



E-Newsletter October 2009

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the British Dyslexia Association's (BDA) E-Newsletter, we hope that you will enjoy the news, updates and stories that we have within the newsletter.

BDA supports Rose Review findings

This June, Sir Jim Rose published a report entitled 'Identifying and Teaching Children and Young People with Dyslexia and Literacy Difficulties'. The BDA welcomed the final report, known as the Rose Review, and feel it is a clear endorsement that dyslexia exists and it maps a positive way forward.

The Rose Review has made the following conclusions and recommendations:

- Training 4000 dyslexia specialist teachers in dyslexia over the next two years (see below for further information);
- Boosting early identification (eg. from Year 1) and effective intervention for pupils with dyslexic difficulties;
- Making provisions for dyslexia awareness training for existing teachers;
- Putting more special educational needs training into initial teacher training courses;
- Acknowledging the need for specialist teachers and 1:1 interventions for severely dyslexic pupils;
- Encouraging local authorities/children's services to organise 'clusters' of schools, with an AMBDA level dyslexia specialist teacher available to the cluster schools (helping with identification, planning programmes, monitoring progress, reviewing programmes and staff training).
- School should build a positive dialogue with parents and provide relevant information for them;
- Schools should provide support for children with dyslexia at transfer to secondary school;
- Continuing Helpline advice for parents and teachers.

Judi Stewart, BDA Chief Executive, said: "We are absolutely delighted that Sir Jim Rose has listened to and acted upon the views of the British Dyslexia Association and other key dyslexia organisations and that the Department for

Children, School and Families have accepted these recommendations. His suggestions are a real foundation for change and progress; and will improve the education of many children with dyslexia throughout the country.”

The Rose Review has also encouraged all providers of training for specialist dyslexia teachers to apply for BDA accreditation. BDA Chair Margaret Malpas said: “This is a very significant step forward as it means that we will have 4,000 more dyslexia specialist trained teachers over the next two years. We really need to use staff with specialist expertise to inform intervention work for children and young people with dyslexia.”

Judi Stewart continues: “We would like to say a huge thank you to Sir Jim Rose for such a thorough and detailed review. The review team took time consulting with all stakeholders and has made recommendations that will make a substantial difference to the lives of many children.

“Dyslexia is a permanent difficulty, and the BDA will continue our work to ensure that appropriate support continues from school age to adult years in the future.”

You can download the full Rose Review report from [here](#).

Government Funded Training

One of the key recommendations to come out of the Rose Review is the suggestion that the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DSCF) should fund 4000 teachers to undertake appropriately, accredited specialist training in teaching children with dyslexia. The DCSF has consequently made £10m available over this financial year and next to support this implementation. The majority of this money is committed to funding the course-fees of 4,000 teachers, in England, wishing to study towards an ATS (Approved Teacher Status) or AMBDA (Associate Member of the British Dyslexia Association) level qualification. Funding will also be considered for those already in possession of an ATS qualification who wish to enhance this to AMBDA level.

The aim of funding these additional training places is to build capacity within the school system to improve access to specialist and high quality support for children and young people with dyslexia. Access to this type of specialist support can be significantly improved by encouraging schools and Local Authorities to work in partnership and to pool their resources.

Head Teachers are being encouraged to look at existing cluster arrangements and to be proactive in thinking about how they might deploy the expertise of a specialist teacher across a number of schools in their area.

What is the criteria for funding?

The eligibility criteria for funded places is set out below. All applicants must hold Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and have completed their induction year;

AND

be working in schools in England and have the full endorsement of the Head Teacher of their school, confirming their professional and personal suitability, their commitment to successfully complete the training and their ability to deploy their skills/knowledge post-training;

OR

be working in England for a Local Authority Support Service, the Voluntary sector or living in England if between posts and have the full endorsement of their Line Manager/Senior LA Officer OR a suitably qualified Head Teacher confirming their suitability as set out above.

How do you apply?

If you meet these criteria, please register your interest using the form on the Dyslexia- SpLD Trust [website](#).

A set of frequently asked questions are published on this website but if you still have a query you would like to raise with the Dyslexia-SpLD Trust, please e-mail the Trust: training@thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk.

