full days.

The staff at the care home have been so supportive and encouraging with Nakita, and she says that she feels part of an amazing team. West View Lodge have also offered Nakita a Supported Internship in September 2022!

Her job coach is now only popping in and out when she is in placement. We would like to thank all the staff at West View Lodge as they certainly follow our mantra.



Careers & Enterprise Challenge Week

Recently, students from Catcote Academy participated in the SEND Careers and Enterprise Week, along with other SEND schools across the Tees Valley area. The event was organised and led by Tees Valley Combined Authority with over 600 young people participating throughout the week from ten schools!

Students participated in a variety of events and challenges. They had the opportunity to speak to some key employers and asked lots of questions about their job role! They also had the opportunity to find out about courses and further study options from Colleges and FE providers from across Tees Valley.

They took part in a variety of challenges including Egg Parachute, Tower Building activity, Desert Island Challenge, Chip Cone Challenge and a £20.00 Enterprise Challenge!

Students were able to showcase their work skills throughout the week, including teamwork, communication and problem solving!

Catcote Academy won an amazing total of 4 awards that were up for grabs.

Class 10 - Best Class Scrapbook

Class 10 - Logan N Student Award - for his determination skills

Class 9 - Excellent Team Work

Link 4 - Amazing Creative Skills

A big thank you to the Enterprise Co-ordinator Phil Todd from Tees Valley Combined Authority who came to present the awards and also, our very own Mrs Greig, for handing out the awards.

Thank you to all the employers, Colleges and TVCA for taking their time to co-ordinate this!

The students had a fantastic week and are looking forward to next year's event already!

Well done to everyone who took part!



'The Enterprise Commandments'

On 15th February 2022, two of our Key Stage 3 classes took part in their first Enterprise Workshops in which they were introduced to 'The Enterprise Commandments'.

Amanda said, 'They were a pleasure to teach. I really enjoyed my afternoon with these students, answering all their questions and watching their enjoyment during our very interactive Enterprise Workshop.'



The Cattery

Clarissa really enjoyed her visit to The Cattery in Wolviston. She absolutely loves cats, as you can see from these pictures! Here she is cuddling Gus, who loves a cuddle and is very friendly. She had a tour around the building and helped out with 'the treat run'



Thanks to the staff for giving Clarissa the opportunity for this workplace visit!

Publicity Seekers Ltd

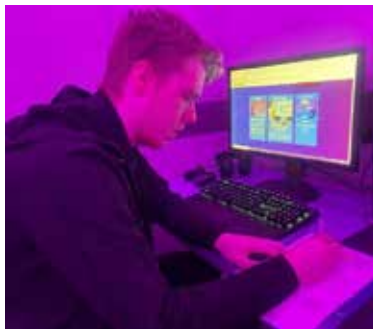
Huge thanks to Sam Lee from Publicity Seekers Ltd for leading an assembly to our Key Stage 3 & 4 students. In preparation for the up and coming annual 'Trashion Show', students received some top tips for marketing and arranging an event! They learnt about Sam's business and also her journey to self employment!



NEVR Labs

Alex began his photography project at NEVRlabs. He researched the NEVR LABS website and made a list of the photographs which should be updated.

He then began practicing different angles, lighting etc. Alex took lots of photographs to update the website. Well done Alex!



Malachy attended NEVR LABS for his placement today. He was really excited to get started. He began by meeting Reece the manager, who took him on a tour of the centre and then they had a 'mock' interview.

He learnt how to set up a VR station before having a go on the VR equipment himself.

Malachy said his morning was "fantastic" and he can't wait to go back.



Dutch Garden Centre Hartlepool

On 26th January, students from Sixth Form S4 visited Dutch Garden Centre Hartlepool. They were shown around by Marion who gave lots of information about the winter plants in stock at the moment. Students then watched a demonstration on how to plant various bulbs correctly. Students were then able to select a pack of bulbs from the shelves and plant their own to take home!

