THE FAR ACADEMY
Term 1 Newsletter

Hello everyone,

What a fantastic start we have had to the new academic year. It has been wonderful to see our students settling into their routines, getting stuck into their courses, and working hard across the college. There is already a real sense of energy and enthusiasm around the FAR, and I have been incredibly proud to see students embracing new challenges, trying new things, and supporting one another along the way.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers. They are such an important part of the FAR community and are a huge asset to the college. From supporting students with their learning to sharing practical skills and simply being there when an extra pair of hands is needed, they make a real difference every day. Quite honestly, without them, we would be a little bit lost!

Our Food Technology course has been growing too, with three students now taking part. It has been fantastic to see their enthusiasm, creativity, and confidence developing as they learn new skills, experiment with recipes, and create some very tasty results. They really are changing the world, one treat at a time!

Our Art and Design students have been exploring the wonderful world of printmaking and learning how to use screen printing to create their own designs and T-shirts. It has been brilliant watching their ideas develop from initial designs into something tangible that they can actually wear and be proud of. There is something very satisfying about seeing students realise that they can turn their own ideas into finished, professional-looking work.

I am also incredibly proud of our Photography students and the progress they have been making. They have been developing their technical skills, experimenting with different styles and approaches, and learning to look at the world around them with a photographer's eye. Our Forest School site in Charing has already become a fantastic source of inspiration, giving students the opportunity to explore the natural environment and use it to inform their creative work.

Our Business Enterprise students have been busy developing skills that will be useful far beyond their time at the FAR. Preparing our young people for life after college is a really important part of what we do, and Business Enterprise gives students the opportunity to explore ideas, develop projects, understand how businesses work, and think about their own futures. We want our students to leave us with qualifications and practical skills, but also with the confidence, independence, and understanding they need to take their next steps.

Across all of our courses, there is a real focus on helping students discover what they are good at, develop their strengths, and understand that their learning has a purpose beyond the classroom. Whether they are creating, building, cooking, photographing, designing, developing business ideas, or working towards qualifications, every experience contributes to preparing them for the future.

It has been a really positive and busy first term, and I am so proud of what our students have achieved already. There is plenty more to come, and I am looking forward to seeing where their ideas, talents, and hard work take them.

Thank you to our students for everything they bring to the FAR, to our staff for the care and commitment they show every day, and to our volunteers, families, and wider community for continuing to support what we do.

We hope you have a lovely break.

Brent Lewis
Headteacher/Director/CEO

THE FAR ACADEMY
Term 1 Newsletter

FAR Academic Highlights

It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm, creativity and hard work across our courses this term. Students have been getting stuck into new projects, developing practical skills and, most importantly, discovering just how much they are capable of.

Our **Food Technology** course has continued to grow, with three students now taking part. It has been fantastic to see their confidence develop as they learn new skills, experiment with recipes and create some very tasty results. They really are changing the world, one treat at a time!

Our **Art and Design** students have been exploring printmaking and learning how to use screen printing to create their own designs and T-shirts. Watching their ideas develop from initial designs into finished pieces has been particularly rewarding. There is something special about seeing students realise that their ideas can become something real that they can be proud of.

Our **Photography** students have also made a fantastic start to the year. They have been developing their technical skills, experimenting with different styles and learning to look at the world around them with a photographer's eye. Our Forest School site in Charing has already provided plenty of inspiration, giving students the opportunity to explore and use the natural environment within their creative work.

Our **Business Enterprise** students have been developing skills that will be valuable both at the FAR and beyond. Through exploring business ideas, developing projects and learning how businesses work, students are beginning to think about their own interests, strengths and future opportunities.

Our **Maths and English** students have been engaging brilliantly with their learning this term, and it has been lovely to see their confidence growing. Through practical activities and everyday examples, students are developing essential skills in reading, writing, communication, numeracy and problem-solving. From understanding money and managing everyday calculations to improving reading comprehension and expressing their ideas more confidently, the focus is on making learning meaningful and relevant to everyday life. We are particularly proud of the positive attitudes and determination students have shown, especially when tackling subjects they may have previously found challenging.

We also have a very special achievement to celebrate this term!
A huge congratulations to Gipsy, who has successfully passed her NCFE Level 2 qualification in Mental Health. This is a fantastic accomplishment and one that deserves special recognition. We know how much hard work, dedication and perseverance go into achieving a qualification, and we couldn't be prouder of her. Well done, Gipsy!

