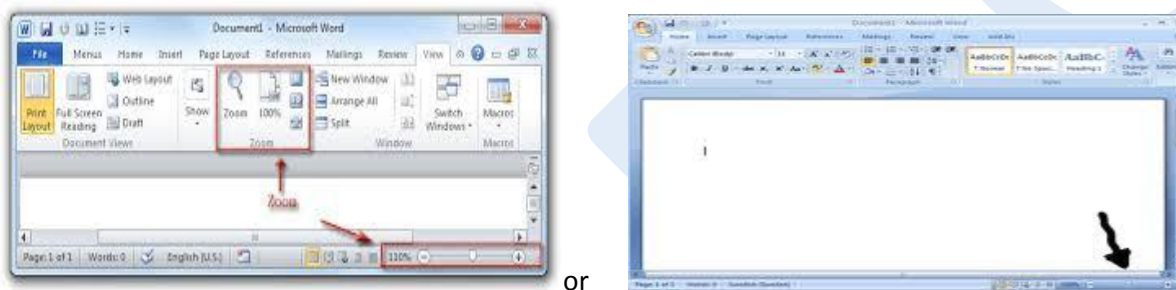# DYSLEXIA- PC/LAPTOP ADVICE

Visual set up of screen –how can you help?

- **SIZE OF LETTERS**

Some people find that increasing the size of the letters helps processing and reading.

You can change this by changing font size or simply increasing the document size while working by using the zoom option in the bottom right hand corner.

 or

- **FONT**

Choose a font that has equally spaced letters eg Comic Sans, Sassoon, Courier avoid fonts such as Times Roman. When working in the ICT suite/ using School general ICT equipment ensure the student changes the settings before they start a task and not just struggle with the settings found.

http://bdatech.org/what-technology/typefaces-for-dyslexia/

- **DOUBLE SPACING**

Using the option to double space when writing helps many students, most finding 1.5 spacing helpful. You can always revert back before printing out.

This is simply achieved by selecting 'DESIGN' from toolbar-> then select 'Paragraph Spacing' on the right hand side-> select 'Double'.

- **BACKGROUND COLOUR**

This is an individual preference for students. Some students will have a clearly identified colour they use for overlays or glasses, others may find simply exploring the colour options very helpful.

To change the colours on your computer as a whole;

https://mcmw.abilitynet.org.uk/internet-explorer-for-windows-changing-colours/

To change the colours within WORD simply select 'DESIGN'-> select 'PAGE COLOR' and choose from a wide range of colours.

To change the colours on iphone/ ipad/ipod follow this step by step advice;

https://mcmw.abilitynet.org.uk/accessibility-shortcut-triple-click-home-iphoneipadipod-touch/

Word prediction

Historically when using PC/Laptops as a Service we recommended and used Cowriter. The product still works very well but it may well be worth exploring new format forms of prediction software eg Penfriend. You can purchase this on a USB stick allowing SEN departments to try with several students before committing or families can purchase for use between home and school.

COWRITER
http://www.inclusive.co.uk/co-writer-7-p6760

PENFRIEND USB

http://www.penfriend.biz/pf-usb.html

Word prediction/ Speech feedback – all round tool

The best all round tool I can find is Read and Write from text Help. This provides prediction but also has the option of reading back your work/webpages.

http://www.texthelp.com/UK/our-products/readwrite

This video illustrates the full range of options;

http://www.texthelp.com/media/173221/texthelp-2013_-_final_low_res.mp4

This tool can be used through Primary, Secondary and University/ personal life.

Spelling support

Computers come with a built in Spell check tool, however these can be tricky to use if you struggle to see/hear the difference between similar words.

Primary

The most accessible tool for most Primary Schools would be to invest in Clicker 6-the newer format has great prediction options and also if these were not sufficient pictures /word banks could be added.

KS2/ KS 3/ KS 4

If Spell check is not supportive enough, I would recommend Text Help- Read Write (see above) which would provide both spelling and speech support.

