

1 July 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Consultation on proposed expansion of The Colne Community School & College

Over the past few months, I have attended a number of meetings with representatives of Essex County Council’s School Organisation and Place Planning team and the Sigma Trust regarding the feasibility of expanding and improving the environment of the Colne Community School & College to address the proposed shortage of secondary school student places within our local community.

To satisfy the projected requirements for secondary school places as defined within the local authority’s 10-year plan; ‘meeting the demands for school places’, I am writing to you to seek your views on a proposed expansion of the Colne Community School & College by an additional two forms of entry per year.

The Colne Community School & College is a member of the Sigma Trust. The trustees see the proposed expansion of the school as an opportunity to not only meet the increasing demand for places within the local area, but additionally being able to develop and improve the current infrastructure, existing facilities and invest in the site for current and future students. The Colne is an inclusive comprehensive school that sits within the heart of our community. Our ARK values of Aspiration, Resilience and Kindness, describe the ethos that flows through our school. Students at this school deserve a first class education, achieving academic success, alongside developing the whole child so they have the skills and confidence they need to move onto aspirational pathways and careers when they leave us. We are determined to remain focussed on moving forward, improving the outcomes and raising the aspirations of all the young people within our community.

The Colne Community School & College currently has a published admissions number into year 7 of 248. The proposed expansion would be fully funded by Essex County Council and is proposed to be completed in time for the September 2021 academic year. Following the completion of these works, an additional 60 student places per year would be created, allowing us to admit 2 extra forms of entry into year 7. The schedule below identifies the proposed shortage of places within our community and shows how the expansion would address the identified shortfall of places.

Planning Group 2:	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
Student Places	-21	-28	-24	-68	-72	-86	-75	-83
Brightlingsea – Colne Community School & College (Year 7 Surplus/Deficit)								

Data provided from Essex County Council’s ‘Meeting the demand for school places in Essex – 10 year Plan 2020-2029.

Executive Headteacher: Neil Gallagher
Head of School: Steven Crane
The Colne Community School and College, Church Road, Brightlingsea, Essex, CO7 0QL
Tel: 01206 303511 | Email: mail@colne.essex.sch.uk
www.colne.essex.sch.uk



The Sigma Trust, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales
 Registered Office: Walton Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex. CO15 6DZ Tel: 01255 424266
 Company No 7926573





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The forecasts provided above by Essex County Council, take into account the proposed garden community which is part of Tendring's emerging Local Plan.

Should the expansion proceed, the feasibility work which has already taken place includes substantial remodelling of the existing environment and the construction of a two story new build adjacent to the refectory.

Work within the current school will include remodelling existing areas to accommodate both general and specialist teaching spaces, the creation of additional science laboratories, an extra music teaching space and practice rooms, remodelling and refurbishment of a number of drama, art and technology rooms and additional refurbishments of a number of general teaching spaces.

In addition to the physical teaching environment improvements, the dining room and kitchen area will significantly enlarge and a substantial amount of demolition and refurbishment will introduce new corridor and circulation spaces to improve the transition arrangements for the students around the school.

The proposed new building will consist of fully equipped food technology and resistant material workshops along with eight additional general teaching spaces. The proposal also includes solar panels and an eco-friendly mechanical infrastructure to reduce the school's CO2 emissions and ensure low running costs.

This consultation is an opportunity to express your views and ask questions on the proposal to increase the school's student capacity; your contributions will help inform our decisions and will reflect within our subsequent application to the Department for Education.

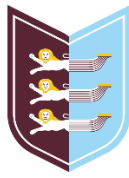
Unfortunately, due to the current Covid 19 pandemic we are unable issue invitations to formal consultation meetings, however, we would encourage responses, via email, letter or telephone. To support this we have set up the following means of communication, emailing consultation@colne.school or leaving an answerphone message on 01206 303511, or written communication posted to the Colne Community School & College, Church Road, Brightlingsea, CO7 0QL. We will acknowledge all responses and reply to any queries or required clarification points.

This letter and feasibility plans can be found on the school website, www.colne.essex.sch.uk
The consultation period starts on Wednesday, 1st July 2020 and closes on Friday, 31st July 2020.

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The final decision as to whether the school expands will be made by the Regional Schools Commissioner on behalf of the Department for Education following the submission of a Significant Change Application by the Trust.

This consultation document is sent electronically to all parents/carers, trustees, local governors, teachers and support staff who are part of the Colne Community School & College community. Electronic copies will also be sent to headteachers of the neighbouring schools in the planning area, ward councillors, MPs, community groups and users of the school site, unions and relevant officers of Essex County Council and Tendring District Council.

Yours sincerely

N Gallagher
Executive Headteacher

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