



PHILIP MORANT

SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Ref: SNL\jr\UpdateLetter

22nd April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have enjoyed the Easter break. We welcomed our students back this morning to start the summer term which will be particularly important for our year 11's as they embark on their final term with us to complete their GCSE's and for our year 10's as they prepare for the year ahead.

Actions from this letter

Support your child to attain 100% attendance this half term

Note the final two trips using google forms for consent (update from letter sent on 17th April)

Sign up for photo catch ups on Friday 25th April for years 9,10 and 11

Book in for the year 10 for the Exam Preparation Evening on **Thursday 24th April**

Attendance and Half Term 5

This half term we are running a **100% attendance challenge**.

This half term is only 5 weeks long and with the bank holidays means there are only 23 school days in this half term. We know attendance is often better with 4 day weeks and given our early Spring weather we would hope almost every student can attend for all 23 days this half term. There will be a reward and recognition on the last day of half term.

We have reviewed attendance at the end of half term 4 and there is an encouraging level of progress. The Department of Education measures "persistent absence" as the percentage of students who attend less than 90% of the time. This has always been a key measure and there has been lots of press about this figure having reached 25% of the school population.

Our figure has dropped to below 20% for the first time since Covid and is a recognition of the hard work put in by staff, students and parents and carers. This figure has also significantly improved for SEN support students and for students who receive free school meals. Thank you for all of your hard work to support attendance.

The new focus nationally is on **95% attendance**. Presently, only 55% of our students attend for more than 95% of the time. In one of our nearest schools, their figure is 65% and every Colchester Sigma Trust school has an attendance figure higher than Philip Morant at 95% attendance. So this will be a significant area of focus for us over the next year. Our minimum expectation on attendance for rewards etc will now be 95%. (We already make adjustments for ongoing medical concerns etc and will continue to do so).

For half term 5, for students to achieve their standards award, they will need to attend at least 22 out of the 23 days of this half term.

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Philip Morant School and College is a member of the Sigma Trust, registered in England and Wales, Company no. 07926573
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Signature



Exam Preparation Evening year 10 - Thursday 24th April

As part of year 10's preparation for mock exams, all parents and carers are invited to the exam preparation evening. It is essential you have this information to support your child going forward over the next 15 months. We will be explaining the journey from now, through the summer mock exams and through to the end of year 11. Please make every effort to attend, you can book into one of the talks [here](#) and individual appointments will be arranged for about a third of the year group. This will then be followed by the year 10 progress evening with subject teachers on Thursday 8th May.

Catch Up photos

Carmel Jane Photographers will be in on the morning of Friday 25th April during Tutorial / p1 to take photos of any students who were absent when the Year 11 Individual / Virtual Group and Year 9/10 Individual photos were taken last term.

If you would like your child to have their photo taken, please complete this Google form: <https://forms.gle/3p9ymUoHy5nwaN6DA>, so that we can schedule them into the session.

LAMDA provision

Our LAMDA students have been working on a wide range of contemporary monologues written by some of the country's leading playwrights. LAMDA sessions are at Philip Morant every Friday during the school day. You can have a solo session or pair up with a performing buddy. Arrangements for booking and payment are made directly with Ryan Penny but we will oversee, in a similar way to musical instrument lessons. [LAMDA letter Philip Morant](#)

Updates to consent and payment for trips and events

We sent out some information regarding the new trip process in last week's scheduled letter, here is an amendment as the trips team were working during the Easter break after we had scheduled the letter. All trips moving forward will now use the parent pay system, ***but Natural History and Bletchley Park will have been the last to use google forms.***

We hope that bringing everything onto one platform will make it easier for parents and carers to provide consent and payments where needed for trips and events. Please do give us any feedback on the new systems, so we can look to refine it further wherever possible to make it easier for you to provide the details so that your child can benefit from future trips.

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



Mrs S Neill
Headteacher