

Autumn/
Winter 2012

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

Welcome to the WFDA newsletter.
It's packed full of 'thank you's' to all who have worked with us this year. Without their support we'd not be able to continue to offer help for so many people, young and old. Maybe something you'll read will inspire you to get involved. We can't wait to hear from you! Adele Bird, Chair of WFDA



Cook in the books!

At 16 **Marco Pierre White** became an apprentice pastry chef. He opened his own restaurant in 1987 and received his 1st Michelin star the same year. Two more stars quickly followed, making him at 33 the youngest chef to have earned three Michelin stars.

"I was very fortunate that I entered a world where I didn't have to read or write. I entered a world of cooking where I expressed with my fingers and so that built my confidence. Over the years I've taught myself how to read. I've taught myself how to spell. I still struggle but I have to read very slowly and because I read slowly and because I struggle to absorb, I tend not to read, even though I have 1000's of books at home, they're all giant picture books."

Pierre White said he realised he was dyslexic when his son was diagnosed after his school alerted the family. "They went into great detail about dyslexia and that's when I was able to label myself as being dyslexic. They could have been talking about the same boy, but many years previous when I was a boy they never spoke of dyslexia. It's not a stigma to be labelled with dyslexia. Individuals with dyslexia have great talents and great qualities." Excerpt from Evening Standard 1 August 2011

Catch-up Tuition help

Did you know that Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg announced in September 2012 that intensive catch-up tuition is to be given for all pupils who start secondary school without having achieved the required levels in English and maths?

The new catch-up premium will help almost 110,000 pupils this year to receive extra help in literacy and numeracy and stop them falling further behind at a critical stage in their education.

This support is needed as evidence shows that pupils who are behind in English and maths when they start secondary school will struggle to achieve GCSEs.

Secondary schools will receive an added £500 for every Year Seven pupil who has not achieved at least Level 4 at Key Stage 2 in reading and maths. The money will be used by school to provide additional tuition or intensive support in small groups, giving pupils valuable help to bring them up to speed so that they are more likely to succeed at secondary school.

Find out what your local school is doing.

Go to p3 to see which famous chef who has dyslexia said:

'It was with great regret that I didn't do better at school. People just thought I was thick, it was a struggle, I never really had anyone to help that understood dyslexia and who can bring out my strengths. I think it's really good that ... kids realise that they've got possibilities and that they can excel in anything'.

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

Summer Transition Club 2012

Through funding from the Henry Smith Charity, Wakeham Trust Organisation, parent donations as well as a free venue from Forest School we were able to run our club for the 5th year. Thank you to Lois Hood, teachers and volunteers who made sure that the week was so much fun. Art activities included making masks (see photo). A student told us; *"I'm not worried about going to my school now."*



In the Summer, Katherine Marshall, one of our Trustees organised an Auction Fundraising Supper at Peterhouse Church and raised the amazing amount of just over £1000! Thank you to all of the trustees, volunteers and bidders that made the night such a success.

Many thanks to Anne England, (WFDA membership secretary) and helpers who ran a cake stall at Chingford Day and raised £117.

Class of 2012 Presentation night



Adele Bird, our Chair of Trustees presented certificates to our students in celebration of all their hard work throughout the

year. It was a great opportunity for WFDA families to get to know each other. We raised £351 on the night through tickets and a raffle. Thank you to West Essex Sports Club for letting us use their premise and for our DJ Kevin Saint—all at no charge!

Maggot Moon by Sally Gardner

Hot Key £10.99/ebook £6.99, Age 13+

This is the story of a dyslexic boy, Standish Tredwell who live in the 'Motherland'. Great reviews, why not buy it as a Xmas present?

Fantastic news! BBC Children In Need has supported our classes over the last 3



years. Recently, they've agreed to continue to fund us £30,000 over the next 3 years. Listen to see if we get mentioned in the TV and radio coverage for their Fundraising night on 16 November.

West Essex Football Club raised for us £1000 at their annual tournament. Thank you to **Sheena Penfold** (WFDA Class Co-ordinator) who helped make this happen!