ATS and AMBDA Course Providers

The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust is working closely with course providers to try to facilitate capacity for training the extra numbers of specialist teachers. Contact the Trust via email on info@thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk.

Dyslexia SpLD Trust



New for 2009 is The Dyslexia SpLD Trust (DST). The DST is made up of a consortium of dyslexia organisations involved in promoting improved practice and outcomes for individuals with dyslexia and specific learning difficulties.

The organisations involved are:

- The British Dyslexia Association
- Dyslexia Action
- Helen Arkell
- PATOSS
- Springboard
- Xtraordinary People

The DST has been established with funding by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and is expected to be heavily involved in supporting the delivery of the recommendations of Sir Jim Rose's Review.

The DST has been established with the following goals:

- to promote fuller understanding and awareness of dyslexia and specific learning difficulties and;
- to enable practitioners to access the best training and expertise to support the needs of individuals with dyslexia or specific learning difficulties; to promote best provision in supporting individuals with dyslexia or specific learning difficulties in a timely manner;
- to enable organisations that are promoting improved practice and outcomes for individuals with dyslexia and specific learning difficulties, to work together in ways which build upon and add value to the work in which each of the constituent organisations is already engaged.

For all Rose Review enquiries contact the DST via email on training@thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk

Dyslexia Awareness Week

Dyslexia Awareness Week 2009 is taking place on the 1st - 7th November and the theme is **Dyslexia Strengths**.

There are lots of things that you can do to get involved with Dyslexia Awareness Week, either individually or with your school, college or workplace.

For further information, fundraising tips and details on how you can take part click [here](#).

Download our [Dyslexia Awareness Week](#) poster here.

Dress-up for Dyslexia – Get Involved!



Dress up for Dyslexia is the British Dyslexia Association's brand new fundraising event to raise awareness and funds. We would love you, your friends, family and colleagues to be a part of it.

All we ask you to do is encourage everyone in your workplace, school, college or home to Dress up for Dyslexia and collect a donation of £2 per person involved.

Everyone loves dressing up and there are many ways that you can get involved whether it is wearing your wedding dress to work, or a feather boa to brownies! All the money you raise will go to help dyslexic individuals reach their full potential.

Organising your own Dress Up for Dyslexia day is easy. All you will need to do is:

- Put up the [Dress Up for Dyslexia poster](#) about the fundraiser and add the date and details
- Place the poster around your workplace/school/college
- Remember to collect £2 from everyone dressed up on the day
- Count up the money you have raised and send to us:
Via cheque made out to the British Dyslexia Association, sent to: Unit 8 Bracknell Beeches, Old Bracknell Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 7BW.
OR By phone on 0845 251 9003.

Remember if you are at school to get the permission of your teacher before you start organising your fundraising.

Don't forget to [send us](#) a photo of your dressing up achievements and the best outfits will be added to the gallery on our website!

Mentors wanted – APPLY NOW!



The BDA has launched a mentoring scheme, in conjunction with Cass Business School, City University London, and Dyslexia Scotland, will link adults with dyslexia with successful dyslexic people who will share ways they learnt to cope with dyslexia.

The programme is an informal mentoring scheme, which is designed to be flexible. The emphasis is on two people getting together who share something in common - dyslexia. The aim is for the mentor to share some of their coping strategies and above all instill confidence in the mentee.

We already have a number of high profile mentors, including **Sir Jackie Stewart**, former F1 World Champion, **David Richards**, CEO of Aston Martin, **Jonty Hearnden**, TV Antiques expert, and **Zenna Atkins**, Chair of Ofsted.

However, we need more Mentors. We have a number of Mentees who are on our waiting list for a suitable Mentor, and would like to encourage successful dyslexic individuals to apply. We have Mentees from a range of vocational backgrounds, from architecture to business.

You can apply to our scheme [here](#). For any questions on the scheme, please contact the BDA on 0845 251 9003 or via email mentoring@bdadyslexia.org.uk.

BDA Chokolit

The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) has secured an exciting opportunity to work alongside BDA ambassador, Louis Barnett, and his company, Chokolit.

Louis overcame his severe dyslexia and dyspraxia and is now, at the age of 17, the Director of his own very successful chocolate making business.