If you have the ability to work online it may be worth trying Ghotit –which is currently free.

http://www.ghotit.com/

Voice recognition

DRAGON

As a service we continue to be excited about the prospect of this being more effective. In our experience we have found voice dictation to be fairly limited when used with a PC. Dragon produce the most popular software Dragon Naturally Speaking, which continues to be redeveloped now claiming a much shorter time to train and gain accuracy. In our experience we have found that students who have had very complex physical disabilities have been more committed to trained and refining the process. This can be complex for students who have difficulties with spelling as the software requires you to correct and edit as you work.

It is also vital you wear a headset so this can be limiting in the use within a Classroom setting.

However, I would strongly advise you to download the Dragon Dictate App- this

appears to be much easier and accurate to use. So at least for getting ideas down

on paper, lists etc -you could use this app and import into Word.

There are some students who have had success by this has required dedication, time and commitment- this needs to be considered when introducing it to a student. I have students who have rejected it in Yr8 due to frustration, but have gained good success in Sixth form as the support it provided outweighed the initial time spent.

When using ipad 3 or later models- they have a built in Speech recognition feature.

Simply switch Siri on and then on the keyboard there is a microphone icon –this works really well and should be

promoted with students.

WORD Q and SPEECH Q

http://www.goqsoftware.com/wordQspeakQ.php

You can download a free trial of this software.

STUDY SKILLS

Planning tools

THINKSHEET

http://www.fishermarriott.com/products/details/ThinkSheet
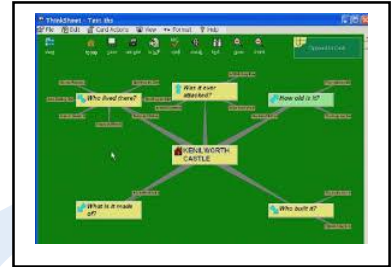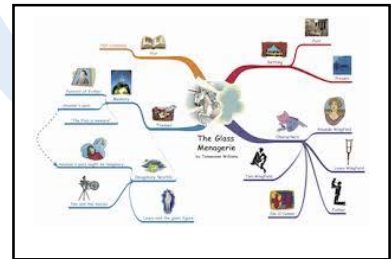
There are lots of more complicated tools available, but this a good one to

start with as it allows you to download a free demo trial so Students can try

before you commit. Reasonable rates of £25 for home and school use.

INSPIRATION

http://www.inspiration.com/

This is available for both PC and App format.

Revision

ACTIVISE
https://acognia.com/ActiVise-QA-Software

Fun software to make up quizzes – an interactive way to revise. Might be useful for students who find it difficult to get started.

QUIZLET

http://quizlet.com/browse-sets/

This is a great free website, where students from around the world create flashcards/ activities to help revision. This link takes you to some already made. You can easily create your own.

GCSE LEARNING POD

http://www.gcsepod.com/home/revising-for-exams/

2015 BETT winner- great engaging modern format. Ideal if students prefer to learn by listening. Download on phone/ipod for when travelling to or from school/ relaxing. Accessible facts for weak readers.

There are a wide range of organisational links already posted on the website;

http://redbridgeserc.org/resources/results/search&category=study-skills-recording

LANGUAGES

CLICKER MFL- French and Spanish

http://www.cricksoft.com/uk/products/content/default/clicker-mfl-home.aspx

STARFRENCH

http://www.fishermarriott.com/products/details/starfrench

A useful tool if students need to listen and practice spoken French.

Really useful information relating to MFL from BDA.

http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/educator/modern-foreign-languages

OTHER SUPPORTIVE SOFTWARE RECOMMENDED

LEXIA

http://www.lexiauk.co.uk/

NESSY

http://www.nessy.com/uk/

JUNGLE MEMORY

http://junglememory.com/

MASTERING MEMORY
http://www.masteringmemory.co.uk/

LITERACY TOOLBOX

http://www.perceptualreading.co.uk/
Great free resource of hundreds of free short texts.

You can download a free month's trial- lots of discussion about this product on SENCO Forum.

You are welcome to copy and share with Staff and Parents – please acknowledge where you got it from.

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