ACC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES CHARITABLE TRUST

ual: awarding body

V&A East

Creative Arts in FE 2026 / 27

HOME

November 2026 - February 2027



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to 'Creative Arts in FE 2026/27', a project which builds on the success of the 'Creative Arts in FE 2025/26' programme and is an exciting opportunity for students in colleges across the UK.

In partnership with **UAL Awarding Body** and the **V&A East**, we inviteyou to create a piece of creative writing, poetry, spoken word, art, photography or design in response to the brief below.

All we ask is that you are currently enrolled at an FE college, that you read the brief and submission guidelines and, most importantly, that you let your imagination and creativity flow

We'll look through all the submissions we receive and will choose a number to be included in an online showcase and anthology on the **Association of Colleges (AoC) website.**

In June 2027 we'll share chosen submissions on our social media channels, celebrating some of the fantastic examples of creativity that we receive, and we'll also showcase a selection of works at the V&A East Storehouse Creative Studios in June 2027.

This isn't a competition and we are really keen to encourage everyone to have a go. You don't need to have any experience with creative writing or the arts to make a submission.

You can find all the information you'll need to take part **here,** but if you have any questions you can always get in contact

I long,
as does every
human being,
to be at home
wherever I find
myself.

MAYA ANGELOU



BRIEF: **HOME**

To begin please look at the Short film provided by V&A East, which explores objects in their collection that relate to the theme of *'Home'.* Once you have carefully considered the objects offered, select one as an inspirational influence/ starting point.

The objects presented speak to various themes of communing and community, homeliness, people and place, gathering, interaction and sustenance...amongst others.

By engaging with and imagining these spaces coming to life it will enable you to begin creatively navigating and responding to the following questions and your own points of thought on the theme of *Home.*

We encourage you to book a visit to see these objects in person at V&A East Storehouse. Please do this through our **website.**

We also encourage you to research other objects in the V&A's collection using our **website.**

If you like something you see and want to see it up close and in person, please book to view it at Storehouse through our Order an Object service.

You can book to view up to five objects per two people in slots that are available two weeks in advance. This therefore suits smaller groups who also want to view Storehouse. Please select 'Storehouse' as your location, otherwise it may be in a different V&A site.

Please note, booking to see the David Bowie Centre is required and isn't included in your general self-led visit. Please see our website for more details.

All visits and object viewing sessions are free, and we look forward to welcoming you.

What Does Home Mean To You?

Home is more than a building or a place. It can be a person, a community, a memory, a landscape, a language, a sound, a smell or a feeling.

For some people, home is somewhere they have always known. For others, it may be somewhere they have left behind, somewhere they are searching for, or somewhere they are creating for themselves.

Home can feel safe, familiar and comforting, but it can also be complicated. It can represent belonging and identity, but also separation, displacement, change or uncertainty. We can feel at home in unexpected places – or feel like a stranger somewhere we are supposed to belong.

Home can be physical, emotional, cultural or imaginary.

It might be the house where you grew up, your bedroom, a football pitch, a college, a street, a city or a country. It might be your family, your friends, your pets or a particular person.

It might be a childhood memory, a favourite song, a particular meal, a language or even a place that exists only in your imagination.



Home can be somewhere you return to, somewhere you escape from, or somewhere you create.

