



LITERACY SPECIALISTS • TEACHERS • ASSESSORS

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Speak to us on 01784-222342



Guild Gallery December 2022

Dear Guild member,

Welcome to the December issue!

We hope you have enjoyed a successful Autumn term with a chance to relax before the start of 2023. As Dyslexia Action's historic 50th year anniversary comes to a close we would like to celebrate some of our recent achievements.

The Kathleen Hickey Teaching Scholarship attracted a good number of applicants before the closing date in November 2022, and is to help train an educator to become a specialist in supporting those with dyslexia but who may not have the financial means to undertake further qualifications. The successful candidate chose to write an article that looked at the wider implications of poor educational experiences and how that impacts the wider community and future outcomes of individuals in adult life. They were also able to demonstrate a passion for their work and for improving outcomes for all their learners and a pay-it-forward attitude to their colleagues. Thank you to everyone who applied for the scholarship and congratulations to our winner!

We have introduced new **member benefits** of discounts of up to 20% with DELL Computers. [Do log in](#) to the Guild members area to find out more.

Our **Fellow** criteria has been updated so do [consider upgrading](#).

The Dyslexia Guild Conference was a great success, if you were unable to attend do check out one of the presentations [Ideas on how to Teach the Specialist Lesson Online: showcasing the Dyslexia Action Literacy Programme \(DALP\)](#).



Dr Anna Smith - New Head of the Dyslexia Guild!

In addition to these achievements, we have been going through some changes here at the Dyslexia Guild. In recent months, Dr Anna Smith has been filling the role of Head of the Dyslexia Guild in an interim capacity, and we are happy to confirm that she has now accepted this role on a permanent basis.

Anna recently presented some of her ideas to a panel of Guild members and she looks forward to implementing some of these in the New Year - so watch this space!

Level 5 Diploma in Specialist Teaching for Literacy-Related Difficulties (DIST)

Are you looking to complete a specialist teacher/practitioner course and learn how to use the [Dyslexia Action Literacy Programme \(DALP\)](#)?

Have you previously completed the Dyslexia Action Certificate in supporting [literacy](#) / [adults](#) / [international learners](#)? Or a level 5 or 7 SpLD teacher/practitioner course and would like to gain DALP accreditation?

We have cohorts starting in January, March and June 2023, for further details click [here](#)

Becoming a full assessor

Do you hold a level 5 or level 7 specialist SpLD teacher/practitioner qualification and want further information about becoming a specialist assessor who can apply for an [Assessment Practising Certificate \(APC\)](#)? Please contact the Dyslexia Action Training team at trainingcourses@dyslexiaaction.org.uk for further advice and guidance.

Dyslexia Action and Real Training Opportunities to gain SASC accredited hours for those looking to gain or renew an APC



Applying for or renewing your Assessment Practising Certificate?

Gain 5 **SASC-accredited** CPD hours through twelve hours of CPD learning in our online course. A discount is available for Guild members. See further information [here](#).

Real Training JCQ Access Arrangements Update 2022-2023

Gain up to 3 **SASC-accredited** CPD hours in our **free-to-access** update, available to all qualified access arrangements professionals. The course provides participants with an update on the latest JCQ Regulations and topical videos that present the key changes and responsibilities for centre assessors including gathering evidence and implementing it on the JCQ Form 8. See further information and register [here](#).

Dyslexia Guild Forums

Do you have questions about specialist assessment, exam access arrangements, or supporting SpLD students in further or higher education? Guild members can use Guild Forums as part of their membership benefits to ask questions of their peers and experts within Dyslexia Action. Just [log in](#) or ask how at guild@dyslexiaaction.org.uk

Problem solving strategies in maths



The Education Endowment Fund (EEF) has produced '*Improving Mathematics in Key Stages 2 and 3*' guidance report and encourages teachers to select genuine problem-solving tasks for which pupils do not have ready-made solutions. [Download here](#).

Dyslexia runs in families



A host of genetic variants associated with dyslexia have been identified by researchers at Edinburgh University, shedding light on the hereditary aspect of the disorder. The researchers say they have identified about 170 genes and 42 specific genetic variants significantly associated with dyslexia in the largest such study to date.

