



PHILIP MORANT

SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Ref: SNL\jr\UpdateLetter
19th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a busy week, our year 8 students are having an amazing time on Friday as they experience French culture, explore French cuisine and practise their speaking and listening skills on their day trip to France.

As we step towards the end of the Spring term we congratulate our year 11 and 13 for completing their mocks exams and hope that the experience helps them to focus on their revision areas ahead to maximise their achievable grades in the summer.

Actions from this letter

Save the dates - school photographs year 11 on 27th March and years 12 and 13 on 26th March

Complete the engagement and belonging survey

Read the Essex neighbourhood policing advice

Individual and group photographs - Year 11,12 and 13

Year 11 individual and year group photos will take place on Friday 27th March. This will be followed by an assembly and summary of mock results in the Q theatre during period 2.

Years 12 and 13 will take place on Thursday 26th March. Sports Academy students are to arrive in full Sigma tracksuit kit, to be photographed for their Sports Academy group photo and then changed into other clothes for their College photo afterwards.

Further details on how to register for these photos will be sent out separately.

Year 9 GL Assessments

All students in year 9 will be taking part in GL Assessments which are externally set and marked assessments in Maths, English and Science. This is not something that students have to prepare for but does give us information on how your child is doing in these subjects compared to other students nationally. We will then use this information to plan out any necessary steps to ensure that your child is prepared for the GCSE courses starting in year 10.

The assessments will be completed on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th March. These assessments will be completed in the Sports Hall.

As year 9s have not sat assessments in here before we will support them to follow the systems but the students should go to their form tutor to be registered as normal on each day. Once the students have been registered they will put their belongings in exam cages in the house quad and then be brought to the Sports Hall where they will line up in alphabetical order by surname based on their English classes. Could you therefore ensure that your child has a pen, pencil, ruler and scientific calculator and knows

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their English class and their English teacher's name. This will help us to get them lined up in the correct place.

Parent survey on Belonging and Engagement

Thank you to all those parents who have already completed this survey we are already looking into the areas raised. For those of you who haven't, we would really appreciate your views by completing a survey that looks at how we can improve how our students feel about their belonging and engagement in school. Examples might be what other clubs, trips, rewards or support we could explore in order to ensure that every child feels they can belong and thrive in school during their secondary education. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey so we can gather as much feedback as possible to shape our future plans. <https://forms.gle/B9zwcZsG8GLHct426>

Changes to support funds for families

We have received a reminder for parents and carers from Essex County Council that there are no more free school meal supermarket holiday vouchers. The upcoming Spring holiday will be the first end of term holiday with no vouchers since 2020.

Essex County Council is recognising that this change may raise questions from families, and so wish to reassure families that support for vulnerable households will continue and will be delivered through new arrangements and via a new fund. The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) will launch on 1 April 2026. This fund is designed to support low-income households facing sudden financial pressures.

[Read the full letter from Essex County Council](#)

Advice from neighbourhood Policing team

We have received some information and guidance from the Essex Police neighbourhood policing team with regards to scooter safety. Please take a moment to [read the advice linked here](#).

Red v blue school wars update

Following the social media activity surrounding this, here is a long but really interesting article about 'school wars' and how we need to raise our students' awareness to 'critically ignore' some memes (especially in the world of AI). The article makes interesting reading on how the articles are deliberately created to cause a reaction and how this can be exploited by social media algorithms to maximise impact. It also highlights the impact of reacting and forwarding posts which can accidentally amplify their reach.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy4wgzdydkeo>

ParentPay (check if you want to include)

We apologise that we were not able to send a timely communication to parents earlier regarding the Parent Pay issue. Unfortunately, at the time the issue arose, the school was not receiving any confirmed details from the software providers about what had occurred or what actions were required. This made it very difficult for us to gather information that we could confidently share with parents while ensuring the information was accurate. We would have preferred to inform families sooner and handle the situation with clearer and more timely communication.

The small proportion of parents affected have been contacted directly and have been advised to check their balance and top up if required.

Last day of term

A reminder that on **Friday 27th March** 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. **Years 7 and 8 will depart at 1:15pm and remaining year groups at 1:20pm. An extended food service will be available at break.** This will not be a non uniform day as we have year 11 photos, we will find another opportunity to hold a non uniform day.

We return to school on **Monday 13th April** when it will be **Week A**.

Key dates for the academic year - [Key date list linked here](#)
2026-2027 academic year term dates - [26-27 Term dates](#)

Yours sincerely

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

Mrs S Neill
Headteacher