



W: [www.dyslexiacourses.ie](http://www.dyslexiacourses.ie) E: [wynmccormack@sky.com](mailto:wynmccormack@sky.com) M: 0872582345

## Newsletter 5

This newsletter contains information on the following:

- **Classroom strategies**
- **Games to teach literacy**
- **Video *See Dyslexia Differently* from the British Dyslexia Association**
- **Wheel of Apps for learners with dyscalculia & numeracy difficulties CALL Scotland**
- **Websites recommended by mainstream teachers attending our courses**
- **Podcasts, videos and notes for students**
- **Publications**
- **Future courses from Dyslexia Courses Ireland**

### Classroom Strategies

- Ask students to plan an essay by getting them to write the topic sentence only for each paragraph. It gets them to concentrate on planning the structure of an essay.
- TIPTOP (Time, person, topic, place). When one of these change, start a new paragraph.
- Colour code questions on a comprehension text with pencils e.g. QA is pink, QB is blue, and QC is green. Then when reading the text, use the same colours to indicate relevant material in the text to answer that question. Use light coloured pencils which allows some information be marked as relevant for two questions.
- Homework journals could include an article explaining the SQ3R method of reading. They could also be printed with pages for key vocabulary for each subject. More details on the SQ3R is available at [www.nbss.ie/node/210](http://www.nbss.ie/node/210)

### Literacy games

TRUGS comes from *Teach Reading by Using Games*. It is a system of sets of card games and follows a phonics structure so the children are learning through having fun and competition. It comes in 3 levels. The suggestion from a teacher using it is that second level would only need to buy level 3.

The cost for Box 3 is €55.95. The link is [www.otb.ie/shop/search/results,1-0?keyword=trugs&limitstart=0&option=com\\_virtuemart&view=category&virtuemart\\_category\\_id=0](http://www.otb.ie/shop/search/results,1-0?keyword=trugs&limitstart=0&option=com_virtuemart&view=category&virtuemart_category_id=0)

### **Video See Dyslexia Differently from the British Dyslexia Association**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=11r7CFIK2sc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11r7CFIK2sc)

This video sheds light on the real challenges dyslexic children face whilst also acknowledging their strengths and potential. It is 3 minutes long and would be useful in raising awareness about dyslexia among all students and in developing confidence in those students with dyslexia.

### **Wheel of apps for learners with dyscalculia and numeracy difficulties from CALL Scotland**

[www.callscotland.org.uk/downloads/posters-and-leaflets/ipad-apps-for-learners-with-dyscalculianumeracy-difficulties](http://www.callscotland.org.uk/downloads/posters-and-leaflets/ipad-apps-for-learners-with-dyscalculianumeracy-difficulties)

CALL Scotland (Communication, Access, Literacy and Learning), based in the University of Edinburgh, was set up to help children and young people to overcome disability and barriers to learning. They have published a wheel of apps poster for both iPad and android for dyslexia and literacy difficulties. They now have published a wheel of iPad apps to help learners with numeracy difficulties. It is by no means comprehensive but attempts to identify relevant, useful apps that will help to embed numerical learning and to give opportunities for repeated practice of concepts that cause difficulty. It is aimed at helping to identify apps that may be useful for learners in a Primary School setting, rather than more advanced levels of numeracy and mathematics, though some can be used at many levels.

### **Websites and other resources**

**Anki** [www.ankiapp.com](http://www.ankiapp.com) is a program which makes remembering things easy. "Anki" is the Japanese word for 'memorization'. Anyone who needs to remember things in their daily life can benefit from Anki. Examples of its use are for language learning, memorising facts etc. As students use it, it learns how well they know each flashcard, then prioritizes them, so students study the things they don't know, without wasting precious time on the things they already know. It offers pre-made cards from sources such as Quizlet or you can make your own.

**BBC Bitesize** [www.bbc.com/education](http://www.bbc.com/education) Bitesize is the BBC's free online study support resource for students. It is designed to aid students in both schoolwork and exams. Included in the website are

- Help with revision with videos on topics such as:
  - How to make mindmaps.
  - Using sound to revise.
  - Managing time.
  - Coping with the exam.
- Notes on many subjects such as Science, Engineering, English, Languages and Geography
- For teachers there are videos to support class teaching on Art and Design, Science, Design Technology, English Literature, Mandarin, Maths etc.

**BBC Skillswise** [www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise) enables adults to improve reading, writing and number skills through videos, worksheets, quizzes and games. In English there are sections on reading, writing, spelling, grammar and sentences. In Maths the sections are numbers, calculations, percentages and fractions, measuring, shapes and graphs. There are 38 computer games that can help with Maths. Much of the material could be used with small groups of students who have literacy or numeracy difficulties.

**Classtools** [www.classtools.net](http://www.classtools.net) create free games, quizzes, activities, diagrams in seconds. There is no signup, no passwords, no charge. Some of the tools are:

- Create fake facebook profiles for historical or fictional characters.
- Convert tests into PAC-MAN games or Dustbin game generator.
- Diagrams, Venn, Post-its and qwikslides allows the making of multimedia presentation in seconds.