To top off an amazing visit, students were treated to a lovely hot chocolate to warm their cold hands up in the coffee shop. Thank you Marion and all the friendly staff at @dutch_garden_centre_hartlepool



Blooming Art

Catcote Academy students from all pathways explored the process of recycled paper. Local community company 'Bloomin Art', in association with 'Festival of Thrift', wowed students with their art trike. Students created their own paper from a suitcase using old paper waste. The visit raised awareness of sustainability and develop ideas and material usage ready for the Trashion show. They look forward to visiting again next week as judges at the show. Amazing visit, thank you!



Hartfields Retirement Village

On Monday 9th May STEPs were welcomed back to Hartfield's to continue with their Working Hart Project within the Hartfields Retirement Village, which had been seriously interrupted by Covid. The students travelled with one of their job coaches, Susan Currell, on public transport so they could become familiar with this bus route and then include it in their portfolio of independent travel routes. They had a tour of the complex and spent time with Hartfield's staff to discuss the work they would be completing and looking at a risk assessment's tool



the staff had generously produced. Students said that it felt like a 'little village'. Working Hart Project is now in full swing and the students were immersed within the maintenance, bar and gardens. In September, this will extend into the restaurant café.

Even more exciting news! Kate Thompson, the Head of Extra Care & Interim Housing Lead, and was their key link to setting up the partnership between them and Joseph Rowntree Foundation, has been recognised in the Queen's Jubilee Honours list for an MBE for her continuous work in the care sector. Well done Kate and a very well-deserved recognition!

Middleton Grange Shopping Centre

We had the first of many, meetings and progressive partnership work with our local town centre, Middleton Grange Shopping Centre, the Andron company and Catcote Academy/Catcote Futures.

Mark Rycraft, Manager of Middleton Grange, one of our biggest supporters, arranged links, with Neil McClaren, account director of Andron who oversees the town centre cleaning contract.

Andron have interviewed and employed one of STEPS own young people Kenny, and will be providing all necessary training for Kenny and also the employees within Middleton Grange to enable and empower all, when building working relationships, with young people who have a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND).

Andron are going to work with the STEPs programme to create and deliver a SEND training programme to up-skill a small cohort of young people in the town centre, with a view to more paid working hours being made available during training and as a permanent job.

This unique and ground-breaking programme will not only offer training with a 'real' chance of employment exclusively to young people with a SEND need, but will work in partnership with our STEPs team to offer training to their existing staff team both at Andron and Middleton Grange to educate and better equip people working in the community, face to face with the general public, dealing with issues and solving problems which may arise on a daily basis who may have SEND needs.

Watch this story as it unfolds and follow this journey of truly forward-thinking employers and some fantastic young people who are being recognised for their skills in the workplace!

Big shout out to Aly McCall and Mark Bleasedale for their superb induction meeting, and Kevin for providing a lovely cuppa!



Mock Interviews

Recently the STEP's students have completed some very formal Mock Interviews. They were given a job specification to read and apply for. C.V's were created and updated and a set of key questions used to assess their interview.

They were very appreciative of the support from Middleton Grange Shopping Centre Manager, Mark Rycraft, The English Martyrs Catholic School & Sixth Form College Head of Careers, Jo Fisher and Catcote Academy Business Manager, Louise Robson.

The interviewers were unknown to the young people which offered a more realistic interview process taking the young people out of their comfort zone.

The students were really engaged and behaved in a very serious and professional manner. The feedback from the interviewers was fantastic!!

Well done to all and another shout out to the students for looking extremely smart!!



Catcote Metro

Declan is one of our Sixth Form students who is enjoying his work experience in the Catcote Metro. Declan has been pricing up the new stock that has just arrived.

He used his literacy skills looking at the invoices that

come with the delivery to get the codes, matching descriptions and Maths to work out pricing. Well done Declan!



J&B Recycling Ltd

Huge thanks to Ingrid Borough-Williams and Emily for leading an assembly to our Key Stage 3 & 4 students, in preparation for the up and coming annual 'Trashion Show'.

