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Guild Gallery September 2025

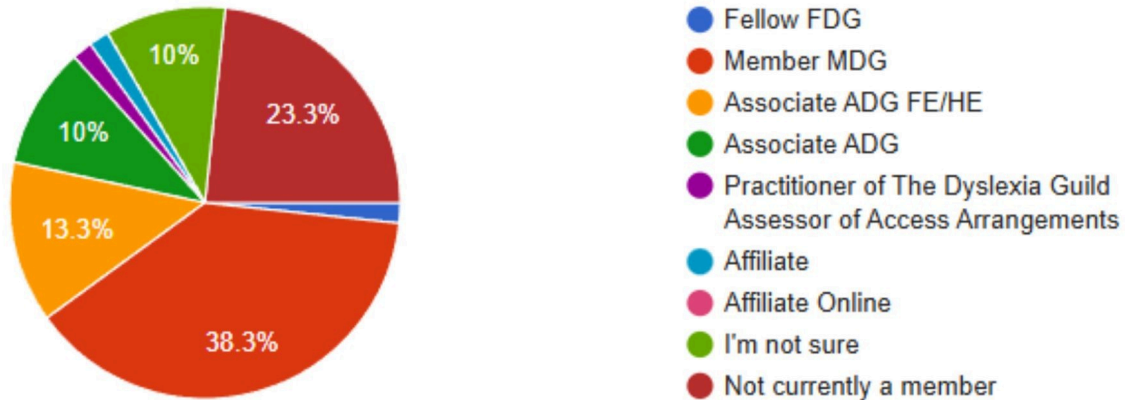
Welcome back to the new term and we hope you had an enjoyable summer.

In this issue we will dive into highlights from our July online conference and share some of the feedback we received. You'll also discover opportunities for professional development with our accredited online CPD courses. Additionally, we'll update you on new resources from the Dyslexia Action Shop, and share news on developments in literacy, education, and research.

The Dyslexia Guild Online Conference

Thank you to all of our members who attended our online conference this year! Below is a brief summary of some of the feedback we received.

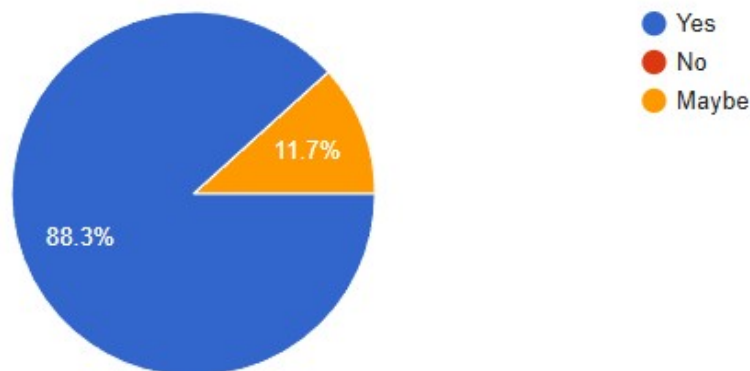
It was great to welcome attendees from a range of Guild membership levels (and non-members alike). Here is a breakdown from the survey responses:



We're so pleased that overwhelmingly the conference was voted 'excellent' or 'good'...

99% of attendees
rated the conference as **Good** or **Excellent**

...and that so many of you are keen to attend again in the future - *Based on your experience at this conference, are you likely to attend future events with us?*



Conference Feedback:

"All of the speakers were excellent and informative."

"The sessions were all fascinating and well presented. I particularly liked the links to research and examples of how to implement the advice given."

"It's really great when presenters consider how challenging it may be to sustain attention to auditory information for 45 minutes and make their presentation dynamic."

"The presentations were informative, current, and engaging. Thank you."

"This conference was highly relevant to my practice"

If there are any topics you would like covered in next year's conference, send us an email at guild@dyslexiaaction.org.uk

Dyslexia Action Training

Accredited Online CPD Courses

Dyslexia Action's online CPD programme comprises short Units, Awards and Certificates. Boost your knowledge in supporting children or adults with specific learning difficulties including dyslexia, literacy and maths difficulties.

