



PHILIP MORANT

SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Ref: SNL\jr\UpdateLetter

28th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has seen some of our year 8 visit the Suffolk Ski slope centre, our year 7's have competed in the NEMO's (North Essex Maths Olympiad) at St Helena School, and our newly formed year 10 student management team led their first student conference looking at inter-house competitions and participation. Our year 10 students have been part of anti-misogyny workshops run by "Stronger Together." We also hosted the latest Sigma Sixth Induction and careers event where our future year 12 students picked up their timetables and lanyards to become part of their academy community in preparation for a September start.

Actions from this letter

Year 10 GCSE History sign up for the Medicine trip to support learning in History

Read through the end of term fundraising non uniform day to enable your child to participate in their chosen way and kindly make your donation

Familiarise yourself with the information on Emojis and their use

Sigma Sixth Induction and Careers Event

Last night we welcomed over 400 guests to our Sigma Sixth Induction and Careers evening for September 2025 year 12 students. Prospective students gained the opportunity to discuss their courses in more detail, meet their teaching staff and explore careers within their chosen academies. A massive thank you to the students for supporting the event with musical performances, front of house support as well as our academy ambassadors.

Year 10 GCSE History London Medicine Trip

A reminder for Year 10 parents to log on to Parent Pay and pay for the GCSE History London Medicine Trip on 30th April 2025. Although the deadline for payment was today, this has now been extended to Tuesday 1st April and there are still spaces remaining. Here is the link to the consent form:

[Year 10 Medicine trip Consent Form](#)

Last day of term - details

A reminder that on Friday 4th April the school will close early for the last day of term. Normal lessons will take place for all four lessons and so it is essential that all students attend. We will be holding a charity fundraising non-uniform day for Comic Relief and the non-uniform element also covers the celebration of Easter, Eid and Dandelion day (which recognises service children). We thank you in advance, as always, for your generosity towards our support for charities.

Philip Morant School and College, Rembrandt Way, Colchester, Essex CO3 4QS Headteacher: Stephanie Neill
Tel: 01206 545222 Email: contact@pmsc.school Web: www.pmsc.school

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Years 7 and 8 will depart at 1:10pm and remaining year groups at 1:15pm. An extended food service will be available at break.

Here are more details about next week's end of term activities and how students can get involved. We will have an extended break where there will also be traditional hot cross buns and decorated cakes available, as well as Easter and Eid decorations.

Dandelion Day - wearing yellow

The 4th of April marks Dandelion Day, with the Dandelion as the recognised flower of a service child signifying their ability to grow roots wherever they land. The yellow is a symbol of hope and light in the face of adversity. Therefore, please encourage your child to join our celebration within our school and wider community marking a celebration of their resilience and bravery, by wearing something yellow. This could be as simple as a pair of socks, a hair band or go bold and wear all yellow.

This day celebrates those children who are part of a service family with parents serving in the Royal Navy, Army or Royal Air Force. As you may be aware Colchester is the home base for the 16th Air Assault Brigade and makes up a significant part of our wider community, but also our school community. It is important to recognise the unique hurdles that our service families must overcome on a daily basis. Families are often divided for huge periods of time with one, or both, parents away serving their country. Often children will be moved every two years as parents are posted away and this can be extremely challenging, some will make the difficult decision to live separately for these postings- either way these are difficult circumstances for all.

Comic Relief - wearing red

Our student management team has selected Comic Relief and Red Nose Day as one of their chosen charities. Whilst Comic Relief and Red Nose day was the 21st March, we are inviting students to get involved on the last day of term, as part of a non-uniform day where they can show their support for red nose day and wear something red. Our fundraising will go to Comic Relief.

Celebrating diversity with cultural dress

We are inviting our Muslim students to celebrate their culture and the festival of Eid by coming to school in their cultural dress. Having completed similar activities around our Culture Days, our students are familiar with those wearing cultural dress and how that links closely with what they will have been learning in their CBLS lessons. They will have the opportunity to have a group photograph taken on the day and celebrate with some customary treats.

Easter

In CBLS lessons our students have been learning about Easter. We will celebrate Easter through our food service and decoration in the school.

Learning routines

Thank you for all your support on the changes we have made to learning routines to maximise time in learning. Much less time is lost due to students not having a pen and where students now leave their phones behind when going to the toilet. Next week, we will be introducing a 'do now' routine at the start of each lesson to focus the students on being ready to start the lesson promptly. We will be sharing this with students during their tutor time on Monday 31st March so that this is consistent across the school. These routines will also support our SEN students who thrive on the consistency of routine and structure in their daily lives. If you wish to know more details about this, these can be found in the year group Google Classroom.

Adolescence

The Netflix series "Adolescence" has opened many conversations around the challenges facing our young people and the influences to which they are subjected. These two guides to emojis, [Guide 1](#) and [Guide 2](#) have been shared widely and we share them with you to help you interpret some of the communication your children may be encountering.

Start of Summer term

With the Easter break nearly upon us, here is a reminder of the dates and times for the return to school after the Easter Bank Holiday. We will **return to Week B on Tuesday 22nd April 2025** with the school gates opening at 8.15am.

Key dates for the year

[Academic Year Key Dates for Philip Morant School and Sigma Sixth 2024-25](#)

[Terms dates for 2025-2026](#)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Neill', with a small accent mark above the 'i'.

Mrs S Neill
Headteacher