

**WEST ESSEX PRIMARY HEADS' ASSOCIATION AREA CONFERENCE  
MANOR OF GROVES HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE  
FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**MEETING SUMMARY: ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

p 2 **ATTENDANCE LIST AND APOLOGIES**

p 3 **MORE TALK, MORE ACTION** Jason Buckley and Tom Bigglestone

p 5 **EPHA update** Isobel Barron and Pam Langmead

p 5 **DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2022/23/24**

**WEST meetings with the Local Authority officers 2022/23**  
**Manor Suite, Manor of Groves**  
 Wednesday 9 November 2022  
 Wednesday 1 March 2023  
 Wednesday 14 June 2023

**WEPHA Conferences, Collonade Suite, Manor of Groves**  
 Friday 27 January 2023 (Adrian Bethune)  
 Friday 19 May 2023  
 Friday 29 September 2023  
 Friday 2 February 2024  
 Friday 17 May 2024

**Deputy Headteachers' Annual Conferences**  
 Friday 7 October 2022 Colchester Stadium

**Headteachers' Annual Conference 2023**  
 Friday 24 March 2023 Chelmsford City Race Course

**WEST ESSEX PRIMARY HEADS' ASSOCIATION AREA CONFERENCE**  
**FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Headteachers**

Isobel Barron	Roseacres Primary/Chair	Alison Kerrell	Holy Cross Catholic Primary
Caroline Crompton	Thaxted Primary	Sophia Pardalis	Limes Farm Juniors
Sarah Cowley	The Henry Moore Primary	Teresa Phillips	Thomas Willingale School
Liz Crow	Great Bardfield Primary	Simon Rance	Ashdon Primary
Michael Doughty	Milwards Primary	Colin Raraty	Rodings Primary
Liz Gelston	Hatfield Heath Primary	Linda Todd	Elsenham CE Primary
Lisa Gibbs	Leverton Primary	Kevin Watts	Great Dunmow Primary
Sarah Cowley	The Henry Moore Primary		
Claire Jackman	Great Easton CE Primary		
Chris Jarman	St Mary's CE Primary, SW		

**In Attendance**

Pam Langmead	EPHA Professional Officer
Jason Buckley	The Philosophy Man
Tom Bigglestone	The Philosophy Man

**Apologies**

George Athanasiou	Great Sampford Primary
Gina Bailey	William Martin Schools
Claire Berry	Birchanger CE Primary
Rebecca Pine	Newport Primary

Note: If your attendance or apologies have not been noted please contact the EPHA Professional Officer at [pam@langmead.me.uk](mailto:pam@langmead.me.uk) for amendment.

**NOTES OF THE AUTUMN TERM WEPHA CONFERENCE HELD ON FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER  
2022 COMMENCING AT 9.15 AM**

**Action**

**1. EPHA WELCOME**

Isobel Barron, WEPHA Chair, welcomed the West headteachers at the meeting. She welcomed the new heads at the meeting

- Caroline Crompton                      Thaxted Primary
- Liz Crow                                      Great Bardfield Primary

and noted that Alison Kerrell has moved across to Holy Cross Catholic Primary Academy.

**2. MORE TALK, MORE ACTION!**

For the last fifteen years, Jason Buckley has been developing a unique, lively approach to dialogue and philosophy for children. Over 17,000 teachers in over 100 countries receive his weekly bulletin of stories and other resources (see [www.thephilosophyman.com](http://www.thephilosophyman.com))

There's always been a gap in each class between the confident speakers and the "silent six" who speak up rarely, if at all, and the gap seems to be getting wider. Multiple studies suggest that a key factor is not so much the overall volume of language children experience, but the quantity and quality of conversational turns that children experience.

In this very lively session participants experienced many ways to get a buzz of energized and thoughtful talk in the classroom that makes up for lost ground, draws in those reluctant speakers and is fun for everyone.

- Get Moving - thinking games and activities that compel ENGAGEMENT
- Y-Questions - questions and stimuli that you can discuss and debate until the cows come home to provide CHALLENGE. (Do cows have a home?)
- Take a Back Seat - facilitation and questioning techniques that allow you to step back and develop children's INDEPENDENCE

All delegates received supporting mini-books and access to a download page with all the resources used during the session, as well as a free sample of "Sticky Questions", a school-to-home-to-school resource that helps put these principles into action. They also received a link to a training video to use with staff to share some of the techniques at a staff meeting.

During the session, Jason advised the use of contentless coaching questions, which are great for eliciting deeper thinking without putting your own ideas into the conversations.

These include:

- Can you tell me more?  
Can you say why?
- So... [repeat the main question]
- Can you give me an example?
- How do you mean?
- Why is that important?

- What would change your mind?
- How could you disagree with yourself?

Jason gave some useful guidance about teaching gifting children, including breaking out of reading schemes. He also advised not just adding additional work, but providing the most difficult first; developing “passion projects” that the pupil can keep going back to; teaching the child, not the age. He suggested that there must be an “equality of struggle” for all pupils, otherwise the brightest will get bored and demotivated.

The resources developed for West heads can be accessed at [www.thephilosophyman.com/follow-up-resources/wepha](http://www.thephilosophyman.com/follow-up-resources/wepha)

Jason and Tom were thanked for their engaging and informative presentation.

### 3. EPHA UPDATE

- a) The WEPHA Chair noted that the numbers attending the conference were smaller than usual; it was agreed this probably reflects how busy everyone is in school at the moment. However, she and the Professional Officer wanted to check with the West heads in attendance that they still valued the WEPHA conferences and the unique opportunities for networking and sharing good practice they offer. The heads at the meeting all agreed that they wanted to continue with the termly WEPHA conference, as it offers a very different event from the termly headteacher meeting and the headteachers briefings. As a result, the Professional Officer agreed to contact the venue and organise dates for the remainder of the school year and into 2023/24. West Heads were also asked for their ideas on focus or guest speakers for future conferences. Suggestions can be directed to the Professional Officer.

**Professional  
Officer**

#### b) Dates for the diary

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The meeting ended at 12.15 pm