



Dyslexia Association

of Bexley Bromley Greenwich & Lewisham
(FOUNDED IN 1974 AS THE NORTH KENT DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION)
NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2015

FUTURE MEETINGS

HELD AT St Nicholas Church Hall (Village Hall), Church Lane, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5PE at 7.45pm

Thursday 22nd January

Strategies to Overcome the Difficulties of Dyslexia

Come along and put your questions to our expert panel and listen to their tips. They all have great experience of strategies to bring out the talents of dyslexic people by overcoming the difficulties. Older children very welcome.



Free entry to open meetings for everyone, including non members, but donations are welcomed

Thursday 25th June

Tips and Strategies for coping with Transition

by Catrin Cox

Catrin will be giving invaluable advice on how to help children cope with the difficult transition between school stages.



Thursday 23rd April

The Curious Case of ADHD and Dyslexia

We are absolutely delighted to have the internationally renowned speaker, Finton O'Regan coming to speak to us. Don't miss it, whatever you do! Finton has been one of the leading experts for many years on both dyslexia and ADHD. The overlap between the two conditions is fascinating.



Thursday 22nd Oct

Handwriting Difficulties! It is not all about pencil grips!

By Helene Agnew

If you attended Helene Agnew's last talk about how to teach handwriting, you definitely need to come to this second part to learn about possible reasons for handwriting difficulties and the strategies that could help. If you missed her first talk, then be sure not to miss this one too!



Coffee Mornings



There are now just three sessions of our very successful coffee mornings left, so don't miss them! There is a highly-informative talk at each session on different dyslexia-related topics, followed by the chance to share ideas and concerns with others, whilst relaxing with a cup of coffee and delicious home-made cake. There is also a craft table for pre-school children, but no crèche. Entry is free, and all are welcome from any borough. No need to book, just turn up. We are very grateful to **Greggs Foundation (Greggs the Bakers)** for the funding for these.

Address: Greenwich Toy Library, Newhaven Annexe, Newhaven Gardens, Eltham SE9 6HQ.

Dates: Friday 6th February, Friday 6th March.
Time: 10am-12 noon

The following buses go to **Chislehurst War Memorial**, which is a few minutes walk from the Hall:

- 61 Bromley North to Farnborough & Orpington
- 102 Eltham to Bromley
- 160 Catford to Sidcup
- 161 from Woolwich
- 162 Beckenham Junction to Eltham
- 269 Bexleyheath to Bromley North



Older children are welcome at our meetings, if their parents feel they would be interested in the talk

HELP LINE: 07000 50 50 55 email: info@dyslexiawise.co.uk

Maths Workshops and Secondary School Workshops

We have now run our Big Lottery Funded workshops in Lewisham and Bexley. Not to worry if you missed them – we are repeating them in Bromley and Greenwich in the New Year, details as follows:

Saturday 17th January 2015.

‘Does it Add Up?’ - Maths and Dyslexia at Primary school.

A workshop for families, teachers and teaching assistants to learn fun ways of helping children with numeracy. There will be separate activity sessions and craft tables for children, refreshments, books for sale, plus information and support for adults with dyslexia.

Saturday 24th January – ‘Dealing with Dyslexia at Secondary School’.

A NEW workshop for parents, young people, teachers and teaching assistants, looking at ways to help dyslexic secondary age students at home and in the classroom. Refreshments, books for sale, plus information and support for adults with dyslexia.

Both these workshops will be held at: St George’s Bickley CE Primary School, Tylny Road, Bromley BR1 2RL. Limited parking on site, some bays on surrounding roads only available up to 12 noon. Ample parking at The Widmore Centre (entry via Liddon Road) and Bickley Primary School (Nightingale Lane).

Doors open at 9.45am
Presentation starts at 10am
Event ends 12.30pm. FREE entry.

Saturday 14th March 2015 - ‘Does it Add Up?’ - Maths and Dyslexia at Primary School. Details as 17th January workshop above.

Saturday 21st March - ‘Dealing with Dyslexia at Secondary School’. – Details as 24th January Workshop as above.

Both these workshops will be held at: Cherry Orchard Primary School, Rectory Field Crescent, Marlborough Lane, SE7 7DG.

Adult Dyslexia Group

Our very active Adult Group meets on the **first Wednesday of every month, excepting January and August**. Each meeting has a speaker and/or an open forum. Do come along and discuss your experiences and concerns with other dyslexic adults of all ages and from all walks of life. First Wednesday of the month at Community House, South Street, Bromley BR1 1RH at 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

For further information:

✉ info@dyslexiawise.co.uk (att Michael E. Corrigan)
☎ 07000 50 50 55 📧 Michael E. Corrigan, Dyslexia Association,
Community House, South Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1RH

Dyslexic Spies

The recent film, *The Imitation Game*, has been a great success. Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Alan Turing, who helped to crack the Enigma code during the war. This has led to the revelation that GCHQ is still immensely keen on using the gifts of those with dyslexia and dyspraxia to combat terrorists, cybercriminals and foreign spies. They appreciate that perfect spelling pales into absolute insignificance besides the brainpower required to do such tasks. Quite!