Students received some great ideas on how to use recyclable materials when thinking about their outfit designs. Emily spoke about fast fashion, impact on planet and sustainability. Students learned about J&B Recycling Ltd as a business, process of recycling and career paths within their sector. Some great questions from our learners and mature approach to the topics discussed.



Balloonatics

Mark is a student on our STEP's project which is our pathway to independence and employability. Mark has been for a visit to Balloonatics Hartlepool to meet the owner Tony.

Tony is going to provide a work placement for Mark every week, teaching him new work skills, enabling him to fulfil his long term goal of gaining paid employment.

Helen Newton, one of our fantastic teaching assistants, sourced this opportunity and will continue to support Mark with his journey.



Marco Polo Restaurant

Marco Polo Hartlepool, new restaurant has agreed to work with Catcote Futures (predominantly STEPs programme) to pilot, to engage and train young people within the hospitality work sector. The purpose is to offer work experience in a real environment but continue to be very bespoke and sheltered. The Plan:

- A four-week programme based at Marco Polo in York Road on a Tuesday, 11am – 2pm
- Two students and one member of staff working in the kitchen
- Two students and one member of staff serving in front of house
- One student behind the bar.
- Three students and one member of staff will arrive in the restaurant between 12pm – 1pm to be served a meal

The First session was a fantastic start to the programme. All students were fully engaged and all staff involved were extremely supportive of our young people.

Roll on next session!



FabLab

The #SupportedInternship students from our STEPs programme have been to #FabLab in Hartlepool Community Hubs to see what activities are on offer in the community. Kayleigh and Michael from Fab Lab supported our students showing them how to use the 3D pens. They then had a discussion about the different workshops on offer which can be accessed independently in the community.

The students really enjoyed trying something new and they had some amazing results.



Hartfields Retirement Village

Good news story - Paid Employment!!Kenny has been working as an official volunteer at Hartfields Retirement Village since restrictions were lifted following Covid lockdown. Kenny has shown such determination and consistency that they have offered him permanent paid employment beginning in September (once Kenny returns from his very long six-week holiday in St Lucia!).

Kenny is ecstatic to accept further paid employment and will be working one day per week initially, to then increase to two days 9am - 2pm. Hartfield's are also updating and paying for his full DBS to be put in place before his employment start date.

Fabulous work Kenny, it really couldn't have happened to a nicer young man.

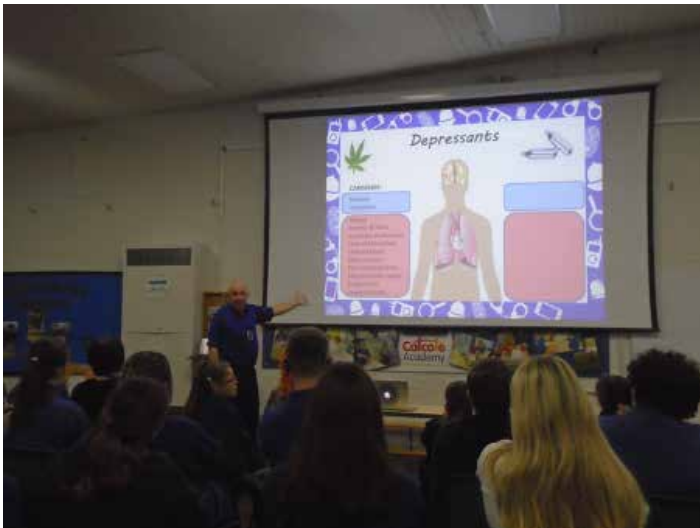


Cleveland Police

This term in Assembly, Eric Barret from Cleveland Police came into school to give a talk on County Lines and drugs. He spoke to students about what is classed as a drug and the effect taking these drugs has on our bodies and the family and friends around us.

Students watched two videos based on true stories of young people taking drugs and being involved in county line activities and the role of the police to support them.

Students have really enjoyed the Assemblies that Eric has delivered this year and we hope to see him again in the new school year.



