



PHILIP MORANT

SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Ref: SNL\jr\UpdateLetter
26th August 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to all of our new parents and carers with students in years 7, 12 or joining us in other year groups. For those parents who have been with us for some time, we also welcome you back into pre-term readiness. We hope you all have managed to have some rest and enjoyment this summer. Our focus in this first week will be to remind ourselves as staff, students and parents of the routines of the school, the things that are important to us and updates on areas we will work on during the year. Please make every effort to attend our information evening where year 7 parents and carers will meet their child's tutor and parents and carers in other year groups can hear updates about the school, and for some identified students, have individual meetings with their tutor.

Actions from this letter

Be ready to return - check the uniform, hair and jewellery standards for the first day back

Year 7 Parents - look out for your Parentpay email sent on 26th August, with your child's log on details for the cashless catering system. If you have not received this please check your junk/spam email box.

Start of term dates Check the start date dependent on your child's year group

Keep our students safe regarding drop off and pick up

Share our open evening date with those you know with children in years 5 or 6 who are interested in finding out about Philip Morant School and College.

Note main meal price increase - for Parent Pay

Check out new bus service - between Stanway and Greenstead offering new services for students

Information Evening - book in for our information evening on the 4th September

Return to school in September

In preparation for the start of the new school academic year, please see the details of the times and gates for students to come through on their first day back after the school holidays.

Year 7 and 12 start back on Tuesday 2nd September

Year 7 - arrive at **8:15am to go through Gate 1** (on the footpath at the side of the school). They will finish at 2:55pm. If new parents are meeting students, please wait on the green, not the footpath.

Year 12 - arrive at **10.00am to go through Gate 3** (College gate at the side of the school). They will finish at 1pm.

Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 start back on Wednesday 3rd September

Please arrive promptly at 8.15am.

Year 8 - arrive at **8:15am to go through gate 4** (off footpath at the front of school)

Year 9 - arrive at **8:15am to go through gate 5** (the main gate at the front of school)

Year 10 - arrive at **8:15am to go through gate 4** (off footpath at the front of school)

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Year 11 - arrive at **8:15am** to go through **gate 2** (off footpath at the side of the school). **Year 11 now has a full programme of after school revision and will finish each day at 4pm.** Please contact the year team if you need to discuss this further.

Year 13 - arrive **before 8:40am** to go through **gate 3** (off footpath at the side of the school)

Dropping off and picking up reminders especially for new parents from day 1.

Please can we ask you **not to enter Landseer Road from Gainsborough Road.** There should be **no drop off or pick up on Landseer Road, Rembrandt Way or Reynolds Avenue.** If you do need to travel by car, please choose to drop off and pick up in a different location a little further away from the school where there are plenty of paths for the students to access the school.

We are serious about demonstrating kindness in our community and this includes our local residents. It is unpleasant and dangerous if there is parking or dropping off in these areas around the school. We have no through roads and so every option involves vehicles having to reverse. There are nearly 1900 students leaving school at the same time and we have a significant duty of care to help them leave safely. Please expect us to speak to you and to your child if you drop off or pick up in these areas. Accessible parking, particularly for blue badge holders, is available to drop off and pick up students with mobility issues through the gates at the front of the school.

Information Evening - Thursday 4 September

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up for the information presentation talks.

The evening is a presentation talk and for year 7 parents/carers an opportunity to meet the tutor.

Please use this link to sign up for one of the presentation talks which will take place at **4.15pm, 5.00pm or 6.00pm.** <https://forms.gle/Ff24afxaaiqzqcqFDA>

A number of years 8 to 11 parents and carers have received individual invites for tutor meetings so please use the link you were sent in that email.

Roadworks

There have been roadworks at the Norman Way/Shrub End Road junction during this holiday break. As these may have not cleared by September 2nd/3rd, please allow additional time for your journey if you travel this route.

Bus services

A reminder that there is a new number 3 bus service from Greenstead to Stanway that runs along Lexden Road. This could be a good alternative for students given how busy and unreliable the number 1 bus can be. Arriva Bus UK <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/find-a-service/3-greenstead-to-stanway>

Attendance in week 1 - making every day count

Every student needs to be in school every day in the first week of term to have a real opportunity to be successful in school. This is when friendships are made, expectations and the background to learning are explained. It's very unsettling for students if they miss any days in this first week.

A study by the children's commissioner stated **'Children who missed the second, third and fourth day of a new term were predicted to have an overall absence of almost 45%, or 31 days across the term, significantly more than their peers who attended those first few days.'**

The Rule of 3 attendance drive

Our rule of 3 is a simple way for students and parents/carers to see what 95% attendance means. This means no more than 3 days off in any term.

Analysis of national data shows that: Year 11 pupils who have near-perfect attendance (95-100%) being almost twice as likely to achieve a Grade 5 in both subjects compared to those with lower attendance (90-95%).

Attendance directly links to achievement.

Students themselves, tutors, year teams and attendance teams will be monitoring this closely and picking up on any concerns and what support is needed from the first week.

Uniform reminders

Please ensure that in these last few days of the holiday your child is ready to meet these requirements of our uniform policy on the first day back, please check everything this week:

- Extreme hair styles are not permitted. Hair must be of a natural colour all over.
- False nails, gel nails and acrylics are not permitted.
- False eyelashes are not permitted.
- If choosing to wear the tartan skirt, the length must be no shorter than 5cm above the knee.
- The skirts must be unrolled at the waist.
- Shoes should be plain black leather/leather-look. Trainers or vans are not permitted.
- Jewellery is limited to: a wristwatch, a single unobtrusive ring and a single pair of ear studs (one in each earlobe).
- Students are not allowed to wear facial piercings at school. If, with a parent's permission, a student has had a facial piercing (nose, lip, eyebrow, upper ear), a clear retainer must be worn at school in place of the metal piercing.

Should students arrive at school with incorrect uniform/hairstyles/nails/jewellery/makeup, we will support them to correct their uniform by adjustments they can make themselves, loaning correct uniform or contacting parents to support. **Students will not access lessons if they are not following our uniform policy.** If you have any issues with your child returning in full uniform, please email contact@pmsc.school or the year teams on or before their first day so we can support.

School skirt designs

We have been made aware of a manufacturing error on some of the skirts as mock kilts were produced and sent out to some families. Our uniform supplier has worked with us and is being very supportive. They are asking any parents or carers to contact their Customer Support Team and are offering to exchange any mock kilts for the correct skirts. If there are any delays in getting this done before the start of term we are advising students to wear the one they have been sent until the replacement arrives.

School catering - main meal price increase

To cover the increased cost of supplies we have had to make the decision to increase our main meal charge from £2.45 to £2.50. This still represents good value for money for a main meal at school which continues to remain a popular choice across all year groups. Please can you note this slight increase when you are uploading funds to your child's ParentPay account as this will take effect from September 2025. Year 7 Parents have been sent their child log in details on 26th August - if you can not see it initially please check your spam and junk folders first.

We look forward to seeing all our students in September.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Neill
Headteacher