The programme is suitable for teachers, SENCOs, practitioners, teaching assistants, learning support staff, language therapists, tutors, and lecturers. The courses focus on nurturing the development of learners, both with and without specific learning difficulties, within the learning environment.

Our next cohorts start on 24 September and 12 November

[Watch our CPD programme overview video](#)

Find out more

Spotlight on:

Developing Reading Skills in Learners with Dyslexia (DACPD84)

- New Content!

This course is designed for teachers and teaching assistants seeking to deepen their understanding of reading difficulties and effectively support learners who struggle.

The content delves into the new Delphi definition of dyslexia, research on improving literacy, specific language impairment, and the impact of visual difficulties on children with dyslexia.

You will explore self-efficacy in reading, learn how to make text more accessible, and gain insights into supporting mental health and motivation in learners.

The course provides a wealth of strategies and resources directly applicable to your practice.

You can book Reading Skills in Learners with Dyslexia as an independent online [Unit](#), part of an Award ([UK](#) or [International](#)), or a Certificate ([UK](#) or [International](#)).

Find out more and book!

Course Update:

Applying for and renewing an Assessment Practising Certificate

We are pleased to announce that this short course now contains significant enhancements to previous versions (as of 1 August 2025), and has recently been refined to incorporate materials relevant for those who plan to use the new report format. We also consider the use of the Delphi definition.

The tutors on the course are highly experienced, qualified specialists in diagnostic assessment report writing and assessment testing for dyslexia and have a good working knowledge of current [SASC guidance](#).

As before, the course is based around carefully designed datasets and case study materials designed to get you thinking about score profiles, background information and observation and there are lots of chances for you to test your knowledge and take part in forum discussions. The experienced tutors are available for questions should you need to ask them.

Please note: this course does not grant you an Assessment Practising Certificate (APC). For further details on gaining or renewing your APC please click [here](#).

[Find out more and book!](#)

Real Training's Free Access Arrangements Update Course

A FREE online Access Arrangements Update course is now available, and open to all qualified access arrangements professionals, courtesy of our sister company Real Training.

Join the course and you'll have access to all the information needed to be fully up to date with the new [Joint Council for Qualifications](#) (JCQ) exam regulations and requirements for the upcoming academic year.

For those holding a level 7 qualification, upon completion, you'll gain 3 SASC-accredited CPD hours (provided all parts are completed) and a certificate.

[Register here](#)

Cognitive Assessment System

At the Dyslexia Action Shop we are pleased to share with you a new product which has recently arrived! The [Cognitive Assessment System, 2nd Edition](#) (CAS-2) is a norm-referenced measure of cognitive ability based on the cognitive/neuropsychological theory called PASS (Planning, Attention, Simultaneous, and Successive).

Designed for ages 5-18 years, this assessment takes 40 to 60 minutes to run and is administered individually.

CAS-2 provides practitioners with a valid and reliable tool to evaluate children's strengths and weaknesses in important areas of cognitive processing.



[Find out more](#)

Centre for Literacy in Primary Education to Become a Part of The National Literacy Trust

Two national literacy charities have joined forces to strengthen their shared mission of excellence in literacy education in the UK and internationally.

On Sunday 1 June 2025, the [National Literacy Trust](#) and the [Centre for Literacy in Primary Education \(CLPE\)](#) announced that CLPE is to become a subsidiary charity of the National Literacy Trust, effective immediately.



Change your story

As parent organisation, the National Literacy Trust will help CLPE to continue and grow its important work and to expand its reach while retaining the CLPE brand. By joining forces and combining resources, expertise and networks, the new structure aims to turbo-charge the charities' combined impact on literacy education in the UK and internationally.

[Read more](#)

Universal Classroom Screening Tool

The Channel 4 documentary, called Jamie's Dyslexia Revolution, broadcast earlier this year, included an interview with UCL psychologist Professor Jo Van Herwegen (IOE, UCL's Faculty of Education & Society) talking about pioneering research she and colleagues have carried out in developing a database based on a meta-analysis of existing research on interventions for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) pupils.

