



PHILIP MORANT

SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Ref: SNL\jr\UpdateLetter
24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your support over this half term. We have certainly had a busy half term and are delighted with all that has been achieved. Today we have celebrated the end of Black History Month with a cultural dress and non uniform day and our year 11 students are on their reward trip to Thorpe Park.

Actions from this letter

Complete applications to Sigma Sixth if in year 11 - <https://www.sigmasixth.org.uk/sigma-sixth-colchester/>

Check your child has a green pen as part of their daily equipment after half term

Year 8 France Trip

We are pleased to inform parents/carers who paid the deposit by the deadline, that there is no ballot for places and therefore your child's place is now confirmed. This trip is now full and there are no further spaces available.

Leave of absence requests

As you are very aware from our communication over the years, and the government's focus, school attendance has a direct link to examination outcomes and future income.

Our attendance policy states that:

Parents and carers should make every effort to avoid taking students out of education for holidays or other extended leave during term time and that we only agree to these in exceptional circumstances and we refer these for a penalty notice from the local authority . It is very rare for us to approve any leave of absence request.

Usually in an academic year we would process 150-200 requests. In the first 4 weeks of this term we received 93 leave of absence requests. Not only is this a huge amount of work for our attendance team but reflects a significant change in parents and carers requesting to take their children out of school. Please can you arrange all holidays and events outside of term time.

Where we suspect that non attendance is due to being on holiday we do investigate this including home visits. To give your child the very best opportunity in education, please ensure they can attend every day.

Equipment readiness

Our equipment list includes students having a "green pen." We haven't made this an item which we check frequently. However, after half term we will be making more consistent use of green pens across the school so please could you make sure when you return your child has a green pen as well as a blue/black pen.

In the same way as we charge 30p for black pens if a student doesn't have a pen, so we will charge 30p for green pens if a student doesn't have a green pen. These will be checked in tutor time and in

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lessons. In week 1 after half term we will be reminding students and will start replacing and charging in week 2.

Careers Survey

As part of our improving careers programme we are asking students to complete a questionnaire on their knowledge and opinions of a variety of pathways for their education and future career choices. This will be completed by years 7, 9 and 11 initially and should happen through their RSHE lessons. Year 7 students should have completed these this week and years 9 and 11 will be given opportunities after half term. All students will receive a link to their school email with the questionnaire so that they have their own personal link to complete.

If your child is in year 7 and has not completed this in school this week could you please ask them to complete it at home. This should only take around 5 - 10 minutes. We will then collate all of this information together to help us ensure our careers programme is targeted and supports students with their interests.

Year 11 students will also receive a second google form which will be added onto their Google Classroom which we would like them all to complete which discusses their intended destinations for next year. This will help us to support them with their goals as they move through year 11.

Rock School! Autumn 2025

We are excited to offer our Rock School! program to all year 7-9 students. Please read below for more information which will also be shared with students on their tutor time updates. This creative opportunity will give students the chance to unlock their inner rock star - to jam, create, and perform with fellow musicians. Using quality equipment and using their own performance space.

Places are limited and so students will be randomly selected if oversubscribed, but further opportunities will be available. To help maintain the cost of running these clubs, we would like to ask parents to make a small contribution of £5 per term which will go towards funding the club. To secure a place for your child please complete the [google form here](#) by 9.00am on Monday 3rd November 2025.

For any further information please contact luke.hawkins@pmsc.school

Return to school

We will send out a reminder regarding this just before we return but please ensure that any changes to hair colour, any piercings or any nails can be corrected in time for Monday 3rd November.

We will send a reminder letter at the end of next week in preparation for the return to school on Monday 3rd November. We hope you have a restful weekend and half term break, and we wish all our students a safe and enjoyable half term.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Neill
Headteacher

