

Young people challenge negative stereotyping

Catcote Academy is a mixed, community special school situated in Hartlepool. It caters for students aged 11-19 with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties.



'We have learned that just being there for people who are not able to get out and about is a massive thing for them.'

Student

Students wanted to use the Giving Nation Spirit project to tackle the negative perception that society sometimes has of young people, particularly young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. They decided to try and **bridge the gap** between the generations and give up their time to support elderly people. Having researched and visited a local care home, students devised a **questionnaire** to find out what the residents would like to do. They analysed the results and decided on 6 'top activities'. They planned each activity carefully and arranged to spend a day at the care home carrying out their activities and spending time getting to know the elderly people in their community.

Both the students and the residents of the care home greatly enjoyed their **shared experience** and both groups remarked that they had had their preconceptions about one another challenged.



'We are a **BESD** school so the social side of the project was a real challenge. However, all pupils have commented on their **increased confidence** with people & abilities to work as a team as a result of participation.'

Paul Sowerby, teacher

To further highlight their cause students wrote a **press release** which was published in 2 local papers, they were also **interviewed live** on Radio Hartlepool. To commemorate their day students created a video about their experiences, which can be viewed [here](#).