Multi Skills

This week, students in class 5 and class 7 took part in a multi skills event held at Brierton Sports Centre. Activities included warm up exercises, throwing and catching bean bags and balls, rolling hula hoops and balancing equipment. Students had a great time learning new skills.



Sports for Champions

Students across the Academy took part in a Sports for Champions event. Olympian Chris Bennet visited our school to deliver an assembly on health and wellbeing and his personal journey to the Olympics. Students then took part in various circuit exercises including leg drives, press ups, star jumps and spotty dogs.

Everyone worked really hard in the activities and had a great morning with Chris.

So far, we have raised over £300. Thank you for your continued support.



Table Cricket

Earlier this year, students in blue pathway were involved in the Table Cricket programme with the Lords Taverners. Two coaches came into school to deliver Table Cricket sessions and students really enjoyed trying something new.

Recently students in S1 and Link 1 used the skills they had learned to take part in a competition at the Riverside, home of Durham Cricket in Chester-le-Street.

Students tried really hard, competing against students from other schools and overall came 5th in the competition.

The school will also be receiving table cricket equipment to allow us to continue the delivery of table cricket sessions.

Well done to everyone that took part, we had a fantastic day!



Taking the Lead – I'm a Celebrity

This term, some learners in Taking the Lead have been part of our new session "I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!" Over the term, the learners have worked in teams to watch, research, plan and created their own trials for other teams to take part in.



Everyone had so much fun during these sessions and applied so many employment skills as part of the process, such as, team work, communication, planning, preparing materials and meeting deadlines, just to name a few.

Poor Phil, Angela and Ali got their hands in too. The learners thought this was hilarious.



A New Therapy in CF1

This term, as part of CF1's Wellbeing lessons, learners received an Indian Head Massage weekly from staff. Learners benefited from the physiological effects of the treatment, whilst staff learned new transferrable skills which will benefit more learners in college.

Learners responded to different parts of the routine whilst also building more of a tolerance to the new experience through the weeks. A range of relaxing music, mood lighting and exposure to a range of new aromas all helped to enhance the activity by creating a relaxing and ambient environment.



Mini First Aid Teens

This week, students in year 9 and year 10 have taken part in first aid training with the company "Mini First Aid Teens".

Students looked at CPR, breaks, burns, choking, bleeding, asthma and allergic reactions. The training enables students to deliver lifesaving first aid, if no adults were available.

Everyone really enjoyed the sessions and learnt lots of information on emergency first aid.



Trashion Show 2022 – Gowns and Crowns!

The Catcote 'Trashion' show whole school event aims to raise awareness on environmental issues and to offer a greater understanding culture and our throwaway society through art and design. Students and staff at the Academy have been working together over the past 7 weeks to create fashion outfits and accessories fit for the runway, using upcycled and recycled materials inspired by the Queen's Jubilee and the Common Wealth. Catcote have recently gained their gold 'ECO' schools award, encouraging the students to learn about the fashion industry, landfill and the large impact on biodiversity linking to recycling!

Creative approaches instilled biodiversity and its biological collection of all life on Earth. Students explored the fashion industry via creative careers 'Discover'. Evidence shows, Fast fashion is a significant contributor to biodiversity loss, whether this is through the creation of materials, such as cotton or the manufacture processes (e.g. treating and dyeing fabrics). As a result, the students found apparel supply chains are directly linked to soil degradation, conversion of natural ecosystems, and waterway pollution.

Catcote Academy students have been creating a wide range fashion idea and focusing on positive changes despite struggles they have faced through the pandemic. Focusing on what 'we CAN do, not what we can't!', the Academy staff have been committed to ensuring that their students reach their full potential and become valuable members of society, the show offers focus and aspirations. Students create crowns and royal mantle (cape) to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee.

Local creative businesses have supported the Academy during careers week and were hoping to attend the show to meet some of the students. They also hope to welcome students to exhibit art work and offer educational visits after the Summer holidays.

Look out for us on the catwalk at the Festival of Thrift in September!