**Dictation.io** <https://dictation.io/> allows the student to dictate paragraphs to the computer, and save them.

**Google classroom** (<https://classroom.google.com/u/0/h>) **Classdojo** ([www.classdojo.com](http://www.classdojo.com)) **Edmodo** ([www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com)) All three help with managing assignments, and communication with students and allows students to connect with each other to work collaboratively. Some allow for the student to ask the teacher questions privately. Student progress can be tracked. Teachers recommend students have a school email address to access such programmes.

**Mentimeter** [www.mentimeter.com](http://www.mentimeter.com) is an easy-to-use presentation software. With Mentimeter fun and interactive presentations can be created. It is completely free of charge. No credit card needed to get started. Mentimeter is fully web-based which means no downloads or installations required.

#### **Podcasts and videos and notes for students**

**Aoife Notes** [www.aofesnotes.com](http://www.aofesnotes.com) has notes on the English paper at LC and JC.

**Connemara FM** [www.connemarafm.com/education-programmes/](http://www.connemarafm.com/education-programmes/) under the heading The West Wind Blows has podcasts for Leaving Certificate subjects such as English, Chemistry and French. There are pod casts on key poets and some Shakespearian plays.

**East Glendalough School** [www.egs.ie/business.html](http://www.egs.ie/business.html) has a section on business, economics and accounting. In business there are the questions by topic, mindmaps and cue cards (flashcards). The cue cards only work on windows. In economics there are key notes.

**Institute of Education** [www.instituteofeducation.ie/studynotes](http://www.instituteofeducation.ie/studynotes) has some podcasts, videos on approaches to the exam such as the PCLM approach to the English paper and some sample notes in different subjects.

**Shmoop** [www.shmoop.com](http://www.shmoop.com) This is an American site whose slogan is 'We speak student'. This refers to a relaxed form of English which is easy to understand and relate to with many modern references. There is a free version which gives access to learning guides in English, Maths and Science. In the Maths section it covers Algebra, Geometry and Calculus. In Science Physics, Biology and Chemistry are covered. The English section covers Grammar, Poetry, well-known novels and bestsellers, and Shakespeare. It has a modern English summary of what happens throughout each act of the play. There is a premium subscription costing \$24.68 a month.

**The Business Guys** [www.thebusinessguys.ie](http://www.thebusinessguys.ie) Free Leaving Certificate notes in business, accounting and economics. Signing up to their mailing list means the student will receive a monthly newsletter during term-time, focusing on one key topic in each of the three Business subjects.

#### **Publications**

## **Magenta Principles - Engagement, Depth and Challenge in the Classroom by Mike Hughes.**

**Available from Outside the Box [www.otb.ie/](http://www.otb.ie/)**

The Magenta Principles is an umbrella phrase that refers to a philosophy and an approach to teaching based on the premise that learning should be both exciting and engaging. While it called the Magenta Principles, there is in reality just one principle. In order to make sense of the information that comes their way, students have to do something with it. Receiving it, retaining it and eventually regurgitating it is insufficient. In short they have to think about it. Students could be asked to reduce it, change it, assemble it, add to it, arrange it, sequence it, classify it, ... the list goes on.

**Metacognition Guide from NEPS** Short practical guide to thinking skills and metacognition from NEPS. It includes the questions to ask students to help them think about their learning.

[www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/National-Educational-Psychological-Service-NEPS-/NEPS-Guides/Cognitive-Skills/Cognitive-Skills-Thinking-Skills-and-Metacognition.pdf](http://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/National-Educational-Psychological-Service-NEPS-/NEPS-Guides/Cognitive-Skills/Cognitive-Skills-Thinking-Skills-and-Metacognition.pdf)

## **Future courses in 2018 from Dyslexia Courses Ireland**

### **Course for Mainstream Teachers on Dyslexia**

- Saturday 13 October      Cork    Rochestown Park Hotel
- Saturday 20 October     Dublin   Stillorgan Talbot Hotel
- Saturday 10 November    Claremorris   McWilliam Hotel

### **Course on Maths and Dyslexia**

- Saturday 13 October      Galway   Clayton Hotel
- Saturday 10 November    Sligo    Southern Hotel

### **Study Skills workshop for Students**

- Wednesday 31 October    Dublin   Stillorgan Talbot Hotel

### **Course for Teachers on the Study Skills that help Students with Dyslexia**

- Saturday 17 November    Dublin   Stillorgan Talbot Hotel

### **In-service courses for school staff.**

Dyslexia Courses Ireland are available to give in-service courses on dyslexia for the whole school staff. Late August and early September are an ideal time as teachers are well rested after the break and can plan to put strategies and resources in place at the beginning of the school year. If your school would be interested, please contact Wyn at 087 2582345

Our website has the following free downloads available.

- The Factsheets on Dyslexia at Second Level (updated August 2017).
- Ten Study Tips for Junior Certificate Students with Dyslexia.
- Tips for Students with Dyslexia who find English Paper 1 in the Leaving Certificate challenging.
- Strategies/Resources for Mainstream Teachers who have some SEN classes.
- Useful websites/APPS on revision notes, subject specific resources, study skills, exam preparation, assistive technology and on-line tutorials.