



THE FAR ACADEMY

Term 2 Newsletter

Dear FAR Family,

As we reach the end of Term 2, I want to thank you all for the warmth and strength you've shown during what has been an emotional term. Our students, especially, deserve a heartfelt acknowledgement. The news about the possibility of future changes has been a lot to absorb, yet they have handled it with maturity, humour, determination, and a real sense of community. They've been making items to sell at our Festive Fayre, supporting petitions, helping staff whenever they can, and generally reminding us what wonderful humans they are.

We have a few important dates coming up:

Monday, 1 December 2025

World Aids Day

Wearing a red ribbon reminds us all that this is a moment for awareness, compassion, and reflection.

Festive Jumper Day

We'd love to see you in a festive jumper as a cheerful way of starting off the silly season.

Tuesday, 2 December 2025

Tidy Up Day

Parents and carers are warmly welcome, and if anyone is able to help with broken fixtures, plumbing issues, or general college repairs, we would be incredibly grateful.

Saturday, 13 December 2025, (10h00–13h00)

FAR's Festive Fayre

FAR's Festive Skate Jam (16h00–19h00).

FAR Festive Fayre stalls are available for £10.00 each. Please contact hayley@farskate.co.uk if you would like one.

We are still in need of donations for the raffle and tombola, helpers on the day, and any other contributions you're happy to offer. The Fayre will be full of treats, games, creative stalls, Santa, and plenty of affordable festive shopping.

Part of the purpose of the Fayre is to help raise funds to keep the college strong. I want to reassure you that while the future requires attention, effort, and community support, we are not on the brink of closing. Your involvement truly helps. One of the most effective ways to support us is by writing to local representatives. Rosie Duffield MP (rosie.duffield.mp@parliament.uk) and Green councillor, Stuart Heaver (stuart.heaver@canterbury.gov.uk) are key people to contact. Please also continue to share our petition and our crowdfunder wherever you can.

The FAR Academy closes on Wednesday, 10 December 2025, and we return for Term 3 on Monday, 12 January 2026.

As the festive season approaches, I hope you find time for rest, warmth, good food, and the company of people you love. Presence matters far more than presents, and I hope you all get to enjoy the simple things that truly make this time of year special.

Thank you for being part of our FAR family. I'm grateful for every one of you.

Brent Lewis
Headteacher





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STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATES

YEAR ONE STUDENTS

Our Year 1 students have been busy developing their skills in maths and English, and exploring creativity through photography. Our budding filmmakers have been working hard on their storyboards for silent films and creating costumes for their productions. Alfie, one of our construction students, is excelling in his practical projects, showing both skill and determination. In addition, our students have been exploring graphic design alongside photography and videography, bringing their creative ideas to life.

YEAR TWO STUDENTS

Our Year 2 students have been busy exploring a wide range of creative and practical skills. In art, they have been developing their painting, drawing, and gel art techniques, while in photography they have been experimenting with composition, lighting, and capturing interesting perspectives. In sewing, students have been designing and making small textile projects, learning patience and precision along the way. Meanwhile, in woodwork, they have been building and crafting carefully, developing both practical skills and problem-solving abilities.

Keira, from Gel Arts, has taken her creativity a step further by setting up her very own nail studio called Nailed by Boo. If you would like your nails done or would like more information, please contact her at kiera@nailedbyboo.co.uk.

YEAR THREE STUDENTS

Some of our Year 3 Business Enterprise students have been designing items for our Festive Fayre and exploring ways to take our skateboarding business to the next level. Their ideas and creativity are helping the college shine as a hub for innovation and enterprise.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

A big thank you to Carrie Felton-Whereat who came along to teach the FAR community how to sign "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" in preparation for our upcoming Festive Fayre. Your time, energy, and expertise brought extra festive cheer to everyone.

We would also like to take a moment to say a huge thank you to our SEND team, support staff, teachers, teaching assistants, and of course all our volunteers. Your dedication, care, and hard work make such a difference every day, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you do for our community.





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The poster is a festive event announcement. At the top, the FAR Academy logo is on the left, and the text 'THE FAR ACADEMY Term 2 Newsletter' is on the right. Below this is a green banner with the text 'FESTIVE FAYRE' in large, bold, black letters. To the right of the banner is the phone number '01227 779181'. Below the banner is a red ribbon banner with the text '13TH DECEMBER 10AM - 1PM'. To the left of the banner is the FAR Academy logo. The background is green with white pine branches and red berries on the sides. In the center, there is a 'gofundme' logo with a QR code. Below the QR code, the text reads 'Scan to donate to Melanie-Jane's fundraiser "Help Save FAR Academy in Whitstable"'. To the right of the QR code is an illustration of three wrapped gifts in red, yellow, and green with yellow bows. Below this is a green banner with the text 'FOLLOWED BY... SKATE JAM' in large, bold, black letters. Below that is another red ribbon banner with the text '13TH DECEMBER 4PM - 7PM'. Below this is a green banner with the text 'CRAFT STALLS AVAILABLE - £10 PITCH FEE' and 'TO BOOK A PITCH EMAIL HAYLEY@FARSKATE.CO.UK'. At the bottom, there is a red banner with the text 'UNIT 77, JOHN WILSON BUSINESS PARK, WHITSTABLE, CT5 3QT'.

FESTIVE FAYRE

01227 779181

13TH DECEMBER 10AM - 1PM

gofundme

Scan to donate to Melanie-Jane's fundraiser
"Help Save FAR Academy in Whitstable"

SKATE JAM

13TH DECEMBER 4PM - 7PM

CRAFT STALLS AVAILABLE - £10 PITCH FEE
TO BOOK A PITCH EMAIL HAYLEY@FARSKATE.CO.UK

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THINGS TO REMEMBER

Absence Due to Illness

If you or your young person are unwell and will not be in college, please let us know by email or phone call as soon as you can. This helps us keep attendance records accurate and ensures we know everyone is safe.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

College starts at 09h45 and finishes at 15h00. Unless there is a prior arrangement or your young person is attending an afterschool club, we ask that students leave the premises promptly at the end of the day. After school hours we cannot guarantee that the legally required number of staff will still be on site, and having students remain here unsupervised creates a safeguarding concern.

If you are going to be late collecting your young person, please contact the office as soon as possible so that we can make sure they are safe and supported.

TERM -TIME HOLIDAYS

A quick reminder that, under government legislation, we cannot authorise term time holidays except in truly exceptional circumstances. If you need to request time away from college, please complete a Leave of Absence form at least two weeks before the date requested. These forms are available from the school office. If the absence relates to an appointment, we will need to see evidence.

VAPING AND SMOKING

Vaping and smoking are not permitted anywhere on college grounds, including entrances, exits, and outdoor spaces. This applies to students, staff, volunteers, and visitors. Students who are found vaping or smoking, or carrying vaping or smoking equipment, will be spoken to and supported, and there may also be consequences in line with our behaviour and safeguarding policies.

If your young person is struggling with vaping, smoking, addiction, or peer pressure around it, please let us know. We are here to help and to support their wellbeing.

