

Welcome

August for some, marks the countdown for returning to school and despite the **SEND Reforms** coming into effect from September 1, many still find themselves unsure how the changes will actually affect them. Don't forget that if you need advice, our helpline is always there to help and can be reached on 0333 405 4567.

Dyslexia Awareness Week returns from November 3-9 and this year's theme 'Dyslexia Matters...' sees the B.D.A. asking people with dyslexia, their employers and those working with them – whether it be in school, the office or at home – why dyslexia matters to them. We have plenty planned for the week including downloadable information packs (available from September). Last year's Dyslexia Awareness Week received a great response with over 2000 packs being downloaded from our website. We hope that you will help us in making this year's awareness week one to remember whether that be holding a fundraising event for us, speaking at a community event or simply sharing our tweets and messages across social media.

The **B.D.A. Awards and Competition**, which run as part of Dyslexia Awareness Week have also been launched and more information on these can be found within this newsletter and on our website. This year our **Gala Dinner Evening** will be held at the Royal Air Force Club, London, on November 25, and we hope that you will be able to help us in making the fundraiser a success whether it be attending the evening or providing prizes for our auction and raffle.

As always, we love hearing from you and now with our improved social media platforms, it is even easier to get in touch with the B.D.A. This newsletter is about keeping you informed so let us know what you would like to see included within it.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

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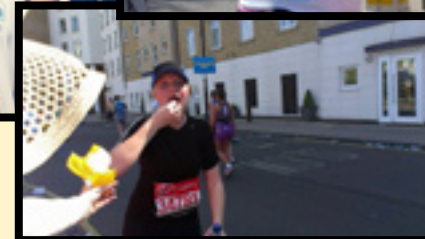
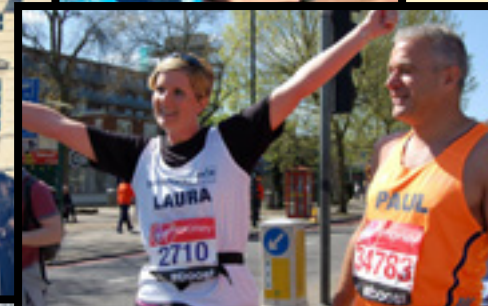
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B.D.A. News

Congratulations London Marathon Runners

This year the B.D.A. had ten fantastic individuals running on behalf of us in the 2014 Virgin London Marathon and together they raised over £8,500. A huge thank you to Martyn Bradshaw, Mike Littler, Anthony Corcoran, Laura Osborne, Paul Osborne, Marije Field, Rose Kavanagh, Chloe Bevan, Sherrie Hardy and Mandy Wraige.

If you are interested in running for us in the **2015 Virgin London Marathon**, contact fundraising@bdadyslexia.org.uk



Dyslexia Journal

If you are an individual, professional, student or organisational member, you are entitled to receive B.D.A. discount on the Dyslexia Journal. For £55 a year, you get four editions of the journal edited by Professor Joel Talcott. The journal provides reviews and reports of research, assessment and intervention practice. In many fields of enquiry theoretical advances often occur in response to practical needs; and a central aim of the journal is to bring together researchers and practitioners in the field of dyslexia, so that each can learn from the other.

If you would like to order your copy, please contact the membership department on 0333 405 4555.



Change of phone numbers

The B.D.A. changed its phone numbers earlier this year. The new numbers are as follows:

Main: 0333 405 4555
Helpline: 0333 405 4567
Training: 0333 405 4565
Fax: 0333 405 4570

All lines beginning with 01344 remain the same.

Keep in touch

Would you like to keep further up to date with what the B.D.A. is up to, share your events with us and speak with others interested in dyslexia? Well the B.D.A. has a great social media presence and we would love you to start following us online.

Currently we have profiles on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+ and YouTube with more to follow in the coming months especially with Dyslexia Awareness Week around the corner.

[Facebook.com/bdadyslexia](https://www.facebook.com/bdadyslexia)

[Twitter.com/bdadyslexia](https://twitter.com/bdadyslexia)

[Plus.google.com/+BdadyslexiaOrgUk](https://plus.google.com/+BdadyslexiaOrgUk)

[Linkedin.com/company/british-dyslexia-association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/british-dyslexia-association)

[Youtube.com/bdadyslexia](https://www.youtube.com/bdadyslexia)



Recruitment and Volunteering

The B.D.A. has an exciting opportunity for an administrator to support the work of the Head of Education and Policy. The role pays £11 per hour and is for 14 hours a week. The deadline for applications is August 21, 2014. For more information, please contact admin@bdadyslexia.org.uk. There are also vacancies for part-time Specialist Teachers in Swindon, Greater Manchester and Leeds; as well as Teaching Assistants for the Children will Shine project.

