

Spring 2013

# THE DYSLEXIA FACTOR



## Waltham Forest Dyslexia Association

Registered Charity: 802993

### Help line phone numbers

020 8520 1684 or 020 8520 7370  
or 0770 7237668

Email: [admin@wfda.org.uk](mailto:admin@wfda.org.uk)

Web: [www.wfda.org.uk](http://www.wfda.org.uk)

### Welcome to the WFDA newsletter.

2013 looks to be an exciting year for us, read all about our plans but to make them succeed we need your help. If you would like to get involved please let us know, we're small but with big ideas!

Adele Bird, Chair of WFDA.



*"The way I write, the way I see the world, is part and parcel of my dyslexia..."* These are the words of Benjamin Zephaniah, who alongside being a hugely successful novelist and playwright, is 1 of Britain's most celebrated poets and is in *The Times* list of the top 50 post-war writers.

One of our students, Alisha Tyler (photo), on being presented with our Jack Petchy Award asked for the prize to be spent on inviting Benjamin to come and give a talk. Amazingly, he made time in his busy life, visiting us at Walthamstow School for Girls where he held a packed audience entranced. Benjamin spoke movingly of his own admiration for Mohammad Ali (a fellow dyslexic). He recalls *'The first time someone told me I was dyslexic; it was like they were swearing at me. I had never heard the word before. It made me a very angry person.'*

Subsequently Benjamin has generously agreed to be our **Patron** and stated that *'Many young people have a lot of respect for you, and you have a great understanding of them. This I believe is what has to happen if you are to make a difference.'*

### What It's Like To Be Dyslexic (for those of you who aren't)

To be dyslexic is worrying about  
reading outloud everyday,  
I feel everyone knows but me,  
Its upsetting.  
Its hard.  
Its frustrating.  
It makes me angry.  
Wen Im redding it's like the leters  
are danning around,  
Im copying from the bord,  
Im writting a word,  
I can't remember how to spell it,  
I look back at the bord,  
All I can see is a sea of letters  
floating in front of me,  
It soon vanishes, as the teacher  
wipes the bord  
Im worried to get introbol, accused  
of being lazy and not listening.  
I'm not lazy! **IM DYSLEXIC !**  
By a student at WFDA



### Quiz Night

Saturday 18 May

St Theresa's RC  
Hall, Station Road,  
Chingford E4 7BJ  
Tickets £5.00

Contact Anne/Eric  
on 020 8529 1957

## Get involved with the W.F.D.A.

Thank you to Sulaiman Hatiz who kindly donated a range of PC Software for use by students at our classes.

Join [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) today. It works in a similar way to many other loyalty shopping sites, but instead of earning points when you shop, **you raise a donation for WFDA!** You can shop with over 2,000 well known stores and each will donate up to 15% of what you spend.



**Big thank you to our bakers!**

A WFDA member,  
**Jackie Chai**

and staff at **Walthamstow School for Girls** hosted a weekly cake stall and raised **£105**. There was a range of cake pops, cup cakes, fruit loafs and Asian delicacies. Also a parent at our classes; **Samina Siddiqi** organised a 'Samosa Sale' and made a tasty profit of **£25**.

Thank you to the **Highams Park and Hale End Community Ward** who have awarded us funding of **£310** for our classes.



### Sponsored Walk for all ages!

Dust down your walking shoes as WFDA will soon be hosting a fundraising sponsored walk (date TBC). If you'd like to get involved as a walker, steward or volunteer in any capacity please let Helen know on [helen.bigham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helen.bigham@hotmail.co.uk).



### Big Lottery funded Family Conference

WFDA hosted a stand organised by Lloyd Park Children's Centre in January. Thank you to Norma, one of our volunteers who helped run the table. WFDA was able to build links

with Family Information Services, the council's Early Intervention Prevention team and local children's centres.



### Great news!

To enable us to continue to run our classes. Waltham Forest Council has matched funded the money we received from BBC Children In Need with a further **£4,999**.

### Peterhouse Church Fayre

In December, 1 of our trustees, **Katherine Marshall** ran a stall selling a range of items and raised £70. Is there somewhere you could host a stall? Let us know.

**Win: Win** For a £1.00 buy a special day in our Diary and when all the dates are filled the winner gets £50, with the rest of the money going to WFDA. Buy as many days as you want! **Contact Norma on 07941 870336.**

## We're here to help...

*"Education is not filling a bucket, but lighting a fire."* - **WB Yeats**, famous poet, Nobel prize winner and had dyslexia .



