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1. Director's message

Now that we have eaten too much chocolate and enjoyed the celebrations at the end of April, we at the Trust are ready and prepared for a good year ahead of us.

Since I wrote to you in March, we have shaped up our work plans for the next two years. We will be engaging with parents and schools more and working in local communities to deliver surgeries to parents. We are also shaping up our literature so that it is user friendly and available in a variety of languages and formats.

The Professional Development Framework is at the stage of implementation and valuable links with schools and local authorities will be made.

We will be working collaboratively with other organisations in the sector; big and small, who share our key objectives. Work is already underway with colleagues such as NASEN/ SSAT's national project 'Removing barriers to Learning: Understanding SEND - A Whole School Approach'.

2. Focus on ... The BDA Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark Award



The philosophy underpinning the Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark is that changing practice to accommodate dyslexic individuals often results in good practice for everyone. The BDA Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark focuses on supporting individuals within the main stream setting, as well as realising that there are also individuals whose needs are more profound and complex and will therefore require specialist support.

Dyslexia is a learning difference that affects 10% of the population, a combination of strengths and weaknesses which affects the learning process in reading, spelling, writing and sometimes numeracy.



Individuals may also have accompanying weaknesses in short term memory, sequencing and the speed at which they process information.

The BDA recognises that the majority of moderately dyslexic students will be taught in mainstream classrooms by non specialist tutors. Therefore it is important that, as well as employing appropriate teaching methods, all environments are dyslexia friendly.

This is what the Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark strives to ensure, by setting out clear criteria relating to all aspects of the organisation. For example, for schools there are criteria relating to policies and management, teaching and learning, classroom environment and partnerships with parents and pupils.

The Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark can be awarded to:

- Individual Schools
- Children and Young People's Services
- Post 16 Education & Training Providers (Including Colleges of Further Education)
- Organisations / Companies
- Universities

To receive further information or to receive your set of standards then please contact;

The British Dyslexia Association
Unit 8, Bracknell Beeches
Old Bracknell Lane
Bracknell
RG12 7BW
Tel: 01656 724 585

Or see: www.bdadyslexia.org.uk , or enquiries to:
admin@bdadyslexia.org.uk

With thanks to Laura Merceron, QM Administrator, BDA and Dr. Kate Saunders, Chief Executive, BDA.

3. Inter Trust Work

The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust works closely with our two sister trusts, The Autism Education Trust and The Communications Trust. We meet monthly to plan joint work and to agree key messages. An example of this is our Professional Development Framework, work with parents and engagement with government.

We will also be engaging with a new strategic partner, The Council for Disabled Children (CDC). Their role is to support all those organisations commissioned to deliver SEN services, such as the Trusts. A list of those organisations can be found on our website at <http://www.interventionsforliteracy.org.uk/organisations/>

4. Project Highlights

Work continues engaging with and reporting to government. The Trust and colleagues attended a Round Table Green Paper briefing chaired by Sharon Hodgson MP, Shadow Minister for Schools in April this year.

We have also submitted a response to the recent call for views on the National Curriculum Review. Our response can be read on our website at <http://www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk/10/stakeholders/18/stakeholders/>

Please note also that a review into Teaching Standards can be accessed at <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/reviewofstandards> We will be responding jointly with our sister Trusts, but would welcome your input.

We will also be responding to the Schools Funding review, deadline 25th May 2011, the consultation can be accessed at <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/strategy/laupdates/a0076777/consultation-on-school-funding-reform-rationale-and-principles>

Please send your comments to any of these consultations to us on our 'contact us' page.

5. Latest News



Competition Winner

In our last newsletter we invited you to complete our survey for The Professional Development Framework to be entered into a draw for an Ipad – thank you to everyone who participated. The winner was drawn at random. Congratulations to our winner, Nicola Margand.

Shirley Cramer
Chief Executive Officer
Dyslexia Action, 2000 – 2011



After a decade at the helm of Dyslexia Action, Shirley Cramer, CBE, has stepped down as Chief Executive Officer.

Shirley has led the educational charity through a period of growth and development, which has included; Head Office relocation, a merger and a rebrand. Her achievements during her time as CEO are numerous but her strengths have been central to increasing revenue for the charity through fundraising and the organisation's respect amongst senior education decision and policy makers. Shirley's contributions to education were

recognised in the 2009 Honours' when she was awarded a CBE.

Shirley Cramer comments: "It has been an extraordinary privilege to hold this leadership position and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with such a wonderful group of staff and volunteers for a cause that I truly believe in."

Dyslexia Action welcomes Kevin Geeson as Shirley's successor, who joins the charity from the NHS Confederation where he was Chief Operating Officer.

Kevin Geeson, Chief Executive Officer of Dyslexia Action, comments: "Shirley leaves a huge legacy. Her drive, commitment and passion to deliver Dyslexia Action's mission has been exemplary and has made a difference to the lives of thousands of individuals affected by dyslexia, which I plan to continue."

As the new Chief Executive Officer at Dyslexia Action, Kevin Geeson will also be the representative on the Dyslexia-SpLD Trust Steering Group. We would like to thank Shirley for her support of The Trust and welcome Kevin on board.

6. Events

Nasen Live 2011

25th – 26th May

Reebok Stadium, Bolton

Visitors to this exciting two-day event can access products, resources and a comprehensive programme of CPD. A dedicated SEN seminar and workshop programme. Details available at www.nasenlive.org.uk

The BDA 8th International Conference – Beyond Boundaries

2nd - 4th June 2011

Harrogate International Conference Centre

To attend please contact:

conference@bdadyslexia.org.uk

Lost for words: Lost for Life?

15th – 17th June 2011

City University, London

A conference on Speech, Language and Communication Needs in older children and young people. For any queries on the conference content, keynotes or sessions, please email SLCNconf@city.ac.uk

Dyslexia Guild Conference 2011

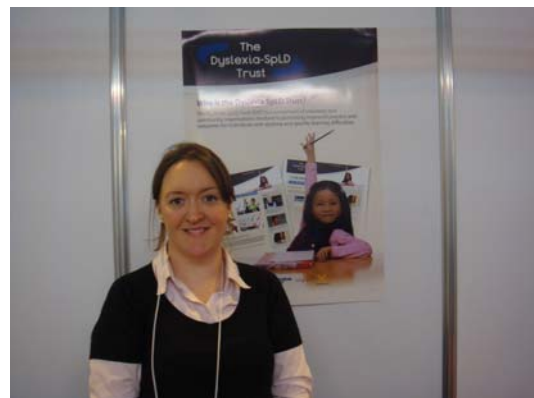
30th June 2011

St Catherine's College, Oxford University.

CPD: Focus on the Practitioner. For further details, please contact

<http://training.dyslexiaaction.org.uk/conference2011>

The DST recently hosted a stand at the National Education Show. This proved a great opportunity to meet our stakeholders and share information on supporting teachers and individuals with SpLD. We would like to thank those from our partner organisations who helped out on the day.



7. Your say

If you have an item you would like included in the newsletter, please email us at

info@thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk