

### EPHA Meetings Academic Year 2025/2026

Spring term 2026

WEST	Wednesday 4 March	Manor of Groves
SOUTH	Thursday 5 March	The Lion Inn, Boreham
N-EAST	Wednesday 11 March	Colchester Football Stadium
MID	Thursday 12 March	The Lion Inn, Boreham

Summer term 2026

N-EAST	Wednesday 17 June	Colchester Football Stadium
SOUTH	Thursday 18 June	The Lion Inn, Boreham
WEST	Wednesday 24 June	Manor of Groves
MID	Thursday 25 June	The Lion Inn, Boreham

Contact your Area Chair with any concerns, questions or issues you would like to discuss with colleagues.

### The Children's Parliament

The Sir David Amess Children's Parliament is a national initiative designed to place children at the heart of democracy, giving them a meaningful voice in how society works and how decisions are made. Inspired by the lifelong vision of Sir David Amess, the programme enables primary-aged children to learn about Parliament, debate real issues and participate in democratic processes long before they reach voting age.

The Children's Parliament is proposing a 90-minute, child-led takeover of the House of Commons chamber on a non-business day in October 2026. The proposed date will mark five years since the death of Sir David Amess and will stand as a living tribute to the values he championed: participation, debate, respect and democratic education. A summary of the project can be found here [Summary UKCP Project](#).

Please also see the further information on the Children's Parliament <https://childrensparliament.uk/>.

Essex Primary schools are invited to get involved in the project, which will be supported by EPHA and four Headteacher Ambassadors across Essex:

**South** – Harriet Phelps-Knights – Janet Duke Primary

**North East** – Nicky Patrick – Spring Meadow Primary

**West** – Chris Jarmain – St Mary's CE Primary, Saffron Walden

**Mid** – Amanda Buckland-Garnett – Collingwood Primary

### Positive Action Roadshow with Essex Police

This year the Positive Action Roadshow will be a community event supported by Essex Police and the Active Essex Foundation and sponsored by the Children's Parliament. The Virtual event will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of June.

More information to follow, including how your pupils can get involved with both projects.

### EPHA Executive Meetings

The spring term EPHA Executive Meeting took place on 22 January 2026. The Executive received feedback about an experience of Ofsted inspection under the renewed framework, and considered the implications for schools.

The Executive also reviewed the transition template for Year 6 – 7 pupils, and decided that no changes should be made to the form. A reminder that Year 6 visits to secondary schools should take place in the last week in June, this year w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Nicki Harris (Juniper HR) joined the meeting to explain employment law changes and gave advice about managing complaints about staff members.

Finally we had brief input from the DfE School Food Policy Unit about Free School meal expansion. We are awaiting further guidance and plan to organise an online Q&A to help inform schools.

There was no meeting with LA Officers as they were focusing on the local area SEND inspection.

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

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

### CONTACT EPHA

Contact Pam Langmead, Professional Officer, at

[pam@langmead.me.uk](mailto:pam@langmead.me.uk)

Harriet Phelps-Knights EPHA Chair,

via Janet Duke Primary

[www.essexprimaryheads.co.uk](http://www.essexprimaryheads.co.uk)

### EPHA CONFERENCE NEWS

#### HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE

**Friday 20 March 2026** Chelmsford City Race Course

*Keynote speakers and workshop presenters:*

*Mary Myatt, Alex Atherton, Hywel Roberts,*

*Dr Emma Kell and Mireille MacRaidl*

There are still a few places available, and we are really looking forward to holding the annual conference at the race course once again. Please contact Pam if you would like to attend.

Dates for the diary: This year's **Deputy Heads' conference** will be held on **Friday 9 October 2026** at the Colchester Football Stadium.

The **Small School Headteachers' Annual Conference** will be held on **Wednesday 14 October 2025**, at the Lion Inn, Boreham