

NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2025

EPHA Meetings Summer term 2025

N-EAST	Wednesday 11 June	Colchester Community Stadium
SOUTH	Thursday 12 June	Greenwoods Hotel, Stock
WEST	Wednesday 18 June	Manor of Groves
MID	Thursday 19 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 2025/26 school year.

The **EPHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held on Thursday 2nd October 2025 at the Lion Inn, Boreham, starting at 9.00 am. More information in the autumn term.

Review of the school year from the EPHA Chairs

Happy summer everyone! What a year we have had. We're all looking forward to the new Ofsted Framework, a further consultation on a changed curriculum, the oodles of cash that the government are going to give us and of course the lowering number of SEND children in mainstream education! (Sarcasm intended!)

EPHA has worked tirelessly again this year to support Headteachers, sit on working parties, provide conferences and run up-to-the-minute training sessions on everything from exclusions to the latest DfE missives. We can't do all of this without the representatives from the local areas, and would like to thank them for their contribution and commitment to the Executive. A special mention goes to Isobel Barron, Chair of WEPHA for over 10 years, who left headship at Easter, and Nicky Stone-Riley, who has been Chair of SEPHA since 2017. We will miss them both, and wish them the very best in their future ventures.

This year Pam Langmead, our Professional Officer, reached 20 years of service for EPHA (despite spreading some fake news a couple of years ago), supporting primary headteachers across the county. At our meeting in January Pam produced a set of minutes from the first meeting that she attended; the subject matter being discussed in 2005 was very similar to today, showing that if you stand still long enough in education, you become an innovator! EPHA would not run without Pam and her tenacity in meetings to challenge the orthodoxy, her brilliance in summing up education changes at the termly briefings, and the joy with which she carries out her job.

Last year EPHA took a lead in challenging the available Level 3 DSL training for schools and as a result of this we now have Dida Burrell running training at White Court and The Education Safeguarding Team on behalf of Essex, significantly improving the offer to DSLs. We have also spent time supporting the Education Taskforce with the Year of Number, and we have worked very closely with Ralph Holloway and his team to try and help make small improvements to the world of SEND and mainstream schools. The ESSET Outreach service is now live, but there is still a great deal of work to do to ensure the best outcomes for children and schools. This year we have again placed SEND at the forefront of our minds and made it the number one EPHA priority. Our second priority has been the curriculum, and we await the outcome of the consultation with interest. Our final priority has been Headteacher well-being: we recently sent out a booklet on coping with the challenges of primary headship, and are planning a conference in October focusing on reducing the risk of burnout.

Headship is a hard job. We all chose to do it, so we can't moan too much! Those moments of brightness in a school play, or when a child or family that we have been working with have a positive outcome, are the things to hold on to. We decided to become teachers because we wanted to make a difference. We must not lose sight of the positive differences we make each day to the children and staff that are part of our community.

We want to thank you for your efforts this year, coping with the challenges, workload and the huge demands that are placed on all headteachers – you are **amazing!** 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 LA Officers on 8th May 2025. The agenda included:

- Input from Ralph Holloway about top-up funding and a proposal to make interim payments to help schools (to be considered by Schools Forum)
- Climate action planning support from ECC
- Discussion of the 10-year plan for school places
- An update on attendance support for schools

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

- ✓ Feedback from various meetings and committees, including the Small Schools' Support Group and the (recently established) National Headteachers' Association Network.
- ✓ Input from the Apprenticeship Levy team at ECC

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 10 October 2025 Colchester Football Stadium

Further information and booking forms will be sent to all schools in late June.

SMALL SCHOOL HEADS' CONFERENCE

Wednesday 15 October 2025 – The Lion Inn, Boreham
WELLBEING CONFERENCE

Dr Emma Kell – reducing the risk of burnout!

Wednesday 22 October 2025 – The Lion Inn, Boreham

SAVE THE DATE

Next year's EPHA ANNUAL HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE will be held on **Friday 20 March 2026** at Chelmsford City Race Course.

EPHA funding for 2025/26

A reminder that the funding contribution for EPHA will continue to be top-sliced from the Schools Block, so no invoices will be sent to schools.

Termly meetings will continue to be "free" to all primary headteachers, along with the website, 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! Thank you for enabling EPHA to continue to offer this support to primary headteachers.