

**Essex Primary Headteachers' meetings
Spring Term 2026
AGENDA**

**NORTH EAST: Wednesday 11th March 2026
Colchester Football Stadium, Colchester, CO4 5UP**

Welcome from Nick Hutchings (North East Area Chair) and Clare Kershaw (Director of Education)	9.00 – 9.10 am
Local Authority Education Team Director's LA updates – Clare Kershaw, Director for Education	9.10 – 9.40 am
South Y6-7 Transition Project: Key Insights & Strategies Mat Harper, Headteacher Beauchamps High School	9.40 – 10.10 am
Year of Opportunity Robin Harbord, Strategy and Development Lead/ Gareth Honeyford, Strategy and Development Lead	10.10 – 10.25 am
Quadrant update Assistant Director/ Head of Education/ Quadrant Manager SEND	10.25 – 10.40 am
Mid-morning tea/coffee break	10.40 – 11.00 am
Anglia Ruskin University teacher training programme Dr Leanne Grey joins us to share information about the ARU B.Ed teacher training programme, and how schools can get involved by hosting placement trainees.	11.00 – 11.10 am
Essex Road Safety Education Eleni Kyriacou, Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity Lead, will introduce her team, remind us of the importance of road safety in education settings and the free life changing interventions they offer to all schools.	11.10 – 11.20 am
EPHA Area Meeting – Nick Hutchings, NEEPHA Chair EPHA update, including discussion and feedback from any colleagues who have been inspected under the renewed Ofsted framework.	11.20 – 11.45 am
HR update Nicki Harris (Juniper HR) will attend the meeting to give an update on anticipated employment law changes, and advice on managing complaints about staff. In this session the EPHA Professional Officer will also explain changes to the EPHA model Complaints Policy, which schools may choose to adopt.	11.45 – 12.10 pm
Intergenerational projects in schools Mike Wade, headteacher at Quilter's Infants is keen to share a project that has been transformational for his school. <i>"We're fortunate to be situated within a very well-</i>	12.10 – 12.30 pm

<p><i>established network of organisations supporting elderly people and those living with dementia. Because of this, every junior pupil has an elderly pen pal, all children from Year 2 upwards are trained Dementia Friends and our pupils take part in a wide range of intergenerational activities—community cafés, memory cafés, residential homes, the men’s shed, craft sessions, musical performances and more.</i></p> <p><i>The impact on the children has been extraordinary. They’ve become more civic-minded, more confident communicators and far more aware of the role kindness plays in improving their own wellbeing as well as that of others. They understand community in a deeper, more human way.”</i></p> <p>Lisa Masanovic, from Alzheimer’s UK (Alzheimers.org), is keen to help schools across Essex develop or access these networks. Where partnerships don’t currently exist, she can facilitate them, doing much of the legwork to connect schools with local care homes, community groups and dementia-support organisations. She will join us to share a model for schools.</p>	
<p>Close of EPHA meeting Lunch</p>	<p>12.30 pm</p>
<p>Safeguarding forum</p> <p>In the afternoon Jo Barclay will run the termly safeguarding forum meeting – headteachers are very welcome to stay on and attend, and other DSLs from schools across the area will join the meeting.</p> <p>There is an alternative online option, taking place on Tuesday 17th March 2026, from 3.30 – 5.00 pm. Please book a place via Education Essex.</p>	<p>1.30 – 4.00 pm</p>