The Co-operative Society has kindly donated £2,000 to go towards the running of our child and adult screening assessments. Think you may have dyslexia? Children (15 and under) screenings cost £20 and adult screenings are £40.

We're here to help...

Did you guess? Jamie Oliver OBE.
Other famous chefs with dyslexia include:
Rick Stein, James Martin, Ed Baines.

More about us ... Linda Witham is one of our dyslexia assessment screeners, based at Heathcote School, where the Headteacher, Zoe Cozens has generously provided us a room free of charge to screen adults.

Why did you get involved with WFDA?
Since my son was diagnosed at the age of 8 I've developed a keen interest in understanding dyslexia. Working closely with **Katherine Marshall** (WFDA Trustee) who's the Specialist teacher employed by Heathcote to test and grant Access Arrangements has been an inspiration for me to get involved with the WFDA.

Name a highlight in your career? One prominent memory was a Year 7 boy arriving with no SATs grades and after working with him he attained 5 GCSE's. The highlight was his face on results day.

How do you like to relax? Read, dance and I love a good castle.

What's your rule of life? I believe strongly that praise and encouragement help people achieve and I strive to always find something positive to say.



Love numbers?

Do you have 2 hours free a week (term time)? Have a background in bookkeeping and

accountancy and don't want to lose your skills? We urgently need your help!

Please ring our Treasurer, **Elly Pearce** on 020 8520 1684.



What are the benefits of joining our touch typing class?

- Your writing is easier to read.
- Properly learnt typing can be faster than handwriting.
- Your hand/arm won't get so tired. Typing is usually much less stressful.
- Spelling patterns can be easier to learn. Confusions such as b/d and u/n are removed since it's the learnt position of the letters that is used, not their orientation.
- It's easier to construct sentences correctly when the speed of writing is closer to the speed of thinking.

Welcome!



To our recently joined two new volunteers working with us to keep WFDA running!

Norma Regnier (in photo) is a grandmother of one of our students and as a retired secretary is a great help providing much needed admin support. Norma told us that *'I'm keeping my brain intact and I'm enjoying keeping busy!'*

Sandra Hodgson is interested in becoming a teaching assistant and learning more about dyslexia. She has been supporting our teaching staff on a Monday evening.

If you're interested to become a Trustee or volunteer let **Sheena** know at class or email sheena.wfda@gmail.com.

General Information



The Jack Petchy Award has been designed for groups to recognise, reward and celebrate the achievement of students who have contributed to the WFDA in a significant

way. Whether this be through overcoming personal adversity, volunteering to help others or showing great dedication in their learning.

We've been awarded the Bronze Scheme which give us £200 each school term to be used for the benefit of our students.

Nominees must be aged 11—25, is there someone you would like to put forward as a potential winner?



2012 WFDA A.G.M!

27th November 7.00—9.30pm

West Essex Sports Club, Hickman Avenue, Highams Park, E4 (behind the new Tesco Store).

7.00 pm Refreshments

7.30 pm Business of meeting including election or re-election of trustees.

8.00 pm Talk by Eleanor Wright, Richmond Dyslexia Association on SEN legislation.

Come along, this is your chance to get involved and influence the decisions being made concerning the future of WFDA as well as for you to find out more about us. Without your support we're in danger of no longer providing all our services. Contact adele@galeborough.freeseve.co.uk if you're interested to be a WFDA Trustee.

Class Timetable

Winter Term 2012—2013

Monday 5 November - Monday

10 December

Spring Term 2012

Monday 14 January - Monday 11 February

No class Monday 18 February (half term)

Monday 25 February - Monday 25 March

(Closed for Easter, Monday 1 and 8 April)

Walthamstow School for Girls provides the use of their classes for free as a goodwill gesture. Please respect their facilities.

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 Eglinton Road, Chingford E4 7AN.

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

Literacy or Numeracy: 50 minute classes 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 her at sheena.wfda@gmail.com. Office hours: Monday—Thursday (term time) between 10.00am—3.00pm.