Louis's successful company Chokolit, based in rural Shropshire, is designing products for large retailers and independents. Ingredients are specifically

sourced for taste, but also with an environmental and ethical outlook. The company is about looking at chocolate in a different way and creates innovative products to stimulate your palate.

The BDA can offer a special Chokolit package, which comprises of:

1 x Premium Belgian Dark Chocolate Biting Back Bar™ with a Hint of Orange

1 x Premium Belgian Milk Chocolate Biting Back Bar™

1 x Premium Belgian White Chocolate Biting Back Bar™ with a Hint of Lemon

This costs **£6.50** including delivery.

At least £3 will support the BDA in its continuing vision to create a dyslexic friendly society, lobby change to legislation and to be the voice of dyslexic people.

To order please Email chokolit@bdadyslexia.org.uk.

BDA Christmas Cards



The BDA will again be producing Christmas Cards this year. The cards cost £3 for a pack, with at least £1 being donated to the BDA. If you would like to order the BDA Christmas Cards, please contact Arran Smith on arran@azco.co.uk.

BDA Music Conference – Save the Date!



The BDA is holding its inaugural Music Conference on 25th March 2010 at the Royal Academy Music, London. Entitled 'What's the Score? Music and Dyslexia, Theory and Practice'.

The conference, dedicated to the late Professor Tim Miles, will draw together specialists in the field of dyslexia research and practitioners within music education. An overall aim of the conference is to raise awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of musicians with dyslexia and the paradoxes in reading and performing music.

Topics will include:

- Descriptions of strategies developed to support dyslexic music students of all ages;
- Reports of research into how the musical training of dyslexic students can benefit their literacy skills;
- Research on auditory processing and rhythm.

The conference is for anyone involved in music, All Music Teachers, Students, Researchers, Special Educational Needs Specialists, Conservatoires and Music schools, Music charities, Music organisations, Orchestral societies, Youth Orchestras, Dyslexia Organisations and Parents.

The conference costs:

£110 Standard rate

£99 for BDA Individual Members, AMBDA and ATS holders, Staff from Quality Mark status schools* and Students **

For further details or to book please contact Katherine Dumas on conference@bdadyslexia.org.uk or call the BDA Office on 0845-251-9003, selecting option 1.

BDA or Children's Services scheme ** Please supply with your booking form a cover letter from your Educational Establishment signed by your Tutor or Head of Department to confirm you are a student.

Dyslexia as Part of Inclusion Conferences

The BDA is holding conferences across the UK looking at classroom best practice that will improve the lives of dyslexic pupils.

The exciting programme includes:

- Inclusive dyslexia teaching
- Technology to assist in classroom
- Information on Dyscalculia
- Learning through play
- Whiteboards and inclusion in the classroom

The conferences are taking place in **Lisburn**, Northern Ireland, on **13th October**, **Plymouth** on **3rd October** and **London** on **5th November**.

For more information or to book your place, contact Katherine Dumas on 0845 251 9003 or email conference@bdadyslexia.org.uk.

Top 3 Reasonable Adjustment Tips for Employers

At the BDA, we are often asked by Employers "What is Reasonable?" It is difficult to answer however the findings of employment tribunals are beginning to give us a minimum base on what we have to offer, for example;

- Provide access to training and promotion opportunities
- Increase understanding for staff via awareness training
- Invite employees to discuss difficulties that they have and work together to help them find a solution

Perception can be that reasonable adjustments will be costly or difficult to implement, however often the opposite is true.

"What is Reasonable?" will be the theme of our next [Employers' Conference](#) taking place on 20th November in London.

Policy Review



A huge number of Bills have been passing through parliament over the last couple of months and there have been significant progresses made for dyslexia in Parliament. Significantly, the Special Educational Needs (Information) Bill was introduced by the Labour MP Sharon Hodgson and gained cross party support. The Bill forces the Secretary of State to publish, annually, special needs information which has been obtained under the Education Act 1996. This information refers to the number of SEN children in each school and any relevant information which is likely to assist in improving the well-being of children in England with special educational needs.