We have a number of volunteer and intern opportunities available at the moment at our head office in Bracknell including positions in fundraising and IT Development. There are also ongoing vacancies for film, graphic design and illustrator volunteers, as well as the potential to volunteer remotely for certain roles.

Aside from internal vacancies and positions, the B.D.A. are now allowing external companies and groups to advertise relevant vacancies on our website for a small fee. A discount is available for Organisational Members.

To find out more information on any of these vacancies or on how to advertise with us, please visit www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/about-us/recruitment





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tes special educational needs show

10-11 October 2014

Business Design Centre, London

The UK's largest special educational needs show is back this autumn with more advice, inspiration and information for school leaders, teachers, support staff, parents and carers

-  Your professional development is at the heart of the show and this year's inspirational CPD seminar programme is brimming with the latest advice from top SEN professionals.
-  Discover new strategies and approaches for teaching children with Asperger's, ADHD, autism, specific language impairment (SLI) and the specific learning difficulties (SpLD) of dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia and dysgraphia.
-  Access the fantastic free workshops provided by our exhibitors.
-  Find thousands of resources, products and services for every kind of special and additional educational need.

Register for your **FREE** fast-track entry pass and get your early bird CPD seminar tickets before 31 July

www.tessenshow.co.uk

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Policy Update

Over the past few months Helpline have been involved in raising concerns to the Government on several dyslexia related issues.

A query from a qualified specialist teacher regarding the use of **assistive software in SATs** was taken to Ofqual and the Department for Education (DfE). However, the DfE advised that as reading was being tested they felt that prohibiting the use of assistive software was appropriate. We shall continue to lobby on changing this decision. We continue to be concerned about the compatibility of assistive software (e.g. text readers) with GCSE, A Level and Functional Skills papers. The BDATECH committee conducted a pilot study, as mentioned in Contact (September 2013) to enable us to highlight the issues to Ofqual, DfE and The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS). After a year, these are still being considered.

New regulations for **extra time in SATs** are based on a DfE questionnaire which appears not to take into account a formal diagnostic assessment. It has also been brought to our attention that under the rules for SATs many dyslexic pupils may not be reaching the required level to be entered for the tests in the first instance. Therefore an unrealistic picture of the results is being painted and these children could be unaccounted for.

We have contributed to DfE and Ofqual consultations regarding our concern about the **introduction of deducting marks** for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG), GCSE and A Level reform. Although we strongly voiced our opinions, we were advised that we were outnumbered by those completing the consultations in favour of the reforms, i.e. deducting marks for SPAG. We were also outnumbered in our opinion to have end of year exams rather than coursework for the majority of subjects because we feel the current system can discriminate against dyslexic students.

The withdrawal of the **Additional Learning Fund (ALF)** to universities, which traditionally funded diagnostic assessments in higher education, has brought an influx of concerned callers to the Helpline. Without a post-16 diagnostic assessment, students are not able to apply for the Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA) to secure support.



One area that we did see improvement on after lobbying was that of **Apprentices**. Lord Nash decreed that those apprentices, who failed to achieve their Apprenticeship Award after failing Key Skills tests, could have the opportunity to re-sit the academic component and complete the newly introduced Functional Skill Tests.

The announcement on April 7, 2014, from the Higher Education Minister about the **DSA reforms** brought a flurry of meetings between BIS and Stakeholders, the BDA being one of them. BIS said that students should, "Expect to receive a greater degree of support from their HE institution than previously experienced as part of the rebalancing of responsibilities between government funding and HEIs." It is expected that as far as SpLD students are concerned, despite our protestations, a large proportion may find that there is no justification for them to be funded with equipment, as they were in the past. However, there is an expectation that funding for study skills support will continue.

To keep up to date with our involvement in policy and other campaigns, please visit www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/news

SEND Reforms: An Update

The SEND Reforms, which come into effect in September, have received much coverage in the past couple of months and on July 30 the statutory guidance was approved by Parliament. The 0-25 Code of Practice, for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SENDs), applies to early education providers, school staff, headteachers, Youth Offending Teams, SENCos and local authorities among others. It relates to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and replaces the 2001 document.

Key changes include Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans replacing Statement of Special Educational Needs and Learning Difficulty Assessments; Local authorities and schools/colleges publishing a Local Offer and School Offer respectively; and mediation which gives 0-25 year olds the right to appeal if they are unhappy with the support they are receiving.



Dyslexia Awareness Week 2014

Dyslexia Awareness Week 2014 takes place from November 3–9 and this year's theme is '**Dyslexia Matters...**'. The aim is to not only raise awareness for the week, but to do so in a way that encourages people to continue thinking about dyslexia all year round whether it be in their place of work, at home or at school.