Ukraine Appeal

Student Council lessons happen each week at Catcote Futures. This gives learners a chance to bring to the attention of staff and SLT any problems that they feel they have in and around college. It was in one of these sessions in mid-February that the learners started discussing what was happening in the Ukraine. They were talking about how upsetting it was to watch on the TV and that they wished they could do something to help...

Fast forward two weeks and Catcote Futures held a day in support of the Ukrainian people, with the aim of fundraising to buy some much needed supplies to send to the Ukraine.

The learners encouraged their peers and staff to wear something blue and yellow for the day. Bunting was created and a special prize was auctioned off via a bonus ball. In total, £233 was raised.

The following week, the Student Council took a trip to Asda and spent all the money on blankets, first aid supplies, nappies, clothes, pet food and many, many more things. These items were all labelled by CF4 to show they were donated by Catcote Futures.

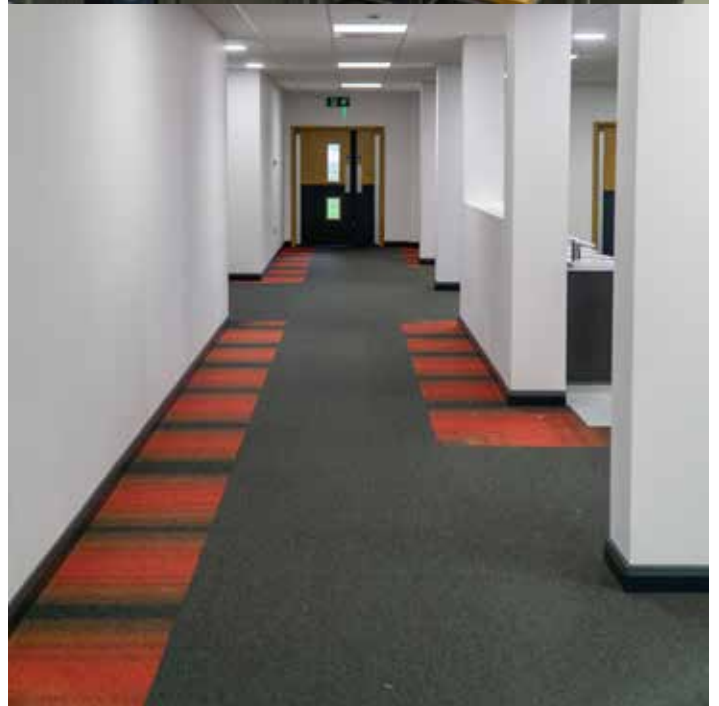
These items were then taken to Catcote Academy to be picked up and transported to the Ukraine. Fantastic work from our very kind and caring learners!



Catcote staff and students from all our sites have collected a large amount of essential products that will be sent to Ukraine in the near future. Students have held raffles which included a meal for 4 and hampers, all proceeds went to buying more products even cats and dogs getting some treats. Mr Pounder, who organised the appeal, has said he was overwhelmed by the response and generosity from families and friends from Catcote and could not thank them enough. A big thank you to all the staff who have helped students sort and box up all the products.



New Extension



Forest School

Spring and Summer term has seen the introduction of Forest School to Catcote Futures, where learners have enjoyed developing skills outside of the classroom in the natural environment.

We have used the forest area to build independence, team work, problem solving, and build confidence to develop self-esteem. Students have studied the role of trees, made crafts from natural materials, leaf printing, recognised plants and animals, went on mini beast hunts and took part in Forest Bathing to ignite our senses.

Our final two sessions were all about fire safety, and we finished with toasting marshmallows to make smores round the campfire.

The learners have really enjoyed it and we are excited to see this session develop further!



April Fool's Day

Report by Conor Lambert:

On Friday 1st April 2022, we secretly filmed videos of students playing pranks on the Catcote Futures staff.

First we pranked Pete Wells by asking him to rush to our class when we had cling film over the door! We then offered him a cold drink that tasted horrible! Next we pranked Phil Thompson by asking him for a sky hook, he was very confused! We also pranked Michelle Swift by asking her for a left-handed hair brush and Shirley by asking her for a glass hammer!

