



PHILIP MORANT

SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Ref: SNL\jr\UpdateLetter
3rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have welcomed year 6 students from Gosbecks, St Michaels and Lexden Primary schools for taster sessions this week. We have continued to show many year 6 parents and students around the school on tours. We also welcomed our primary headteachers to our termly meeting and they enjoyed visiting some of our year 7 students during tutor time.

During the week we have had the Red Cross in school delivering a workshop to some year 7 students on "coping with challenges." Our deaf students have had the opportunity to be a part of an amazing project: "Essex vibrations." They will be performing at Christ Church Chelmsford in November alongside the other Enhanced Provisions in Essex.

We welcomed our new Chair of Governors, Gavin Bradley to the school.

On Saturday our year 13 A level history students are travelling to Dublin for the day to support their subject work.

Actions from this letter

Book into Sigma Sixth Open Evening on Thursday 9th October

Read the urgent safety advice regarding Needoh soft sensory toys

Sigma Sixth Open Evening - Thursday 9th October

It is the last few days for booking into our Sigma Sixth Open Evening. This will also be explained to students in our year 11 assembly on Monday.

Our sixth form is growing every year with the number of students choosing to stay on from Philip Morant School doubling in the last year. We offer a wide range of A levels and BTEC Sport Coaching and Development. This year we have been very popular in our creative subjects. We offer an exciting STEM and Global Academy programme. Our Sports Academy is very successful and students can study a full A level route and access all training in the Football, Netball and Rugby academies.

The booking form is on our website and [can be found here](#).

If your child is in years 10 or 11, please come along and find out more.

Lunch Arrangements

Given the larger year groups we now have and the restricted space where years 7 and 8 currently line up, we are changing our line up arrangements from Monday. This is in response to staff, parent and student feedback. Students will now all line up on the tennis courts where there is more room and will

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be escorted from there to the main hall for their food. This should provide a more pleasant space for students.

Safety alert regarding Needoh nice toys

We have become aware that a number of students are carrying a 'squishy' / sensory toy, popularised by social media. There are an increasing number of reports circulating of the risk of severe burns should these toys burst and the skin be exposed to the gel filling. We would recommend that if your child has one of the toys it is disposed of immediately. The item is similar to that linked here: <https://www.parents.com/chemical-burn-risks-from-gel-in-needoh-nice-cube-11703698>)

Ordering replacement cashless cards

If you need to order a replacement card for your child, please complete the form on the website by clicking the link [Request a new cashless card](#)

Lanyards

Please can we take this opportunity to remind parents/carers of the importance of all students including those at Sigma Sixth wearing their lanyards around the site at all times.

For Sigma Sixth students this is particularly important so members of staff and other students can identify the students as Sigma Sixth students.

If a Sigma Sixth student forgets, they will need to go to CO3 to collect a temporary replacement for the day.

If a student in the main school forgets their lanyard, they are loaned another lanyard and if this is returned, there is no charge. If this is not returned, there is a £2 charge to cover our costs.

Service children opportunities through the Army Welfare Service

As part of our commitment to supporting our service children, the Army Welfare Service Community Development team is inviting service families to get involved with term time activities at the Youth and Community centre, Fallowfield Road Colchester CO2 9ND.

If any of our service families, or anyone you know is a service family please feel free to share the [programme of activities](#) with them, enabling young people from service families to explore these activities alongside others who share similar life experiences.

Black History Month

This week the school commenced Black History Month with a series of assemblies.

In line with the theme of Black British Excellence, a group of dedicated students from year 8 to year 11 engaged in a research project, researching Black British individuals who have achieved excellence in their respective fields, and spoke about their accomplishments to students in assembly.

The assemblies were supported by Godwin Daudu from African Families in the UK, who spoke to students about the importance of Black History Month, and of the History of people in colour in the UK through the example of John Blanke. John Blanke was a Tudor Trumpeter who petitioned King Henry VIII for a pay rise in line with his white trumpeters. His picture is the oldest recorded image of a person of colour in the UK.

Year 7 History

On Friday next week our year 7 students will have a deep learning day around careers in archeology. They will hear from an archaeologist in a whole year group presentation and then will be completing activities around this in their lesson time.

Key dates

Thursday 9th October - Sigma Sixth Open Evening for year 10 and 11 parents and their children.
From Monday 6th October: Great Ormond Street fundraising Run during PE lessons.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Neill', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S Neill
Headteacher