

NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2026

EPHA Meetings Academic Year 2026/2027

Autumn term 2026

WEST	Wednesday 4 November	Weston Business Centre
SOUTH	Thursday 5 November	The Lion Inn
N-EAST	Wednesday 11 November	Colchester Stadium
MID	Thursday 12 November	The Lion Inn

Spring term 2027

N-EAST	Wednesday 3 March	Weston Business Centre
SOUTH	Thursday 4 March	The Lion Inn
WEST	Wednesday 10 March	Colchester Stadium
MID	Thursday 11 March	The Lion Inn

Summer term 2027

N-EAST	Wednesday 16 June	Colchester Stadium
SOUTH	Thursday 17 June	The Lion Inn
WEST	Wednesday 23 June	Weston Business Centre
MID	Thursday 24 June	The Lion Inn

Contact your Area Chair with any concerns, questions or issues you would like to discuss with colleagues.

CONTACT EPHA

Contact Pam Langmead, Professional Officer, at
pam@langmead.me.uk
Harriet Phelps-Knights EPHA Chair,
via Janet Duke Primary
www.essexprimaryheads.co.uk

Part-time timetable data collection

In response to concerns raised by the EPHA Executive, the Education Access Team is introducing changes to the reduced timetable return. They have acknowledged that the current process is time consuming, requires nil returns, can be repetitive and duplicates data that schools already share through their attendance registers. They stressed that the Local Authority is required to provide strategic information to the DfE but acknowledged that the current system needs to be improved; in the last "window" only 263 schools submitted information.

A revised approach has been proposed for 2026/27.

- Transition from universal reporting to a targeted reporting model, focusing on schools and cases where oversight is most needed.
- Reporting will be informed through a combination of View Your Education Data (VYED) and school-led notifications, reducing the need for routine returns while maintaining effective monitoring and support.
- Whilst the proposed model is awaiting governance approval, a dual return will be completed for Half Term 1 of 26/27 to ensure preparedness for a changeover potentially starting January 2027.

EPHA Annual General Meeting

The EPHA Annual General Meeting took place on 1st October 2026 and the following headteachers were re-elected as EPHA officers for the coming year:

- Harriet Phelps-Knights Chair
- Nick Hutchings Vice-Chair
- Heidi Blakeley Executive Treasurer

The full Executive membership list, minutes of the AGM, and the Constitution and Financial Regulations are available on the EPHA website.

Termly meeting with Local Authority officers

The EPHA Executive met with Clare Kershaw and LA Officers on 1st October 2026. The agenda included:

- An update from Clare Kershaw and LA Officers on local and national changes, including SEND Reform
- An update from the Education Access team and proposed changes to the part-time timetable data return

At the **EPHA AGM and Executive meetings** earlier in the day, the Executive focused on:

- EPHA priorities for 2026/27 – these included
 - Priority 1 – Inclusion in mainstream schools
 - Priority 2 - Headteacher wellbeing, including managing complaints
- How EPHA and the LA can work together to support headteachers
- Input from Gemma Stacey and Clare Angell, Essex NHS ICB

The minutes of the Executive meetings are available on the EPHA website.

EPHA CONFERENCE NEWS

We held this year's Deputy and Assistant Heads' conference in October and 201 delegates attended. Next year's **Deputy Heads' conference** will be held on **Friday 8th October 2027**

The **Small Schools Conference** was a resounding success, and we plan to hold another one in 2027.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

WEPHA conference – Friday 29th January 2027.

Information out early in the spring term.

HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE

Friday 19th March 2027

The conference will be held, once again, at the Chelmsford City Race Course.

The programme and booking form will be emailed to you in December.