Professors Van Herwegen and Talcott have been working with a third academic, Professor Susan Gathercole (University of Cambridge), on a Universal Classroom Screening tool.

A prototype of the Universal Classroom Screening tool is being tested at schools in Wiltshire, Birmingham and London and, coupled with the MetaSENse database, aims to ensure teachers use the right aids to help children with special educational needs in their classes. Both tools, which are free, could be rolled out nationally as early as the autumn.

[Read more](#)

GCSEs 2025: A Landscape of Subtle Shifts and Stark Divides

The 2025 GCSE results reveal a subtle yet significant story. After the steep rises in 2020 and 2021 where teacher assessed grades were awarded as a result of the Covid pandemic, the overall pass rate in the UK has held steady. With 67.4% of all grades at 4/C and above, there was only a marginal dip from the 67.6% seen in 2024. This stability was widely anticipated as exam boards continued their push to bring results back in line with pre-pandemic levels.



While pass rates did fall, there was a small uptick in the percentage of top grades (7/A and above) achieved: 21.9% in 2025 compared with 21.8% in 2024.

However, the UK-wide figures hide significant national and regional differences. While pass rates rose in Northern Ireland and Wales, results in England brought down the overall average.

Despite the dip, the gap between the highest- and lowest-performing UK regions did narrow, falling to 8.7% from 9.4%. However, this disparity remains higher than it was before the pandemic, and the narrowing is largely due to a sharp drop in pass rates in London.

The landscape of results is also altered by the lens of resits. The head of exam body OCR, Jill Duffy says the education system is in a "resit crisis" after national data showed "nearly a quarter of GCSE maths and English entries were resits". Duffy called for reform to English and maths secondary education.

[Read more](#)

Postcode Lottery? The Sutton Trust Response to A Level Results

Carl Cullinane, Director of Research and Policy at the Sutton Trust, said:

‘Students receiving their results today have endured significant disruption to their education since Year 8, and they should all take pride in what they’ve achieved. However, the overall rise in top grades this year masks growing regional inequalities, reflecting findings from the Sutton Trust’s Opportunity Index earlier this year.

[Read more](#)

Record Numbers of UK 18-year-olds Celebrate Getting into University or College, says UCAS

The Head of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), Dr. Jo Saxton, anticipated that a record number of 18-year-olds would secure their first-choice university place this year and this was later confirmed by figures on 14 August which showed an increase of 4.5% ([UCAS, 2025](#)). The rise was expected, even if applicants slightly missed their required grades, as universities seek ‘stability’ due to ‘uncertainty’ regarding international student enrolment numbers.

Universities have become increasingly reliant on higher fees from international students in recent years to make up for frozen domestic fees - but the number of overseas students coming to the UK has fallen. In May, the regulator in England, the [Office for Students](#), warned that more than four in 10 universities expected to be in a financial deficit by this summer.



Students from England and Wales will pay higher tuition fees for university this year, after the sector called for help with its finances, and comes after universities said their real-terms value had fallen. Maintenance loans have also gone up this year, which means students can borrow more to help with day-to-day living costs.

[Read more](#)

Teach Awards 2025 Shortlisted: Test of Retrieval Efficiency (TORE)

The Test of Retrieval Efficiency (TORE) assessment test has been shortlisted for a Teach Secondary Award 2025.

TORE measures an individual's ability to rapidly retrieve simple information from their long-term memory.

It boasts incredible versatility and is suitable for classroom assessments with groups of ten learners, one-to-one evaluations, and crucial exam access arrangements.

TORE is also SASC-approved and is very efficient; it can be administered in 15 minutes saving valuable time for teachers.

You will only find TORE in the Dyslexia Action Shop where Guild members receive up to 10% discount on most products.



[Find out more and watch our videos](#)

iPad Apps for Learners with Dyslexia

Check out CALL Scotland's popular **iPad Apps for learners with dyslexia** wheel, now in version 3, available for download on their website.

[Read more](#)



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