

Message to LPH members from the Chair September 2020

Dear Members,

I am writing to you in my role as LPH Chair.

Well, what a year! In my 17 years of Headship, if anyone had ever told me about the challenges that we as a profession have overcome in the last six months, and continue to face, I would have never believed them. I think I have realised just how much of my pre-Covid job I did on autopilot because it was familiar and predictable, and just how exhausting the unfamiliar and unpredictable is. But I am extremely proud of what we as a profession have achieved this year, and we should find a moment in our ever more hectic lives to congratulate ourselves for this.

Like everything else we are doing at the moment, we had to think carefully about how to do our usual LPH activities, at a time when support and networking is probably more important than ever. We have continued to meet remotely as an executive throughout the Covid crisis, and have represented Headteachers on a number of LA forums. We have also run our New Heads programme, and collaborated with LEEP to run an extremely well attended webinar about the Recovery Curriculum at the end of last term. We will be returning to our normal programme of activities this term, remotely if necessary. This includes some old favourites such as DRB Ignite briefings and joint LA updates, as well support for new Heads. We have a great new website which is expanding daily to hold a wealth of information which we hope will be of use. In particular, we are aiming to provide the balance of information sharing, quality CPD, and especially the absolutely vital informal networking opportunities that are so hard to replicate under these new Covid-safe arrangements.

I would also like to introduce to you our new facilitator, Mike Stevens. Mike was headteacher at Cobden Primary School in Loughborough until the summer. I know he has already contacted members to update you on up-and-coming events. Welcome, Mike.. I know most of you will know Livvy Wood, who had been our LPH facilitator for 8 years since she retired from headship. After many years of hard work for us, she has decided to finish. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her a great retirement. We also have a new website at www.primaryheads.com - please see this for all our events. On the top right hand corner of the website, contact details for our executive committee can be found. If any of our members need to reach out for any reason, particularly at the moment, please don't hesitate to contact any of us. If we can't help, we can usually suggest someone who can.

I really look forward to seeing you all soon, either online, or in person.

Karen Allen

Chair