It went very well, everybody thought it was extremely hilarious (except the teachers!)

Graze Boxes

The Enterprise cooking group made delicious graze boxes to sell. We made two types of graze boxes, one was sweet and the other was savoury. They had a wide variety of food such as sandwiches, cakes, cheese and crackers, grapes, pork pies, quiche and more.

Learners also made dessert boxes which included several types of cake including chocolate, coffee and salted caramel. We charged £5.00 for the savoury and £2.00 for the dessert. We had amazing feedback from the Catcote Futures staff and also our two Ofsted inspectors who had bought them saying they tasted delicious! We did some research and found that graze boxes could cost up to £15.00. We also used our 10 Enterprise Commandments such as:

EARS – USE THEM WELL:

We listened to staff and followed instructions.

EVERYBODY MATTERS, SO CO-OPERATE:

Someone buttered the bread while someone put in the sandwich filling.

TRY NEW THINGS:

We cut up some marshmallows with some scissors for the Rocky Road.

RESPOND TO OTHERS - COMMUNICATE:

We communicated with each other to get the tasks completed.

But most importantly, every day we met our deadlines!



Written By Karryn Loraine

Catcote Futures Challenge Week

What a week was had at Catcote Futures for our challenge week! The Special Events Committee helped to organise and run the event, raising money for 'Catcote Parents and Friends' charity.

Each teacher was given a subject and created a challenge for all classes in the college to undertake. These tasks were designed to test the learners team work, communication and challenge them to try something new.



The classes were presented with awards for demonstrating different parts of the Enterprise Commandments.

It was a hugely fun and successful week. The learners tried lots of new tasks, demonstrated lots of the Enterprise Commandments and close to £1000 for Catcote Parents and Friends.

Caitlin and her Favourite Author

Book fan Caitlin Bell has been hobnobbing with her favourite author, Steve Smallman, this term. Steve wrote Caitlin's favourite book "Don't Wake the Bear, Hare!" which has been known to turn Caitlin into a quivering wreck of excitement when it is read to her. Staff in her class group filmed Caitlin having the story read to her, so she could hear her favourite book at home. With Caitlin's mothers permission, staff from Catcote Futures sent a copy of the video to Steve who was delighted.

He said "Thank you so much for sending me this video! It really made my day to see just how much Caitlin was enjoying it!" he added "I have another book which has a bouncing rhythm which she might enjoy, I'll send you a copy! "

And Steve was as good as his word sending a copy of Hippobottymus which he has dedicated to Caitlin. Of course, she absolutely adores this story too!

He also sent a lovely picture of the characters from the book. What a kind man!

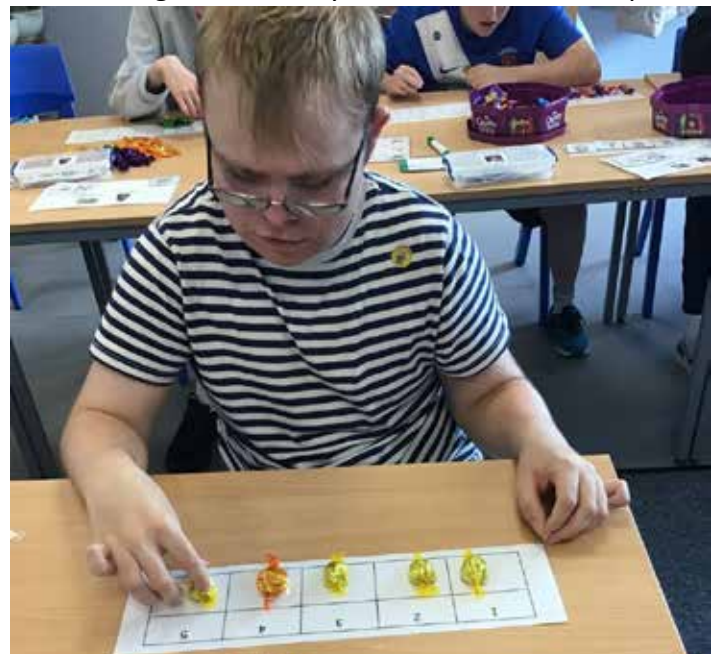


CF7 Taking the Lead – Enterprise

During the Summer term, the learners in CF7 have been working on different enterprise projects in preparation for the summer fair. The learners have applied so many functional, communication and calculation skills when making our products! This term they have been making seed bombs and sweet jars.