Matthew Martino Benevolent Fund

The MMBF (Matthew Martino Benevolent Fund) is a new UK based charity supporting people in two different fields. Firstly, aspiring pilots worldwide through grants towards PPL, CPL and other pilot training courses. Secondly, filmmakers worldwide through training grants and bursaries, funding for-first time film makers under 21 and sponsorship for film-related events such as film festivals and film award ceremonies. In particular the Fund aims to support individuals whose careers are at a standstill and who need a helping hand.

🌐 www.mmbf.co.uk



Sky News is doing something different, to create a change. They have launched Stand Up Be Counted - to help give young people a voice, ahead of the General Election on 7th May 2015.

Young people are invited to upload a short clip, talking on camera about a subject for which they have a great passion. The Stand Up site is already a showcase for creative, absorbing and sometimes entertaining debate from 16 to 25-year-olds in their bedrooms, back gardens or high street, talking about the things that matter to them. Short videos - ideally around 60 seconds - blogs and photos are all welcome on one condition - they have to come from the heart.

And it's safe to speak openly, and powerfully. This is a place for robust debate, with zero tolerance for abuse, so points can be made freely knowing that, as well as starting conversations with peers, there is also access to Sky News' audience and, crucially, those in power who have found it all too easy to ignore the views of young people.

🌐 www.standup.news.sky.com

Three cheers for the British Dyslexia Association (BDA), the SpLD Trust and Lord Addington

Lord Addington persistently fought for the government to make clear what support could be provided for dyslexic students studying functional skills on apprenticeship courses. Often these students fall through cracks between Government departments and between employers and training providers. Now a fact sheet has been produced, with input from staff at the British Dyslexia Association and the SpLD Trust. The factsheet outlines the support available for functional skills and key skills qualifications that have to be taken as part of an apprenticeship. This includes the access arrangements and assistive technologies available for courses and exams, and how they can be requested. It also explains how to retake qualifications that may have been failed in the past, to be able to complete an apprenticeship.

It's great to see that by presenting a convincing case the

Accessible Formats for School Textbooks

Load2Learn now have over 40 publishers supplying electronic files for their educational textbooks. They convert the books to accessible formats in Word for easy use of user display preferences and for Text to Speech software.

Load2Learn membership now includes Further and Higher Education establishments, as well as schools. The service is Government funded, free in UK and available to overseas schools for £150 ex VAT. Members can download any files of books for which they have print copies.

Their web has some case studies of the benefits for dyslexic students.

www.load2learn.org.uk

BDA managed to get guidance on the support and expectations for these students. It is now being considered as a possible model for guidance for other groups of disabled students, too.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeships-for-young-people-with-dyslexia

Apprenticeships for Instructors

Woodrow High House delivers programmes for young people, covering outdoor education, sports and personal and social development to over 7,500 people every year. They are now looking for a new team of apprentices to join the existing staff. The Apprenticeship is open to any young people aged 18 or over, who have been resident in the UK for 3 years or more. No formal qualifications are required. They are looking for people who are passionate about the outdoors and want to help young people learn, develop and become the best they can. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to develop a broad range of skills and gain new qualifications, which could lead to a career in Education, Youth work or Outdoor Pursuits.

www.londonyouth.org.uk/apprentice-instructors

Digital Degree Apprenticeships

New government and industry-backed digital qualifications will provide the skills for a wide range of digital jobs, helping to fill the one million vacancies expected in the digital sector in the next decade. Degree Apprenticeships will allow young people to complete a full honours degree alongside their employment while paying no student fees and earning a wage throughout. The government will pay two-thirds of the costs and fees while employers pay trainees' wages and other costs. Employers of any size can take part in the scheme

The first Degree Apprenticeships are to be launched in the digital sector, and are expected to suit people embarking on careers ranging from business analysis to software development and technology consultancy. The new programme includes a fully-integrated degree testing both academic learning and on-the-job practical training, and has been co-created by leading tech employers and top universities.

There will also be new industry-designed short courses to enhance digital skills across the workforce. The short courses will provide intensive training, with content that keeps pace with employers' immediate needs and changing technologies, and will be delivered flexibly to suit learners' needs. The new industry-accredited standard will give small businesses up and down the country the confidence to know that they can hire digital professionals with the skills they need.

www.gov.uk then type into search box 'qualifications for digital skills'

Changes to Secondary School Subjects and Exams

Much has been changing in the Secondary School world. You can now get precise information about these changes from the Government website. If you want an overview of the changes that will happen to GCSEs, AS levels and A levels, covering Years 7 to 12, go to: www.gov.uk/government/publications. Then put: 'timeline of changes' into the search box.

You can also see just what subject changes have been made for Years 7 to 12; a small number of qualifications will be withdrawn and some will be replaced by reformed qualifications. For this information, go to: www.gov.uk and put in the search box: 'a list of subjects to be taught'. This will bring up: 'GCSEs, AS and A levels: new subjects to be taught in 2015'

