



THE FAR ACADEMY

Term 5 Newsletter

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Staff,

Term 5 has been full of creativity, adventure, and hands-on learning, with many of our students taking their education far beyond the classroom walls. One of the things that makes the FAR so special is the way learning comes alive through real experiences, and this term has been a brilliant example of that.

One of our Videography students recently filmed their music video on location at the historic Herne Windmill. The dramatic setting provided the perfect backdrop for the gothic-themed shoot, and it quickly became a real team effort. Students worked together to help create the set, manage lighting, and bring the creative vision to life, while staff fully embraced the occasion by learning the Argentine tango and stepping into character as members of the gothic wedding party. It was imaginative, slightly chaotic in the best possible way, and a fantastic example of students developing confidence and creative skills in a real-world setting.

Meanwhile, our Wildlife Photography students swapped classrooms for countryside adventures, pulling on their wellies for a visit to Garrington Farm. Armed with cameras and plenty of enthusiasm, the group spent the morning capturing the abundance of local wildlife through their lenses. From cows and calves to a family of ducks, a heron, and an impressive variety of insects, students had the chance to slow down, observe carefully, and appreciate the beauty of the natural world around them. The photographs produced were thoughtful, creative, and full of personality.

Our Food Technology student also enjoyed an educational trip to London, exploring artisan bakeries and sampling some of the capital's famous cookies. The trip offered the chance to look at presentation, flavour combinations, baking techniques, and how independent bakeries create their own identity and style. Naturally, the tasting element was all strictly for educational purposes, of course.

Alongside these trips, I continue to feel incredibly proud of our students for the way they support one another, step outside of their comfort zones, and approach new opportunities with curiosity and humour. Whether they are behind a camera, in a kitchen, outdoors in the mud, or helping one another on set, they continue to show creativity, resilience, and kindness in everything they do.

Thank you, as always, to our staff, volunteers, and families for the support, encouragement, and energy you bring to the FAR community every single day. These opportunities simply would not happen without you.

Take care over the Spring Half-Term.



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FAR Academic Highlights

Digital Media, Videography and Photography

This term, our Digital Media and Videography students have continued developing exciting creative projects, exploring subjects ranging from skateboarding culture to the history of the FAR itself. It has been fantastic seeing students grow in confidence with filming, editing, lighting, sound, and storytelling.

One of the highlights this term was Melody's gothic-themed music video shoot at the historic Herne Windmill. Students worked together on filming, lighting, costumes, and set design, while staff fully embraced the fun by stepping into character as part of the gothic wedding storyline. The final footage and photographs captured not only the creativity involved, but also the teamwork and energy of the day.

Photography has also been full of creativity and collaboration, with students drawing inspiration from gaming, alternative fashion, nail art, and early 2000s aesthetics. Students have supported one another with makeup, costumes, props, and editing, helping turn the Photography Room into a lively and encouraging creative space.

Our Wildlife Photography students also enjoyed a visit to Garrington Farm, capturing local wildlife including cows, ducks, herons, and insects through their lenses.

Art, Graphic Design and Construction

Students in Art, Graphic Design, Construction, Photography, and Videography have been working hard on final projects and coursework deadlines. Graphic Design students in particular have shown growing confidence using Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator, developing their digital design skills and experimenting with professional techniques and layouts.

We would encourage all students to attend college consistently over the coming weeks so they have the time and support needed to complete their work to the best of their ability.

It has been brilliant seeing students grow in confidence, creativity, and practical skills while developing their own unique styles and ideas.

English and Maths

We are delighted to celebrate another student passing their Functional Skills Reading exam and another student successfully passing their Maths exam. These achievements reflect real determination and hard work.

We also have several students preparing to sit Functional Skills exams this term, and we would like to wish them all the very best of luck.

Students have continued building confidence in communication, problem-solving, percentages, division, and other core skills, while supporting and encouraging one another along the way.

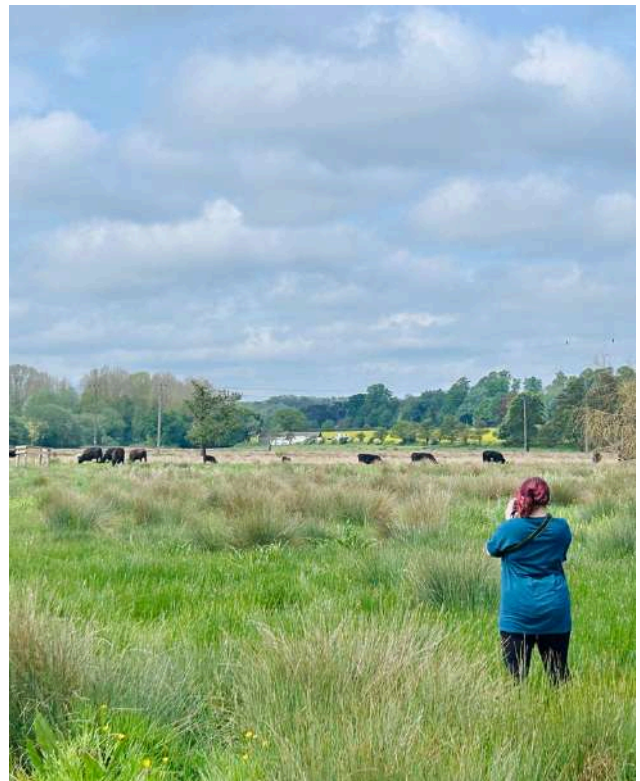
If you would like to discuss your child's progress in English or Maths, please contact our Academic Lead, Michelle Brooks, at michelle@farskate.co.uk to arrange a phone or face-to-face appointment.



