

Essex Primary Headteachers' Association

EPHA Meetings Academic Year 2015/2016

Spring term 2016

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| SOUTH | Wednesday 24 February | Holiday Inn, Basildon |
| N-EAST | Thursday 25 February | Weston Homes Community Stadium |
| WEST | Wednesday 2 March | Weston Business Centre, Takeley |
| MID | Thursday 3 March | Chelmsford City Football Club |

Summer term 2016

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| N-EAST | Wednesday 8 June | Weston Homes Community Stadium |
| SOUTH | Thursday 9 June | Holiday Inn, Basildon |
| WEST | Wednesday 15 June | Weston Business Centre, Takeley |
| MID | Thursday 16 June | Chelmsford City Football Club |

Meetings start at **9.00 am** and *please* allow the whole day to ensure you benefit from the District, EPHA and Local Authority input. The meeting with LA Officers is held in the morning and aims to give headteachers a chance to discuss issues with Local Authority officers, as well as being given key information about topical and strategic issues.

The agendas will be emailed to schools at least a week in advance of the meeting, and are available on the EPHA website. Lunch and refreshments will be provided free at the meetings.

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

Appointment of an Executive Director for EPHA

Nigel Hookway has been appointed as the new Executive Director for EPHA. Nigel is currently headteacher at a school in Colchester, his second headship appointment, and he retires from that post at the end of the school year. Nigel is a trained Ofsted inspector and has served as the Essex NAHT President. He has already attended a number of meetings on behalf of primary heads, but is looking forward to representing EPHA at a national level, as well as at local level. Nigel can be contacted at nigelhookway@hotmail.com

Executive Meeting with the Local Authority

At the termly meeting on 28 January, the EPHA Executive discussed a number of key issues with Local Authority officers. These included updates on:

- the SEN reform programme and introduction of new Autism Hubs in Essex;
- the challenges of primary exclusion, part-time timetables and support for children with severe emotional and behavioural challenges;
- the assessment and moderation process this year, and what support is available from the LA;
- the new recruitment and retention strategy in Essex.

FULL MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING WITH LA OFFICERS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE EPHA WEBSITE

NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2016

EPHA Executive discussion and feedback

The EPHA Executive meets termly to discuss topical and strategic issues that are affecting primary heads. The **Spring term meeting** included a Leadership Team update, with news about Schools Forum decisions, the quality of the Schools' Broadband service and feedback from EPHA representatives who had attended meetings on behalf of primary heads. Councillor Ray Gooding, the ECC Cabinet Member of Education and Lifelong Learning, attended the meeting and was asked searching questions about the LA's strategy for education and the future relationship with schools. He recognised the challenges that heads face in the current education climate, describing the job as "a race with no tape". He stressed his commitment to Essex schools and noted his belief that the support, experience and expertise of LAs will continue to exist in some shape or another. He also stated that, in his opinion as Lead Member, not all primary schools would necessarily become academies, despite the current government rhetoric. He accepted that the LA needs to offer more consistent support to all schools, not "too little, too late". However, this is a challenge given the reducing capacity of the LA.

FULL MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING ARE AVAILABLE ON THE EPHA WEBSITE
www.essexprimaryheads.co.uk

You can contact EPHA through the website www.essexprimaryheads.co.uk or via Pam Langmead, Professional Officer, at pam@langmead.me.uk or Nigel Hookway, Executive Director at nigelhookway@hotmail.com or Harriet Phelps-Knights EPHA Chair, via Janet Duke Primary

HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE Friday 18 March 2016
Stock Brook Country Club, Nr Billericay – *key note speakers, Dylan Wiliam and Jason Buckley.*

There are very few places left, so please contact Pam Langmead immediately if you would like to attend.
DEPUTY HEADS' CONFERENCE Friday 10 October 2016
Weston Homes Community Stadium, Colchester
Key note speaker, Viv Grant, author of "Staying A Head"