At a glance at the other Bills moving their way across Parliament, the new Welfare Bill will introduce the 'work for your benefit' scheme which provides for training schemes designed to improve the jobseeker's prospects of obtaining employment. This Bill also introduces the right to control your disability service, so that benefits can be tailored to your individual learning need. The new Equality Bill seeks to deepen disability discrimination protection, widening access to schools for disabled pupils by improving the physical environment and improving the delivery of information. With the advent of the Jim Rose Review, the Equality Bill aims to protect hidden disabilities in as much as it does physical ones.

The BDA have also been working with the Department on Works and Pensions (DWP) to ensure that the workplace is making the reasonable adjustments to accommodate for those with dyslexia and that people are being given the support they need to retain employment. We hope to further our work with the DWP over the next few months, focussing our efforts on training the Disability Advisors at the JobCentre Plus Offices and extending our helpline to provide for an Employment specialist.

The BDA continues to support the work of the Communication Trust which is working to provide greater learning support for young offenders who suffer from specific learning difficulties.

Finally, we would like to thank the Government for endorsing the commissioning the Jim Rose Review and hope to see his recommendations implemented with political expediency.

BDA Training

How to be a Dyslexia Friendly Employer

The BDA run a number of training courses specifically for employers.

These are:

- **Understanding Dyslexia**
- **Making Reasonable Adjustments for Dyslexia**
- **Screening for Dyslexia**

Training for Teachers and Parents

The BDA run a number of programmes for teachers and parents.

Practical Solutions for Dyslexia

For Parents

This session covers what dyslexia is and the five roles parents need to fulfill to support their children with SpLDs. Find out more about Practical Solutions for Dyslexia [here](#).

For Teachers

This session covers teaching and resources that enable the dyslexic child to cope and flourish in the classroom. Find out more about Practical Solutions for Dyslexia [here](#).

Practical Solutions Plus

All dyslexic children are different. So which teaching strategy is going to work with each child? Each day of this three day course takes a different theme – one day on a variety of reading schemes, one devoted to spelling and another on different writing strategies and study skills. Come to one or all three days to give

you the specific tools to teach your dyslexic pupils literacy. Find out more about Practical Solutions Plus [here](#).

Screening for Dyslexia

Learn about screening and how to use three readily available screening tools. Find out more about Screening for Dyslexia [here](#).

Dealing with Dyscalculia

Dealing with Dyscalculia covers its links with other SpLDs and practical tips for inclusive teaching of arithmetic. Find out more about Dealing with Dyscalculia [here](#).

Dyscalculia Plus

A maths development programme for the remediation of dyscalculia. This is a detailed, structured, cumulative, multi-sensory mathematics development programme for the remediation of dyscalculia. Find out more about Dyscalculia Plus [here](#).

ADHD Asperger's and Autism

Pupils with difficulties on the dyslexia or autism spectra can display challenging behaviour due to their frustration. We show you how to teach them most efficiently in the classroom and how to channel their behaviours. These courses can lead to a Level 2 accreditation. Find out more about our ADHD, Asperger's and Autism course [here](#).

Training for Further and Higher Education

The BDA run a number of courses for those dealing with over 16s in Further and Higher Education, including:

- [Practical Solutions for Dyslexia for Higher and Further Education](#)
- [Screening for Dyslexia](#)
- [An Accredited course in Dyslexia Awareness and Screening](#)
- [Practical Solutions for Dyslexia for Specialist Support Staff](#)

Find out more about our courses in FE/HE [here](#).

For further information on training or to book a course, please contact Paul Brackley on 0845 251 9004 or email: paulb@bdadyslexia.org.uk.

And Finally...

Alphabet Spaghetti By Amy Kemp-Jones, aged 10

Spelling's difficult,
Writing's hard,
Letters squirm like noodles.

Numbers going backwards,
Sums forever wrong,
Tables are a nightmare
Does anybody care?
I want my teddy bear!

Send in the actors
Bring on the show
Learning lines is easy
Watch me go!

I'm not stupid
I'm actually quite bright
I've got a problem
Where I don't get things right.

So, what's to blame?
The dyslexia beans!
Growing alphabet soup.
It's so bad it noodles my brain.

For further details about any of the information in the BDA E-Newsletter September 2009 contact Rachel Lawson on 0845 251 9003 or e-mail rachel@bdadyslexia.org.uk.