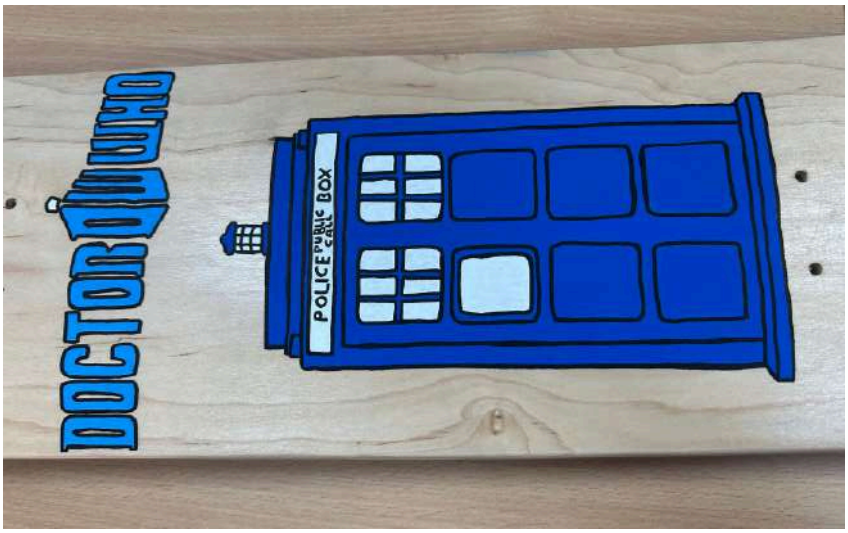
Across all of our courses, our aim is to give students learning experiences that have a real purpose. Whether they are cooking, designing, photographing, developing business ideas or building their Maths and English skills, every step forward helps develop confidence, independence and skills for the future.

We are incredibly proud of the positive start our young people have made this year. It is not just about the qualifications they achieve, but also the little victories along the way: trying something new, overcoming a challenge, finding a hidden talent or simply having the confidence to give something a go.

We cannot wait to see what they create, discover and achieve next!

THE FAR ACADEMY
Term 1 Newsletter

Art and Design



THE FAR ACADEMY
Term 1 Newsletter

Art and Design

THE FAR ACADEMY
Term 1 Newsletter

Food Tech & Student-Led Lifeskills

THE FAR ACADEMY
Term 1 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Friday, 30 October 2026
HALLOWEEN SKATE JAM
18h00 - 21h00
FAR Academy

Tuesday, 1 December 2026
STUDENT TRIP TO CANTERBURY CHRISTMAS MARKET
10h00 - 14h00
Canterbury

Saturday, 5 December 2026
FESTIVE FAYRE
13h30 - 16h00
Swalecliffe Hall

Saturday, 5 December 2026
FAR FESTIVE GET-TOGETHER/KARAOKE
19h00 - 10h30
Swalecliffe Hall

Friday, 18 December 2026
STAFF FESTIVE NIGHT OUT
19h30 - 23h00
South Quay Shed

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	23 February 2027	24 March 2027
Term 5	12 April 2027	26 May 2027
Term 6	8 June 2027	7 July 2027

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 for more information

THE FAR ACADEMY
Term 1 Newsletter

Message from our FLO

What a lovely start we have had to the new academic year!

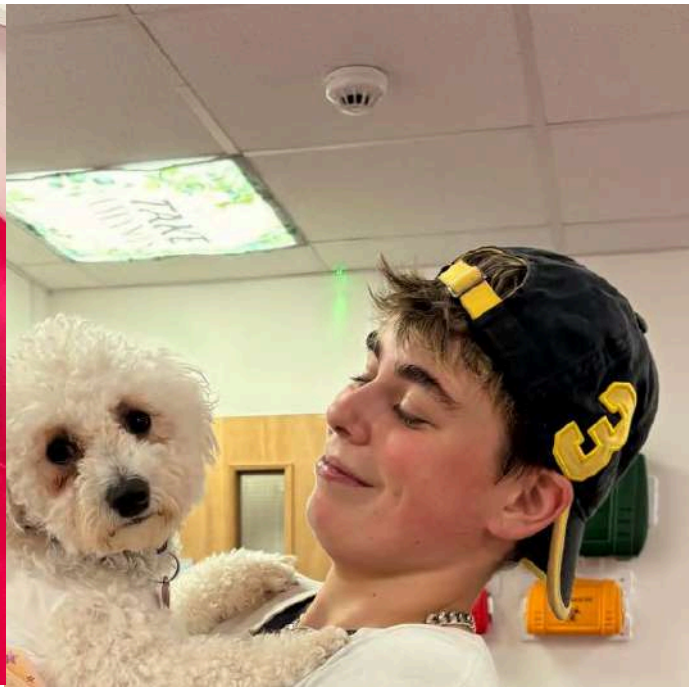
It has been wonderful welcoming everyone back and seeing our young people settling into their new routines, getting stuck into their learning, and finding their feet as the year gets underway. It has been especially lovely to see so many familiar faces returning, alongside our new students and families joining the FAR community.