While 15 of these variants have previously been linked to cognitive ability and educational attainment, the remaining 27 are newly identified – meaning they have not previously been linked to traits associated with dyslexia. [Read more here.](#)

Symbol Digits Modalities Test removed from SASC list

The SpLD Assessment Standards Committee (SASC) and its Test Evaluation Committee (STEC) have taken the decision, after careful consideration, to remove the Symbol Digit Modalities Test (SDMT) from the list of approved tests for carrying out a diagnostic assessment.

From 30th April 2023, it may still be used qualitatively but test scores should not be reported. SASC still advise that it would be good practice to use this test only qualitatively from January 2023 and to begin to use evidence when drawing conclusions for assessments from the range of other tests you use, adding in more tests as and when you have a chance to acquire them. Please see the full update on the [downloads page](#), which gives the rationale for the reason for this decision, as well as further information about what can be used in place of the SDMT.

Non-fiction reading and environmental engagement



The National Literacy Trust has produced a report about [Non-fiction reading and the environment](#). The new research amongst children and young people aged 8 - 18 found that children and young people who read non-fiction are more engaged with environmental issues. There are other interesting facts about the reading habits of those receiving free school meals and by age group.

The Independent Schools SEND Conference - 25 November 2022



[Dyslexia Action Training](#) and [Real Training](#) exhibited at the Independent Schools SEND Conference in association with the [Independent Schools Council](#). The ISC represents over 1,370 UK independent schools, which educate over 537,000 pupils.

The event was a great opportunity to meet and talk with current and potential delegates, and also gain some insight into the Independent schools market. We thoroughly enjoyed a talk from Nick Lait from JCQ about the 2022/23 Access Arrangements - if you're yet to familiarise yourself with the updates, don't forget about our [free Access Arrangement Update course](#). It was also a great opportunity to catch-up with our colleagues at [Sporting Futures Training](#) who offer apprenticeships.

Real Training wins Exporting Excellence category at the EducationInvestor Awards



Our sister company [Real Training](#) were delighted to win the Exporting Excellence award at this year's EducationInvestor ceremony. This accolade recognises their focus on making a difference and enhancing the lives and education of all children, including those with SEND, all over the world. Directors Mark Turner and Siobhan Mellor accepted the award and Mark Turner, Managing Director commented:

"We are delighted that our unique approach of blending expertise in education, psychology and technology has been recognised to be enabling impactful CPD to be available all over the world. We've now developed through our partnership between Real Training, Dyslexia Action and Sporting and Educational Futures the suite of CPD courses that school groups are utilising to ensure that high quality leadership and inclusion are managed through whole school strategies".

Celebrating 50 years of Dyslexia Action!



Training and Professional Development

All throughout 2022, we have been celebrating the **50th anniversary of Dyslexia Action**. Originally founded in 1972 as The Dyslexia Institute, Dyslexia Action has had several identities over the years, mostly recently becoming a key part of Real Group Ltd in 2017. Reflecting on the 50 year history of the company, we are in awe of the hard work and dedication of all the staff and supporters, also our amazing network of hardworking tutors and course delegates.

Our 50th anniversary celebrations have included:

- We returned to a face-to-face event for the Dyslexia Guild Annual Summer conference, held at the University of Bath.
- We spent some time with Fellows of the Dyslexia Guild, [Sarah Matthews](#) and [Theresa Gillbard](#), to find out their thoughts about Dyslexia Action and our courses.
- We launched and chose our first recipient of the [Kathleen Hickey Teaching Scholarship](#)
- We celebrated [International Book Giving Day](#) and [Dyslexia Awareness Week](#)
- We attended a number of conferences and events at which we had the opportunity to interact with Dyslexia Action Training delegates and Guild members.

What's your favourite memory of Dyslexia Action? We'd love to know! Please email us at trainingcourses@dyslexiaaction.org.uk



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Visit [our website](#) to see the latest information regarding membership benefits, and how to access the Guild member's library and directory.

**Dyslexia
Action**

Training and Professional Development

Visit [Dyslexia Action Training](#) for CPD or Professional Programme Courses.

**Dyslexia
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Receive 10% discount at The [Dyslexia Action Shop](#).
*Conditions apply.

The Dyslexia Guild is the professional body of Dyslexia Action, which itself is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Real Group Ltd.



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