### More about us

**Maxine Scarlett** has recently joined WFDA as our Handwriting Tutor.

### Why did you get involved with WFDA?

After gaining my Post Graduate Diploma in Dyslexia and Literacy

with Dyslexia Action my passion was to help those with dyslexia and literacy by using these skills. One of the ways was to join WFDA.

**Name a highlight in your career?** My role as the Maths co-ordinator in a primary school helped me to overcome a long standing fear of numbers and it was great when my students told me their best subject was Maths.

**How do you like to relax?** In the cooler weather or when I can't be by the sea I like to meditate, yoga exercise or read an interesting book.

**What's your rule of life?** To look at any failure in a positive way, always see it as an opportunity to learn and succeed.



### School Screenings

Recently, South Grove Primary School booked us to come in and screen invited pupils.

If you'd like us to visit your school please ask

your SENCO to contact:

**sheena.wfda@gmail.com.**

### Some of the benefits of joining our handwriting class

Your writing is easier to read.

Research has shown that stopping and starting whilst writing can throw the writer off track.

It helps your writing to be clear, fluent, legible and fast.

All letters start on the line so there's no confusion about where to begin the letter.

There is a clear distinction between capital letters and lower case.

Writers are less likely to reverse letters which are typically difficult such as b/d.

If you are interested in joining our new handwriting class please contact:

**sheena.wfda@gmail.com.**

**VCS Hub - WFDA is registered with the Learning-Exchange.org.uk.**

**This is a government run network for extra-curricular practitioners and other professionals working with children and young people. It's a place to share knowledge, discuss issues and be inspired. Why not let your local schools know about the site?**



### Welcome!

At our AGM in November David Pearce has agreed to join as our Treasurer.

If you're interested to become a Trustee or volunteer let **Sheena** know at class or email **helen.bigham@hotmail.co.uk**

# General Information



## THANK YOU !

Our visit from Benjamin Zephaniah would not have been such a success without the following support:

**Walthamstow School for Girls** who hosted the

visit. **Alisha's family** who donated money that enabled us to purchase copies for all our students of Benjamin's poetry book 'Talking Turkeys'. Also **Kate Reilly** for the gift of her poem to Benjamin.

We are proud to announce our Spring Term winner is **Marshall Barrett**.



## Register for our

## Summer Transition Club

**Monday 29 July—Friday 2 August**

If you're a Year 6 student with dyslexia/dyspraxia going into Year 7 in September why not register for a **free** place at our Summer Transition Club? Running for the 6th year at Forest School (subject to funding). There'll be swimming, woodwork, ICT as well as tips on how to cope with moving into a bigger school. **Speak to Sheena in class or let us know by email: [helenbigham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helenbigham@hotmail.co.uk). Hurry as spaces fill quickly!**

**My Dyslexic Mind: A Newsround Special.** Cbbc presenter Dom Wood talks about what it was like growing up with Dyslexia. Follow this link for the interview - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/20928716>

**INSET Training:** In January, WFDA visited George Tomlinson Primary School to run an INSET day Dyslexia Awareness course for their teaching staff. Why not speak to your school SENCO and find out if this is something we could host at your school?

## Dates for your Diary!

### Spring Term 2013

Monday 25 February - Monday 25 March  
(Closed for Easter, Monday 1 and 8 April)

### Summer Term 2013

Mon. 15 April-Mon. 20 May (exc. 6 May)  
(Closed for Whitsun, Monday 27 May)

Monday 3 June -Monday 8 July

Friday 12 July **Class of 2013 Awards**

In reception we hold a Welcome folder that holds lots of information about WFDA, anything you want to know missing?

## We need your WFDA Membership!

If you've not already subscribed for your 2013 WFDA membership please pay the annual £15 fee to Sheena at our Monday classes or send a cheque made payable to: WFDA, **Anne England**, 4 Eglington Road, Chingford E4 7AN.

**Class details:** Small, individualised literacy, numeracy, handwriting and touch- typing classes held on Monday evenings (term time only) at Walthamstow School for Girls, Church Hill, E17 9RZ.

**Literacy/Numeracy/Handwriting:** 50 minute class from 4.00pm onwards (£12.00 per class) **Touch typing:** 50 minute class at 5.00pm or 6.00pm (£5.00 per class)

Remember to let us know ASAP if your child is unable to attend their class. Contact your child's tutor or Sheena, our Class Co-ordinator on 07852 232509 or e-mail [sheena.wfda@gmail.com](mailto:sheena.wfda@gmail.com). Office hours: Monday—Thursday (term time) between 10.00am—3.00pm.

















