



PHILIP MORANT

SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Ref: SNL\jr\UpdateLetter

8th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Last night we celebrated our annual awards evening and were joined by local community representatives including the Garrison Commander and MP for Colchester Pam Cox. It was an amazing evening celebrating the successes of current and former students who have excelled in their subjects and their contributions to their school community.

Actions from this letter

Review your child's eligibility for free school meals - **only if you are not already in receipt of this**
Give consent for flu vaccinations by 1st December

Student medical appointment and collection reminders

Please can we remind parents and carers that if you are collecting a student during school hours, you must come to Reception to collect them. If you are collecting by car all you need to do is drive to the gate, use the intercom to speak to the office, park in the visitor car park and then come to reception. If arriving on foot speak to the office using the intercom at the pedestrian gate and once the gate is open walk up to Reception. We do need to see you in person at reception.

If you are having to arrange medical / dental appointments within school hours as it is the only possible time you can get an appointment then please advise us on [this form](#) as to whether your child is being collected or if they are walking home to an appointment.

Flu vaccinations -Years 7-11

Annual flu vaccinations will be taking place on 5th December 2024. The deadline for parents to complete is 03/12/2024. Please click the below link to complete a consent form.

[LINK HERE](#)

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu. Most children are offered a nasal spray vaccine which is a quick, simple and painless spray up the nose.

The nasal spray vaccine is the most effective vaccine. The nasal spray vaccine contains a very small amount of porcine gelatine as an essential ingredient to keep it stable and able to work. For those who may not accept medicines or vaccines that contain porcine gelatine, a flu vaccine injection is

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available – please call 0300 790 0597. Even if your child had the vaccine last year, the type of flu can vary each winter, so it is recommended to have it again this year or they won't be protected.

Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccine in schools have had the immunisation.

For further information, please refer to the following leaflets:

Secondary - [Protect yourself from flu-secondary school - English - Health Publications](#)

A confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided on the consent form. If you do not receive this confirmation within 24 hours please contact the service on 0300 790 0597.

If you have any queries, or need to discuss the alternative flu vaccine injection please Contact the immunisation team on 0300 790 0597 or at epunft.NE-Immunisations@nhs.net

Parent Pay low balance alerts

As previously mentioned we are a cashless school, our students use their cashless cards to make purchases at break and lunchtime. The office staff have been advised not to take any further cash to top up cards.

To assist parents and carers in keeping an eye on the levels left on a child's card we have linked in this letter a [short guide on how to set up an alert](#) so that you can get a reminder of when the amount left on the card reaches a minimum threshold, giving you time to top it up before it runs out.

Remembrance

On Monday 11th November we will be holding a Remembrance event with assemblies taking place all throughout that week. All students who are part of Uniformed Organisations are encouraged to wear their uniforms on this day and take part in the Remembrance event. It has been excellent to see this number growing each year of students who are proud of their participation and volunteering outside of school. Please remember that being part of a uniformed organisation can also qualify your child for a Philip Morant Award.

Support for Young Carers

We are pleased to share the details of support available through Colchester United Community Foundation. Sessions take place on Monday evenings between 3.30pm-5.30pm for Young Carers aged 8-14 years old. The sessions provide a safe space for young carers to unwind, have fun, and take a break from their responsibilities.

What's included? Sport & physical activities (football, cricket, handball, dodgeball etc), Arts & crafts, Cooking skills, Homework support, plus, we host four super exciting enrichment events throughout the year!

Who is a Young Carer? A Young Carer is someone under the age of 18 who provides care or support for a family or friend with a disability, illness, mental health problem, or addiction. Young Carers might help with things like practical tasks, like cooking, housework and shopping, physical care, such as helping someone out of bed, give emotional support, including talking to someone who is distressed, help with personal care, such as helping someone dress, manage the family budget and collecting prescriptions, help to give medicine, help someone to communicate, or look after brothers and sisters.

BOOK HERE - We would love for your school's young carers to join us! Please share this link with any students who could benefit from a much-needed break - <https://shorturl.at/TjSc6>

For more details please visit - <https://www.cu-fc.com/news/2024/may/young-carers-club/>

Supermarket Vouchers for the Winter Holiday

The Department for Work and Pensions 'Household Support Fund' has made funding available to Essex County Council to provide supermarket vouchers worth £50 per child to families with free school meal eligible children. We will issue these vouchers on the council's behalf from the 2nd December 2024. We are again advised that this will be the last supermarket voucher for free school meal eligible children.

If your child is already in receipt of free school meals there is no need to take any action, instructions on accessing the voucher will be sent by email to the highest priority contact of your child.

If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals but have not yet applied please see the information on the government's website for eligibility criteria:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. The government site will direct you to Essex County Council to apply but please do not apply directly to them, you will need to use our own eligibility partners OFSM to apply: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/ofsm-east>

We urge you to do this as soon as possible so that your application is processed by the Department for Education in time for Winter Holiday vouchers to be issued.

Key dates for the year

[Academic Year Key Dates for Philip Morant School and Sigma Sixth 2024-25](#)

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Neill
Headteacher