A huge thank you to all our families for your continued support, communication, and partnership. Working together makes such a difference, and I really appreciate everything you do to support our young people and the college.

I am looking forward to another year of learning, growing, creating, and plenty of adventures along the way. There is already lots happening across the FAR, and I cannot wait to see what the rest of the year brings.

Thank you for being such an important part of our FAR family.

Hayley & Willow



THE FAR ACADEMY
Term 1 Newsletter

Skateboarding at the FAR

GIRLS & GENDER-DIVERSE SKATE JAMS

Looking for somewhere to skate, meet new people and become part of the skate community? Our monthly Girls & Gender-Diverse Skate Jams are all about good vibes, getting on your board and having fun together.

All ages and abilities are welcome, whether you're just starting out or already confident on your board. Come along, build your confidence, meet other skaters and enjoy a welcoming space where you can skate, learn and have a good time.

HALLOWEEN SKATE JAM

Get ready to get spooky on four wheels! Our Halloween Jam is coming up, bringing together skating, costumes, good times and plenty of Halloween fun.

OPEN SKATE JAMS

Want more time on your board? Open Skate is back Friday to Sunday, during our shop opening hours.

Whether you're working on your first ollie, learning new tricks or just want to cruise and hang out, come down, grab your board and get some laps in.

SKATE LESSONS

We also run group skate lessons every Saturday, as well as private 1-to-1 lessons for all ages and abilities. Whether you're completely new to skating or looking to level up your skills, come and get rolling with us. of skating, spooky fun and a great atmosphere!

Grab your board and roll on down. We'll see you in the park!

THE FAR ACADEMY
Term 1 Newsletter

FARSkate Shop

The wait is finally over… our shop renovation is complete!

We're so excited to open the doors and welcome you back to our newly refreshed space. Whether you're popping in for some new gear, catching up with the team, or getting your skate on, we can't wait to see you!

So come down, check out the new-look shop, grab your gear and get skating!

SKATESHOP OPENING TIMES

Monday	10h00 - 16h00
Tuesday	10h00 - 16h00
Wednesday	10h00 - 16h00
Thursday	10h00 - 16h00
Friday	10h00 - 16h00
Saturday	10h00 - 16h00
Sunday	10h00 - 16h00

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.

THE FAR ACADEMY
Term 1 Newsletter

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 at times, and we are here to support both students and families. At the same time, regular attendance and engagement are essential for progress and wellbeing.

We are required to share attendance and engagement information with the local authority. If attendance remains low over a longer period, the local authority may review the placement. In some cases, this could affect funding and future placement at the FAR. We want to work together with families to avoid this wherever possible.

If your young person is unable to attend for any reason, please email malissa@farskate.co.uk as soon as possible so we can record the absence appropriately and offer support where needed, and so we can work together to provide support and arrange coursework that can be completed at home.

If attendance is being affected by anxiety or other challenges, please contact our Family Liaison Officer, at hayley@farskate.co.uk

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, your young person needs to leave early, or they are leaving the college site for any reason during the day, 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 Illegal Substances
Vaping, smoking, alcohol, and illegal substances are not permitted anywhere on college grounds. This applies to everyone on site and helps us maintain a safe and supportive learning environment.
If a student is found using, carrying, or believed to be under the influence of alcohol or substances, parents or carers will be contacted and the student will be asked to leave site. Follow-up actions will take place in line with college policies.

We will always take a supportive approach and work closely 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.