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FAR Academic Highlights





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Dragon Boating in Borken, Germany

A quick reminder that some of our students will soon be heading off to Germany to take part in their upcoming Dragon Boat races, and excitement around the FAR is definitely building.

This is an incredible opportunity for our young people, not only to compete as part of an international event, but also to experience travel, teamwork, new environments, and the confidence that comes from representing the FAR beyond the UK. Dragon Boat racing demands communication, resilience, trust, and determination, all qualities our students continue to show in abundance.

We are hugely proud of everyone taking part and of the commitment they have shown in preparing for the trip. Opportunities like this create lasting memories, strengthen friendships, and help students discover what they are capable of when they challenge themselves and work together.

We cannot wait to hear all about the trip and look forward to cheering them on from home. Good luck to all involved, and thank you to the staff, families, and supporters helping make the experience possible.



I'M SKYDIVING TO SAVE FAR ACADEMY SEN COLLEGE 2026 HEADCORN



*Sunday
12th
July*

FAR
ACADEMY

gofundme™

Help me raise fund's for this brilliant
SEN College in Whitstable



The background of the advertisement features a dark, starry space theme with purple and yellow splatters. A large, glowing golden ticket is the central focus, surrounded by a skateboard deck with purple and white graphics, yellow wheels, and a white truck. The FAR Skateshop logo is prominently displayed at the top.

FAR
SKATESHOP

ENTER TO WIN

Receive a free Golden Ticket when
you spend £50 in-store.

**WIN THIS
SKATEBOARD**

Enter our Prize Draw for the chance to
win this limited, Special Edition Back to
the Future Skateboard worth £600

Unit 77 - 80, John Wilson Business Park, Whitstable, CT5 3QT

The FAR Skateshop is a non-profit skateboard shop. Every penny we make is reinvested into helping young people access education and mental health support. For more information and to see what else we have on sale, please visit: www.farskateshop.co.uk or better still, come visit us on the John Wilson Estate, behind the big Sainsbury's in Whitstable.



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Important Dates

TERM DATES (2025 - 2026)		
TERM 1	15 September 2025	15 October 2025
TERM 2	3 November 2025	10 December 2025
TERM 3	12 January 2026	11 February 2026
TERM 4	23 February 2026	1 April 2026
TERM 5	20 April 2026	20 May 2026
TERM 6	1 June 2026	15 July 2026

OPEN DAYS FOR NEW SEPTEMBER 2026 STUDENTS		
Tuesday		10h30
Tuesday		10h30
Tuesday		10h30

If you know of any young people who may be interested in attending the FAR Academy, and who would like to join us on one of our Open Days, please email hayley@farskate.co.uk



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Important Dates

TERM DATES (2026 - 2027)		
TERM 1	14 September 2026	14 October 2026
TERM 2	2 November 2026	9 December 2026
TERM 3	11 January 2027	10 February 2027
TERM 4	22 February 2027	31 March 2027
TERM 5	19 April 2027	19 May 2027
TERM 6	7 June 2027	7 July 2027

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Important Reminders

Absence and Attendance

We've noticed a drop in attendance for some young people this term. We understand that things can feel difficult, and we are here to support you. At the same time, being present and engaged is essential for progress.

We are required to share attendance and engagement with the local authority. If attendance remains low, the local authority may review the placement. In some cases, this can lead to funding being reduced or withdrawn, which may affect your young person's place at FAR. We want to work with you to avoid this wherever possible.

If your young person is unable to attend for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible so we can record this appropriately and offer support where needed.

If attendance is affected by anxiety or other challenges, please contact Michelle at michelle@farskate.co.uk. Let's work together to get you the support you need and provide coursework that can be completed at home.

If you or your young person is unwell, or has a medical appointment, or is experiencing transport issues, please email Hayley at hayley@farskate.co.uk or call the office on 01227 779 181.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

College hours are 09h45 to 15h00. Students should arrive on time and leave promptly unless attending a supervised activity or by prior arrangement.

Students should not remain on site outside these hours for informal get-togethers, as we cannot guarantee appropriate staff supervision.

If you are running late for collection, or you need to leave early, or are leaving the college site for any reason, please let the office know.

Term-Time Holidays

Term-time holidays cannot be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. A Leave of Absence form must be completed at least two weeks in advance. Evidence is required for appointments.

Vaping, Smoking, Alcohol and Substances

Vaping, smoking, alcohol and illegal substances are not permitted anywhere on college grounds. This applies to everyone on site and is in place to keep our environment safe and focused on learning.

If a student is found using, in possession of, or under the influence of these substances, parents or carers will be contacted and the student will be asked to leave site. Follow up actions will be taken in line with college policies.

We will always take a supportive approach and work with young people and families where these issues arise.

If your young person needs support in this area, please get in touch. We are here to help however we can.

