

EPHA Meetings Summer term 2021

Online this term

N-EAST	Wednesday 16 June
SOUTH	Thursday 17 June
WEST	Wednesday 23 June
MID	Thursday 24 June

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 2021/22 school year.

The **EPHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held on Thursday 30th September 2021 at the Lion Inn, Boreham, starting at 9.00 am. More information in the autumn term.

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.

Last year I spoke to you all about the challenges we had all faced from Lockdown 1.0. How we had all coped and closed schools within 2 days. I hoped that it would never happen again!

Since then the pressure has just continued to rise. We are now all masters of the LFT, we know what a PCR is and now understand which is more important - or not!!! We collate results twice a week in our own time and still aren't allowed time off as we are checking for positive COVID results within our parent community over the weekends via email. We have managed a million updates to our risk assessments, dealt with shielding and then not shielding staff.

Without your leadership and the commitment of your staff, our NHS workers and other Key Workers would not have been able to save lives or keep the country going. We have been the only places in the UK where it has been legally possible to have more than 30 people gathering since the start of COVID. We have been expected to put ourselves at risk and we have done this because of the commitment we have to the children and families we work with. It is appalling that the government has now rewarded school staff with a pay freeze to thank them for their role in ensuring the country continued to function.

The last 18 months have been brutal for Heads. We have used every last ounce of energy to keep every plate spinning and we are all overflowing with stress. The mere mention of Ofsted is making us feel sick. We need time to recover, before someone starts looking at why we haven't had a chance to do a learning walk, a lesson visit, a deep dive. There needs to be recognition by the DfE, Ofsted and the Local Authority that just because the restrictions are being lifted, it doesn't mean that schools and Heads are now ready for business as usual.

We are all the Essex Primary Headteachers' Association. We are all caring, compassionate and brilliant at our jobs. Enjoy the summer when it comes and switch off and rest!

Termly meeting with Local Authority officers

The EPHA Executive met with Clare Kershaw and other LA Officers on 29 April 2021. The agenda included:

- The continuing impact of Covid-19 and operational guidance and restrictions
- An update on the SEND strategy and information about the inclusion conference on 30 June
- Planning SEP support for September

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

- ✓ the current SEND and EP support for schools
- ✓ safeguarding input on the Everyone's Invited movement and the possible introduction of Operation Encompass – domestic abuse notifications to schools
- ✓ the future of meetings and conferences – online and face to face

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 8 October 2021

Colchester Football Stadium

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

SAVE THE DATE

Next year's EPHA ANNUAL HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE will be held on **Friday 18 March**

2022 at Stock Brook Country Club.

More information in January 2022

EPHA funding for 2021/22

A reminder that funding for EPHA will continue to be top-sliced from the Dedicated Schools Grant. 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!