

PHILIPS NEWS



Philips
High School

SPRING 2026

A WARM WELCOME

As we approach the holiday, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy and successful Spring Term. I would like to take a moment to express how proud I am of both our pupils and our staff for their continued hard work, commitment and enthusiasm.

Our Year 11 pupils have now completed their second round of mock examinations and are just two school weeks away from the start of their GCSEs. Their focus and determination at this crucial stage has been commendable and we are confident they will approach the upcoming exams with resilience and confidence.

This term has also been rich in enrichment opportunities and celebrations. We marked World Book Day, Children's Mental Health Week, and Culture Week, all of which highlighted the importance of reading, wellbeing, and diversity within our school community. Our Year 8 pupils enjoyed an exciting residential trip to Dearne Valley, while Year 11 had the opportunity to experience Macbeth performed at the Octagon Theatre in Bolton, bringing their studies to life.

We were also pleased to host a Revision Evening for parents and carers of students in Years 7–10, providing practical strategies to support revision at home. Meanwhile, our Year 10 pupils engaged with future career pathways at the JD Up careers event in Manchester.

One of the highlights of the term was receiving a letter from Bridget Phillipson MP, congratulating the school on our GCSE results and recognising us as being "among the very best nationally." This is a testament to the dedication of our entire school community. In addition, we welcomed a serving Ofsted inspector into school to review our progress against the new framework. We were delighted with the positive outcome, which affirms that we are continuing strongly on our journey of success.

Looking ahead, the Summer Term will be an important time for all year groups, with internal examinations taking place alongside the Year 11 GCSEs. Pupils in Years 7–10 have now received their revision booklets, and while we encourage everyone to enjoy a restful and well-deserved break, we also recommend setting aside some time for revision and preparation.

As always, we value strong communication between home and school. Please be aware that staff are often teaching throughout the school day and may not be able to respond immediately to messages. However, they will always aim to reply via email or phone call at the earliest opportunity. If you wish to arrange a meeting, we kindly ask that you contact the school office so that a suitable time can be scheduled.

Following the holiday, we will also be reinforcing our expectations around school uniform and appearance. We ask for your support in ensuring that pupils return ready to learn, with natural hair colours and without false eyelashes or nails. As a school, we will continue to reinforce clear boundaries in a respectful and supportive manner. This is a shared priority across our staff, and we believe it will help maintain a positive and focused learning environment for all.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. We are incredibly proud of the achievements and efforts of our pupils this term, and we wish all our families a restful and enjoyable Easter break.





WORKING TOWARDS WELLBEING AND INCLUSION ACCREDITATIONS

We are pleased to share that our school is working towards two important recognitions: the Emotionally Friendly Setting Accreditation and the SENDIA Award. These accreditations support our ongoing commitment to ensuring that every pupil feels supported, included, and able to succeed.

The Emotionally Friendly Setting Accreditation recognises schools that prioritise pupils' emotional wellbeing. As part of this process, we are reviewing our school environment, pastoral support, and staff training to ensure we continue to promote positive mental health and emotional resilience.

We are also working towards the SENDIA Award, which focuses on strengthening support for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This involves reviewing our teaching approaches and support systems to ensure all pupils can access learning and reach their full potential.

Working towards these accreditations will help us further develop an inclusive, supportive school environment where every pupil can thrive.

USEFUL CONTACTS

BARDOC (out of hours service) - Please contact 111

Emergency Housing - 0161 253 5537

(In an emergency after 5pm 0161 253 6606)

Care and Support Service (CASS) - 0161 253 6666

Fairfield Hospital - 0161 624 0420

Healthy Minds (Adults) - 0161 253 5258

Healthy Young Minds (Young People) - 0161 716 1100

Metrolink - 0161 205 2000

Travel Line - 0871 200 2233

NSPCC - 0808 800 5000

Greater Manchester Police - 0161 872 5050 or 101

Rape Crisis Line GM - 0808 802 9999

Mind Mental Health Support - 0300 123 3393

Shelter Manchester (free housing emergency helpline) - 0808 800 4444

Admissions (Bury LA) - 0161 253 5670



DIARY DATES

TERM DATES

LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM

2 APRIL 2026

Pupils are dismissed at the normal time

START OF SUMMER TERM

20 APRIL 2026

All pupils to return at the normal time

BANK HOLIDAY

4 MAY 2026

HALF TERM

25 May - 29 May 2026

RETURN TO SCHOOL

1 JUNE 2026

Normal time

UPCOMING TRIPS & SCHOOL EVENTS

- Ski Trip - April 2026
- Bay of Naples - May 2026
- Cadets (Various) - April & May 2026
- Geography Trips - June 2026
- Salford Quays - July 2026





CULTURE WEEK

Last week, we proudly celebrated our yearly tradition of Culture Week. From our daily Fashion Show Assemblies to themed form times, we celebrated the rich diversity within our school and the wider Manchester and Whitefield community. Assemblies highlighted influential and diverse figures connected to Manchester, inspiring pupils to take pride in culture and identity.

Throughout the week, our canteen offered special themed menus, giving pupils the chance to explore global flavours, while our RE department organised synagogue trips, allowing students to learn first-hand about different faiths and communities.