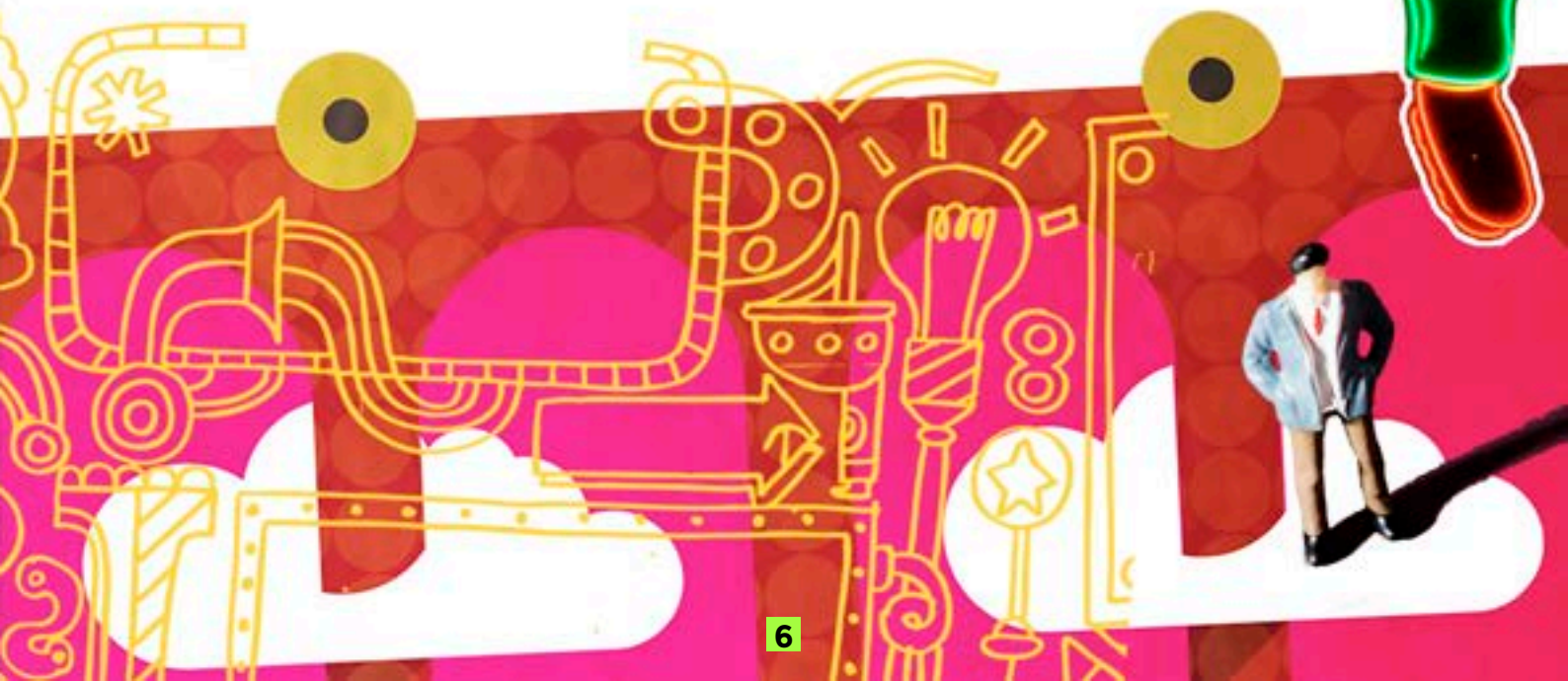
Artists, writers, musicians and filmmakers have explored the idea of home for generations. They have asked questions about belonging, identity, memory, migration, family, place and what it means to feel that you belong somewhere.

Exploring Home

Your response could explore questions such as:

- Where, or what, is home?
- What does home look, sound, smell or feel like?
- Can a person be a home?
- Can you have more than one home?
- What happens when you leave home?
- Can you feel at home somewhere you have never been before?
- What happens when home changes?
- Can you create a home?
- What memories make somewhere feel like home?
- Who or what gets to decide where we belong?
- Is home a place, a feeling or an idea?
- What would your perfect home look like?
- Can somewhere feel like home even if it isn't yours?

There are no right or wrong answers. Your response can be personal, fictional, political, humorous, nostalgic, challenging, hopeful or completely unexpected.



THE TASK: **MAKE HOME**

Your challenge is to create a piece of creative work responding to the theme ***Home.***

Think carefully about what home means to you, to other people, or to the world around you. Consider who or what your work is communicating with and what form will best express your ideas.