The learners have been following instructions, communicating, working as part of a team, recognising numerals, matching, sorting and place value, just to name a few important skills. The learners have also been reflecting on their targets, the Enterprise Commandments and telling us what they think about the Enterprise session. Sam told us it was 'Excellent!'

Amazing work CF7, well done!



Catcote Futures Celebration Event

Catcote Futures held their first annual celebration evening on Friday 1st July 2022. This event was supported by Catcote Parents and Friends and recognised the achievements of our learners over the past academic year.

The event was particularly special as a lot of the arrangements were decided upon by our learners, for example, when asked, the learners requested a carvery as their choice of meal. The learners also chose the colour scheme and picked how the room would be decorated. However, the biggest request by far was that there would be a bar! The tickets for the event were designed by Sophie Laverick and printed by the Reprographics class, which certainly must have contributed towards Sophie's award success on the evening.

The event was a huge success, with many learners, parents and staff attending and thoroughly enjoying themselves. 14 awards were given out on the night, with one winner and two runners up. All learners nominated, received a gift in recognition of their achievements.

Adam said "I enjoyed the Celebration Ball, and I had a fun night on Friday. I enjoyed seeing all the students getting awards. I collected 3 awards and was very proud of myself!"

As you can see from the photos, a fun night was had by all!



Catcote Academy Celebration Ball

It was our Academy and 6th Form Leaver's Ball on 8th July. It had been two years since we have been able to celebrate our leavers achievements with our traditional Ball and students definitely left with style! Leavers gathered at the Academy for photographs before being taken by limos and a party bus to The Mayfair Centre.

At the venue, students received their leavers presents and their achievements were celebrated. We had a few tears (and laughs) whilst watching the video of the leavers. Then it was time to PARTY!

It was a fantastic night and all of the students looked fabulous as you can see from the photographs.



Farewell

Mrs Gunn has worked as a teaching assistant for 7 years. She has supported many students in the Vestry and we know students, staff and our regular customers will miss her a lot. Wishing you a very long and happy retirement.



Mrs Carr has been a TA and lunchtime supervisor for 17 years and is retiring this week. She will be dearly missed and we will miss her lovely smile! Wishing you a very long and happy retirement.

Mr Kilner has worked as a teacher for 12 years and is retiring this week. He has worked with lots of different classes and has made a big difference to lots of students' progress. We wish him a long and happy retirement.



Mrs Nicholson has worked as a TA for two years and she is taking up a new role as a job coach for our Sixth Form students.

Mrs Barnard has worked as a TA for 16 years and has worked across all our pathways. She is leaving us to train to be a disability nurse, which we know she will be amazing at. We wish her every success.



Miss Jones has worked as a TA for 12 years and has worked across all sites and pathways. She is leaving us to train to be physiotherapist. We wish her the best of luck. Keep in touch Miss Jones.

Miss Smith has worked as an admin assistant for 8 years and has left us to take up a new admin role in another school. We wish her every success for the future.



TERM DATES 2022-23

	AUGUST 2022	SEPTEMBER 2022	OCTOBER 2022	NOVEMBER 2022	DECEMBER 2022	JANUARY 2023
Monday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Tuesday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
Wednesday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Thursday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Friday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Saturday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Sunday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29

	FEBRUARY 2023	MARCH 2023	APRIL 2023	MAY 2023	JUNE 2023	JULY 2023
Monday	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Tuesday	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Wednesday	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Thursday	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Friday	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Saturday	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Sunday	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30

Bank Holiday
Holiday
PD day

