

Dyslexia Friendly School Newsletter

Welcome to our second **Dyslexia Friendly School and Inclusive Practice (DFS) Newsletter** from Caledonia Campus.

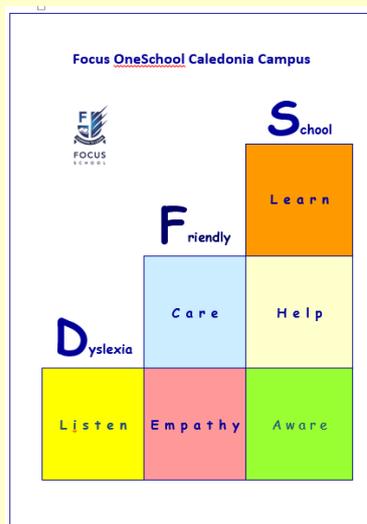
Our initiative has been boosted by positive comments and words of encouragement from Heli Laiho-Murdoch, Focus National Learning Support Advisor, who visited Ochil Centre during the In-service day on 20th January 2017. On the same day, all staff attended a Dyslexia training session which was delivered by Neil Mackay, world renowned expert on dyslexia. Neil's engaging and interactive presentation offered new ideas for teaching and learning in conjunction with the Self Directed Learning, encouraged to reflect on a need to differentiate in order to enable every student show their ability, and at the end of the day allowed teachers to put themselves into their students' shoes and practise some of the discussed learning methods.

Over the next few months we will be collecting more evidence of using some of the strategies from the In-service Dyslexia training and working towards achieving a Dyslexia Aware Quality Mark.

News from our DFS Student Group

In the **Senior School** this term all students on DFS Group focused on two aims:

1. Collecting information from subject teachers about what resources are needed in dyslexia resource boxes in each classroom.
2. Putting final touches to the Caledonia Campus DFS logo:



In the **Junior School** the DFS Champions **Arne, Bronwyn, Fernley, Fendi and Seth** have been working hard by running a competition in the Junior School in both Centres to design our own Dyslexia Friendly School logo.

The pupils in the Junior School raised £50 by donating money to wear a blue ribbon to help raise awareness of Dyslexia. It is through raising awareness we become more understanding that everyone has a different learning style. This is something which should be celebrated and respected.

Technology can be a massive support to pupils in enhancing their learning and we have been trialling the use of Nessy a web based learning site which helps develop and consolidate reading and spelling skills. Pupil and parent feedback has been very positive so far. Watch this space!

The question 'How can technology help in learning?'

Technology is an important tool to help every student in their learning but it has proven particularly valuable for dyslexic learners. It can help to access and record written information, help with learning vocabulary, planning and organising SDL assignments, proofreading and further developing written answers etc. Technology allows students to concentrate on content rather than process. It can provide the necessary risk taking and multi-sensory environment that many dyslexic learners need.

Our students now have access to Google Chrome. This function found **at the top right hand side of the tool bar** can make web page layouts easier to read for your child. For example, the student can change the font and colour of the screen to suit their preference.



OpenDyslexic
will present text
in dyslexia friendly font

Visor
allows to adjust
the background colour

nOverlay
is a browser that tints
web pages for users
scotopic sensitivity
syndrome or various
eyesight issues
(donations is required
to enable the function)

Nessy Reading & Spelling is an internet-based **program** developed by a team of specialist teachers and psychologists for students 5-12 years of age with reading differences such as dyslexia. The program is designed to help students of all abilities learn to read, write & spell, especially those who learn differently. Students can progress through levels at their own pace, and they can use the program both in school and at home.



<https://www.nessy.com/uk/>



Lexia is a highly personalised program which enables students of all ages and abilities to master essential reading skills. The program can be used as an addition to any literacy curriculum to meet the needs of students in both Junior and Senior School. There is a fee to purchase the licence.

<http://www.lexialearning.com/>



Jungle Memory is a Focus approved program that provides exercises to improve working memory and learning outcomes for students with dyslexic difficulties and autistic spectrum condition. It is worth of noting that the acquired skills do not automatically transfer across to other aspects of learning. There is a fee to purchase a single user online licence. The Jungle memory exercises can be completed either in school or at home. <http://junglememory.com/>



Narrator is a computer reader program installed on our students' laptops. Students can highlight a word, sentence or paragraph, and the program will read the section out loud. There are different male and female voices to choose from and also a speed, volume and pitch can be adjusted.

OneNote is a digital note-taking program that is installed on our students' laptops. It helps to store, annotate and organise both typed and handwritten notes, lesson plans and homework. The students can link information on websites, email assignments, share information with others etc.



<https://www.onenote.com>



Inspiration is a visual learning tool that helps students organise their ideas and clarify their thoughts. Students see how ideas are connected and realize how information can be grouped and organized. With visual learning, new concepts are more thoroughly and easily understood when they are linked to prior knowledge. There is a fee to purchase a licence.

<http://www.inspiration.com/Inspiration>

The above programs are designed to help students with dyslexic tendencies in their learning. Depending on their preferred learning styles, each young person can decide what the most suitable program is for them. Using technology can enhance dyslexic students' confidence and self-esteem, enabling users to:

- * see and hear written text on screen
- * repeat and review information, as and when they need to
- * overcome barriers such as slow typing or writing speed and spelling
- * record and edit ideas
- * plan work before starting to write and review output prior to completion
- * demonstrate their knowledge and ability
- * work more independently

Your feedback, comments, and questions are always welcome.