

### EPHA Meetings Summer term 2020

As a result of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic and the impact on normal life, the summer term headteacher meetings will not take place in June. The EPHA Executive will continue to meet on a regular basis in the second half of term, and if you would like to join one of these meetings (held online) please contact Pam Langmead.

*This term information that is usually shared at the Area Annual General Meetings will be sent to you by email, including the Area Chair's report, a report from the Professional Officer, and nomination forms for EPHA representatives across the county. Please consider joining the EPHA Executive to represent your colleagues and help inform and support all primary heads in Essex.*

**See overleaf for the meeting dates for the 2020/21 school year.**

The **EPHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at Chelmsford City Football Club, starting at 9.00 am. Michelle Winter, Senior HMI for the Eastern Region, will attend the meeting to talk to headteachers about the reinstatement of inspection and Ofsted's future expectations for schools.

### Headship in a time of uncertainty

Whether you are brand new to headship or have many years of experience, one thing is certain – you've never dealt with a global pandemic before! This is the most unprecedented event that school leaders have ever had to face, and the uncertainty stretches into the future, making this challenge even harder to manage. Here are my 5 top tips for you:

1. *Trust your intuition, as well as your experience.* You are not a headteacher for nothing – you are smart, experienced and have proved that you can lead a complex organisation.
2. *Access all the support you can get.* Both professional and personal – this is the time to ask for help and reassurance.
3. *Accept that not all of your decisions will be right.* This is a time of test and trial, and you will probably make the odd mistake.
4. *Give yourself permission to be flexible and change your mind.* Recognising the need to alter course is a strength, not a weakness.
5. *Take a break.* Your job is always too big – at the moment it can be overwhelming, so remember to rest and recuperate. The school will still be there when you return – and the DfE guidance will probably have changed!

### EPHA Executive meetings

The EPHA Executive meetings have moved online during the lockdown, but representatives are making the time to meet more regularly, to discuss their concerns and to feedback views and questions from their local headteachers. The group met with Clare Kershaw and other LA Officers twice in May. Inevitably, Covid-19 was the main topic of discussion, and headteachers shared their experiences of the initial closure period and the challenges of reopening schools effectively and safely.

The Executive also looked for reassurance for the future: what will Ofsted look like, when will testing and accountability return, what is "business as usual" in these unprecedented times? Many of these questions are unanswerable for the time being, but the discussions will continue.

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

<http://essexprimaryheads.co.uk/meetings>

You can contact EPHA through the website [www.essexprimaryheads.co.uk](http://www.essexprimaryheads.co.uk) via Pam Langmead, Professional Officer, at [pam@langmead.me.uk](mailto:pam@langmead.me.uk) Harriet Phelps-Knights EPHA Chair, via Janet Duke Primary

### EPHA CONFERENCE NEWS

#### DEPUTY HEADS' CONFERENCE

**Friday 2 October 2020**

Unfortunately, as a result of the continued uncertainty around when large gatherings will be able to resume, the decision has been made not to hold the annual Deputy and Assistant Headteachers' conference this year. This would have been our 15<sup>th</sup> deputy conference, and we know that for many this is an annual date in the diary that senior leaders value and look forward to.

EPHA plans to hold an alternative, free, virtual event to celebrate and thank Deputy and Assistant heads for the amazing work they do in our schools, particularly in such challenging times. More information in the second half of the summer term.

#### SAVE THE DATES

**Next year's EPHA ANNUAL HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE** will be held on **Friday 19 March 2021** at Stock Brook Country Club.

**DEPUTY CONFERENCE Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021**