Your work can be expressed using one or a combination of the following:

Written Responses
- A short story exploring the idea of home.
- A poem capturing a memory, place or feeling.
- A letter to your home, a person, a place you have left, or somewhere you hope to find.
- A fictional description of a place that feels like home.
- A personal reflection on what home means to you.
- A manifesto about belonging and what makes somewhere a home.
- A slogan or statement that captures the meaning of home in a single unforgettable phrase.

Visual Responses
- Illustration, painting or drawing exploring home.
- Photography documenting a place, object or person connected to home.
- A photographic series exploring different ideas of home.
- Typography and graphic design responding to the word home.
- Maps, diagrams or visual journeys showing where home is or has been.
- Symbols and semiotics: how could you represent home using a single symbol or combination of signs?

Three-Dimensional Responses
- A model, sculpture or installation representing home.
- Paper engineering or pop-up art creating a physical representation of a home.
- A miniature room, building or imagined environment.
- An object or collection of objects that tells a story about home.

Moving Image and Sound Responses

- A short film exploring a place, person or memory connected to home.
- A documentary or visual essay about home and belonging.
- Spoken word or movement exploring what home means.
- A soundscape made from sounds associated with home.
- A song or audio piece inspired by the idea of home.
- A series of voices answering the question: **"What does home mean to you?"**