Utilising the theme '**Dyslexia Matters...**', the B.D.A. will cover everything from creating a dyslexia friendly environment, supporting and encouraging those with dyslexia, and the B.D.A.'s ongoing campaign to make dyslexia awareness in initial teacher training compulsory.



The annual **BDA Awards** and **Competition** are already open for entries. The awards recognise the outstanding contributions children and adults with dyslexia and those working with them have made towards improving inclusion and awareness. While the competition celebrates creativity amongst people with dyslexia with categories in art, inventions and writing.

A series of events are being planned for the week and more details about these will be released closer to the date through our social media platforms and website.

Last year's Dyslexia Awareness Week saw thousands of people downloading our resources and this year resources fitting the theme of 'Dyslexia Matters...' will also be available for download in September.

For more information about the awards and competition, you can visit www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/get-involved-and-fundraising/dyslexia-awareness-week

Gala Awards Evening

The B.D.A. Awards Dinner is our annual fundraising event and takes place on November 25, 2014, at The Royal Air Force Club, Mayfair, London. Following the success of her appearance at the B.D.A. 9th International Conference, the black tie evening will be hosted by Anthea Turner and include a three-course dinner, awards ceremony and auction. Individual tickets are priced from £85 and tables starting from £800. To purchase tickets, please contact fundraising@bdadyslexia.org.uk



Sponsorship Packages

Platinum Package for £2,500 + VAT

- Table of ten in prime location in the ball room
- Drinks reception for you and your guests
- Acknowledgement for you/your brand, on event communications
- Included in official event photography
- Presentation of an Award
- Acknowledgement, for you or your brand, during the Ceremony
- One advertisement in the programme
- One 200 x 200 web advert in the Events section of B.D.A. website for six months
- One half page advert in Contact magazine after event

Silver Package £1,000 + VAT

- Two tickets instead of a table
- Benefits the same as gold package

Gold Package for £1,500 + VAT

- Table of ten in prime location in the ball room
- Drinks reception for you and your guests
- Acknowledgement for you/your brand, on event communications
- Being included in the official event photography
- Presentation of an Award
- Acknowledgement, for you or your brand, during the Ceremony
- One advertisement in the programme

Supporters package £250 + VAT

- Two tickets
- Logo on supporters page of the programme
- Logo in Contact magazine after the event

If you are interested in advertising, sponsoring or donating towards this event, please contact fundraising@bdadyslexia.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Dyslexia and Speech, Language and Communication Conference

October 24, 2014

This conference brings together leading speakers from the field of speech and language to discuss the latest developments in the field. With presentations and a question and answer panel, this conference promises to be a great way of discussing practical issues with colleagues and practitioners from all around the country. Confirmed speakers include Professor Maggie Snowling, President – St John's College, Oxford; Anne Fox, Communications Trust; Dr Courtney Norbury, Royal Holloway University of London; and Rita Fogarty, formerly of The Moat School.

Dyslexia Friendly Good Practice Conference - February 5, 2015

This conference is aimed at those who wish to improve their work/school environment in order to make it more dyslexia friendly. A range of speakers will explore the benefits of being dyslexia friendly in schools, youth offending teams, universities and organisations. Confirmed speakers so far include Neil MacKay, an experienced teacher of over 26 years and author of the "Removing Dyslexia as a Barrier to Achievement: The Dyslexia Friendly Schools Toolkit"; and Professor Angela Fawcett, co-author of the Dyslexia Screening tests and vice president of the B.D.A.

Professional Accreditation Deadline

If you have finished an ATS or AMBDA level course and want to apply for accreditation, the closing date for submissions to the September board is August 15, 2014. For more information, call 0333 405 4555 or email accreditation@bdadyslexia.org.uk.

To book on any of these conferences or webinars, please visit the British Dyslexia Association website and select "Training and Events".

Dyslexia: Improving Outcomes Conference - May 1, 2015

This conference is aimed at professionals, teachers and those interested in improving the outcome for people with dyslexia. Confirmed speakers so far include Professor John Stein, Chairman and Co-founder of the Dyslexia Research Trust.

Organisational Members' Day

The B.D.A. Organisational Members' Day will take place on September 26 in London. The day offers guests the chance to network with other members and hear presentations by experts. The Keynote speech will be from Dr Steve Chinn on mathematics, dyslexia and dyscalculia. The day is priced at £20 for Organisational Members or £45 for non-members and includes a buffet lunch. For more information, please contact 0333 405 4555 for a booking form.

BDA Members' Day and AGM

The B.D.A. Members' Day and AGM will take place in Swindon on November 15. Katrina Cochrane, Head of Education and Policy; as well as Dr Kate Saunders, B.D.A. C.E.O. will be speaking at the event. For more information, contact 0333 405 4555 or check our website.