

EPHA Meetings Summer term 2023

WEST	Wednesday 14 June	Manor of Groves,
SOUTH	Thursday 15 June	Greenwoods Hotel, Stock
N-EAST	Wednesday 21 June	Colchester Community Stadium
MID	Thursday 22 June	The Lion Inn, Boreham

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 2023/24 school year.

The **EPHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held on Thursday 5th October 2023 at the Lion Inn, Boreham, starting at 9.00 am. More information in the autumn term.

What East of England school leaders are saying about Ofsted

The Suffolk Primary Heads' Association's recent survey reveals some pretty damning feedback about Ofsted's framework and inspections – thank you to those of you who participated.

Read the full article and report at <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/what-east-of-england-school-leaders-are-saying-about-ofsted/>

Review of the year from the EPHA Chairs

Last year in the Chairs' report, we wrote that we were lost for words to describe the things we had to deal with. This year we do not think we can find the language needed to sum up how hard another year in Education has been. Well maybe we can! The word begins with "s" and has four letters! If we said the word aloud we would have to give ourselves a detention and then who would cover lunchtime duty?!

A highlight of the year must be the return of the 'critical worker list' to remind us that even though a strike is taking place, we must be made to feel guilty about how this impacts the rest of society.

Many of us in the room have had to carry out redundancies or trim budgets to ensure our survival for another year - these are some of the hardest decisions we have to make.

We have all been working longer and harder and trying to do our best for the children and community we serve. We are working with ever tightening budgets, being asked to do more with less and trying to retain or recruit staff into a system that is now very clearly broken.

However, there are many moments when we love our jobs still and we try to hold onto these special times.

Why do we continue in the job?

We must seek out the 'bright spots' of our weeks; the reasons we first came into teaching and being a headteacher. For us these include:

- The child that 'finally gets it'
- The dysregulating child that has learnt to re-regulate by themselves without the support of a member of staff
- The non-attending child who has returned to school
- The staff who have followed an instruction without the need for follow up!
- The sense of making a difference, however small.

These are the reasons that we continue in the job. This is why we chose to do what we do.

Throughout this year, EPHA has been there for colleagues again. We are unlike any other Local Authority in the way we come together as one voice in Essex. Our combined drive to improve outcomes for children and staff, as a group, is unmatched.

Thank you for all your hard work. Let us keep working together and stand united through EPHA ... and see what next year brings!

Termly meeting with Local Authority officers

The EPHA Executive met with Clare Kershaw on 24 May 2023. The agenda included:

- An update on the Essex Education Taskforce activities, including the Year of Number
- Discussions about the rollout of the SEN Strategy, including the moderation of EHCPs and changes to the allocation of top-up funding
- An update on the school improvement traded offer from September 2023.

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

- ✓ Feedback from various meetings and committees, including the Small Schools Support Group
- ✓ A discussion about absence and the use of penalty notices – are they working?
- ✓ 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 13 October 2023 Colchester Football Stadium

Further information and booking forms will be sent to all schools in late June. Our key note speaker will be Andrew Moffat, who was extremely well received at the headteacher conference. The final presenter of the day is Bobby Seagull, maths whiz and podcaster!

SMALL SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

Wednesday 18 October 2023 – The Lion Inn, Boreham

SAVE THE DATE

Next year's EPHA ANNUAL HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE will be held on **Friday 22 March 2024** at Chelmsford City Race Course.

EPHA funding for 2023/24

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!