On Friday, Culture Day, Staff and Pupils came dressed in outfits that reflected their culture, background, or personality, creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere across the school. During Period 5, Years 7–10 came together in the Sports Hall — a rare special moment where our school community gathered to celebrate together.

We were inspired by heartfelt speeches from Miss Schofield and Mrs DeAngelis, who reflected on the success of the week and the joy of seeing our community united. Certificates were awarded for the Culture Week lantern competition, as well as football and benchball tournaments — well done to all our winners!

The celebration ended on a high note with an amazing performance of “Colours of the Wind” by Sienna in Year 10, earning huge cheers and applause. Thank you to everyone who made Culture Week so special — a true celebration of who we are as a community.



A MOMENT OF PRIDE FOR PHILIPS HIGH SCHOOL

We are incredibly proud to have received formal recognition from Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education, for our work in improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

Following the publication of Department for Education data, Philips has been named among the best performing comprehensive secondary schools in Bury and the North-West, achieving our best-ever GCSE results in 2025.

This recognition celebrates the dedication of our staff, the hard work of our pupils, and the strength of our whole school community. Together, we're proving what's possible when ambition, high standards and inclusion come first.





CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

Celebration Station

Our new Celebration Station has launched this term and is already proving popular with students. Held every Wednesday lunchtime, the initiative gives students the opportunity to share a piece of work they are particularly proud of with a member of staff. Students can talk about their learning and celebrate their achievements, before choosing a small reward from our pick-and-mix box. It has been wonderful to see students taking pride in their work and recognising their own progress.



Artist of the Week

Creativity is also being celebrated in the canteen through our Artist of the Week display. Each week, a student's artwork is featured on the table-top reading displays, giving their creativity a platform to be shared with the wider school community. This initiative allows us to recognise the artistic talents of our students and encourage others to engage with creative work.



CADETS SHOOTING COMPETITION

This month, nine of our Cadets took part in a Shooting Competition with approximately 300 Cadets from across the North of England. Cadets spent two nights camping out in temperatures that dropped below zero.

They were put through challenges involving shooting a variety of rifles, physical challenges and a bit of a paintball fight!

Whilst they didn't succeed in winning an award, their dedication and perseverance was definitely admirable!

Finally, a huge congratulations to Mr Coldwell, on achieving the rank of Sergeant!





WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS

On the 5th March, we celebrated World Book Day with enthusiasm and creativity. Staff and students dressed as characters from books they love, and Form groups took part in a **Best Door Competition**, decorating their classroom doors around a book theme - Congratulations to the winners, 8A!

We also created a whole-school display titled **"Books That Changed Me,"** where staff and students shared titles that had made a lasting impact on them.

After school, pupils could also take part in **Story Stones** in the Drama classroom.



CLASSOPOLY BOARD COMPETITION

Congratulations to our three talented Year 7 winners of the Design a Monopoly Board challenge.

We were so impressed by your creativity, teamwork and brilliant ideas, that brought your boards to life! We love how you incorporated all of our School Subjects into the board - even the Correction Room!



PARENT PAY

As part of our efforts to streamline processes, we have now fully transitioned to a cashless system. This includes all school-related payments, including school trips. Even if a trip is free, parental consent must be provided through ParentPay. Please ensure you have your ParentPay login details ready. If you haven't received your login information or encounter any issues, feel free to contact us via email at enquiries@philips.oaklp.co.uk.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we adopt this modern approach.



ParentPay



ARBOR APP

Stay informed and engaged with your child’s education by using the Arbor App, an essential tool for receiving real-time updates. With the Arbor App, you can receive important messages from the school, monitor your child’s attendance, and keep track of their behavior. This app is not just convenient—it’s a vital resource for staying connected to your child’s academic journey and ensuring you are always in the loop.

Download the Arbor App today and scan the QR code to get set up.



Arbor App



Arbor Support

TAKING HOLIDAYS?

All requests for holidays during term time must be made in writing to enquiries@philips.oaklp.co.uk. A holiday taken during term time could result in a penalty notice. If issued, penalty notices are issued to each parent of each child and the amount of the penalty will be £160 to be paid within 28 days (£80 if paid within 21 days). Penalty notices will also be considered for 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

We hope you find this information useful. We try to give you helpful information and keep you up to date with legislation, policy changes and school attendance issues. We would love to hear what you think and any ideas for improvement you may have. Please use this email to send us your comments, feedback and/or concerns:
enquiries@philips.oaklp.co.uk

FEELING UNWELL?

Often a child will wake up in the morning saying they feel unwell. Always try and send your child to school if they are a little ‘under the weather’, for example with a runny nose, headache or stomach ache. The school will contact you if your child is unwell, which is why it is vitally important that we have your correct contact details.

Injuries are not acceptable reasons to be absent from school unless they require medical treatment. Further guidance can be found on the government website via this link:

[CLICK HERE FOR NHS GUIDANCE](#)

Absence from school causes gaps in children’s knowledge and understanding. As children progress through school they build on their existing knowledge, however children who have gaps struggle to grasp next steps.



LATENESS FACTS

If you are this many minutes late every day:	You will lose approximately this number of days’ learning each year:
5 minutes	4 days
10 minutes	7 days
15 minutes	11 days
20 minutes	14 days
25 minutes	21 days