

EPHA Meetings Summer term 2022

N-EAST	Wednesday 15 June	Colchester Stadium
MID	Thursday 16 June	The Lion Inn, Boreham
WEST	Wednesday 22 June	Manor of Groves
SOUTH	Thursday 23 June	Greenwoods Hotel, Stock

Meetings start at **9.00 am**. The agendas will be emailed to schools at least a week in advance of the meeting, and are available on the EPHA website.

See overleaf for the meeting dates for the 2022/23 school year.

The **EPHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held on Thursday 29th September 2022 at the Lion Inn, Boreham, starting at 9.00 am. More information in the autumn term.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Hilary Cook, headteacher at Highfields Primary, N Essex, who has been awarded Silver in the Pearson's 2022 National Headteacher of the Year Awards. Hilary will be put forward for a gold award - whatever the outcome, EPHA wants to congratulate her on her amazing achievement.

Review of the year

With thanks to Nick Hutchings, Vice-Chair of EPHA and Chair of the North East Area – this is an extract from his annual report.

This year I am almost lost for words! Frankly I don't think I can remember what's happened since June 2021. Before writing this review I looked, as I always do, at my previous years report. I was genuinely surprised by what schools had been through. I had a sense of thinking it was all a nightmare - some sort of horror movie that I had watched - not what life had actually been like.

Having listened to colleagues, I think September 2021 to February 2022 was possibly the hardest time of all for schools. We moved into the seven day a week problem-solving of having staff with COVID, isolating for 10 days as a minimum and no ability to send classes home. We had to manage the virtually impossible task of providing home learning matched to current curriculum content, for a minimum of 3-4 hours a day.

The DfE continued to spew out guidance after guidance for schools to follow. We were still the font of all knowledge for diagnosing coughs over the phone, managing isolation periods and registering LFD results for staff.

We are facing a leadership crisis in schools this year. More and more of us are leaving the job within 5 years of taking it on. The casualty rate this year has been high - frankly I can't blame anyone who has had enough. Add to this the number of Heads who are retiring this year after many years of service, we start to see the significant problem in front of us.

On a positive note, EPHA has been here throughout for you all. We continue to sit at the table with the LA and other professional associations fighting for Primary Education. We stand firm on ensuring children get a great education from schools, that Headteachers and school leaders get the support they deserve and that you are kept up to date with the critical information that you need. Going forward, it is the spirit, humour and courage of headteachers that will ensure that our education system copes with whatever is thrown at us – EPHA will continue its mission to support headteachers to survive, and thrive.

Termly meeting with Local Authority officers

The EPHA Executive met with Alison Fiala on 19 May 2022. The agenda included:

- An update on the Essex Year of Reading
- Discussions about the rollout of the SEN Strategy, including the re-banding of EHCPs and changes to the allocation of top-up funding
- Preliminary thoughts on the DfE White Paper and LA direction of travel

At the **EPHA Executive meeting** earlier in the day, headteachers discussed:

- ✓ Feedback from various meetings and committees, including the newly established Small Schools Support Group
- ✓ Discussion of the value of membership of the Chartered College of Teaching
- ✓ The continued development of support for primary headteachers

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

via Pam Langmead, Professional Officer, at

pam@langmead.me.uk

Harriet Phelps-Knights EPHA Chair,

via Janet Duke Primary

EPHA CONFERENCE NEWS

DEPUTY HEADS' CONFERENCE

Friday 7 October 2022 Colchester Football Stadium

Further information and booking forms will be sent to all schools in late June. Our key note speaker will be Helen Youngman, who was extremely well received at the headteacher conference.

SMALL SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

Wednesday 19 October 2022 – The Lion Inn, Boreham

SAVE THE DATE

Next year's EPHA ANNUAL HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE will be held on **Friday 24 March 2023** at Chelmsford City Race Course. More information in January 2023

EPHA funding for 2022/23

A reminder that funding for EPHA will continue to be top-sliced from the Schools Block. Area meetings will continue to be "free" to all primary headteachers, along with the website, termly cluster briefings, training events and advice and support from the Professional Officer and EPHA Executive.

See our paper on "what headteachers get for their contribution to EPHA" to see what great value we offer!