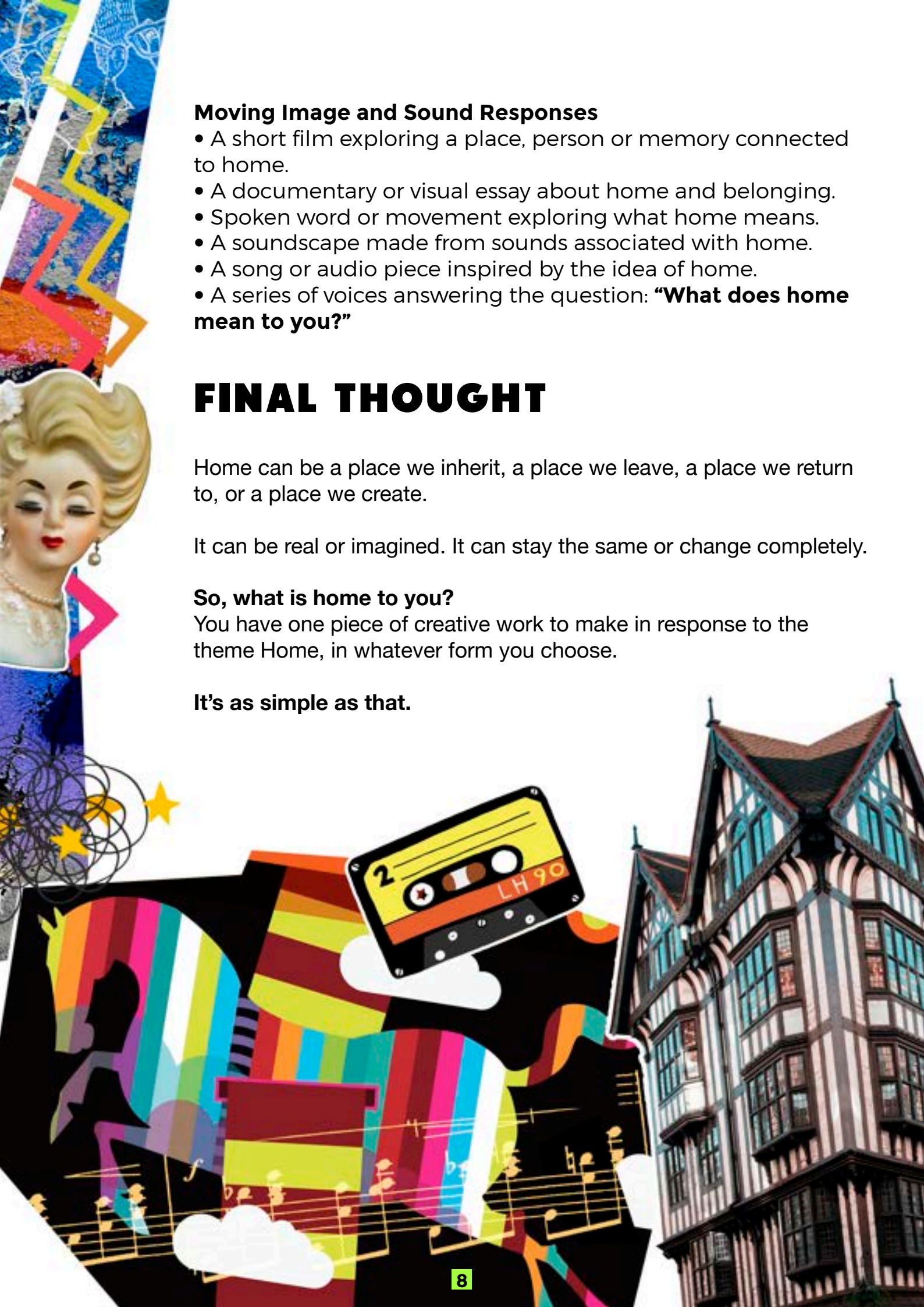
FINAL THOUGHT

Home can be a place we inherit, a place we leave, a place we return to, or a place we create.

It can be real or imagined. It can stay the same or change completely.

So, what is home to you?
You have one piece of creative work to make in response to the theme Home, in whatever form you choose.

It's as simple as that.



SUBMISSION GUIDANCE

All submissions **must be made through your college and by a staff member.** In order to take part you must be an enrolled student or college staff member. We encourage the college community to be involved in this project.

Each college taking part **must** have a member of staff who will oversee the submission process and be a point of contact throughout the project.

Each college taking part can submit up to **5 submissions** (or 5 submissions per college site if your organisation is across multiple sites). There is no minimum number of submissions.

Submissions must be accompanied by a signed consent form.

One consent form must be completed per piece of work. Submissions without an accompanying consent form will not be accepted.

Submissions are open from **10th of November 2026 – 26th of February 2027.**

We hope to let you know which pieces have been chosen to be showcased by early **April 2027.** Please keep an eye on your inbox for notifications.

To enter, **register your interest by emailing projects@aoc.co.uk** well in advance of the submission deadline and you'll be sent a link to share submissions with us online. All submissions must be made by a member of college staff.

You can respond to the brief using any of the media above but please consider that **your work will be shown digitally**. If you are making a physical piece of work you will need to document this and submit it digitally.



Writing

Maximum 500 words submitted as a Microsoft Word document.

Please ensure that each file is named as follows:

'studentname_submissiontitle_college'

Please include the **student's name, submission title and college** on the Word document itself too.

Images

One image per submission. This can be an image that documents a physical outcome or a photographic image which is the submission itself.

The image will need to be a maximum of **1200 pixels wide and no larger than 1MB.**

Please ensure that each file is named as follows:

'studentname_submissiontitle_college'

Videos

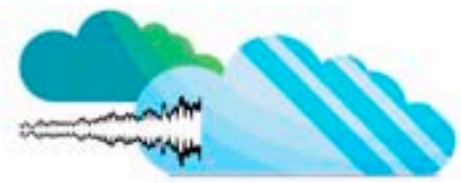
One video per submission.

Videos should be a **maximum of 2 minutes long and shared as an MP4 file.**

If there is any speaking, spoken word or singing in the video, **please provide a full transcript and ensure that videos are subtitled.**

Please ensure that each file is named as follows:

'studentname_submissiontitle_college'



Audio

One file per submission.

Please ensure this is submitted as an MP3 file alongside a full transcript and brief description of the piece.

Please ensure that each file is named as follows:

‘studentname_submissiontitle_college’

Please ensure that any submitted work is original and **does not break any copyright.**

Please note that all videos will be captioned for accessibility reasons.

The project team’s decisions on which works are selected for the online showcase, gallery, social media promotion and AoC Annual Conference display will be final.

We look forward to receiving your submissions.