

Bloxham School

Dyslexia Unit

Information for Entry in 2001

The Dyslexia unit at Bloxham School was established in September 1984, to enable highly intelligent and talented dyslexic pupils to succeed in an academic setting. Entry is limited to six pupils a year, entering in the Third Form and continuing in the Unit until the end of the Fifth Form. An additional fee is charged for membership of the unit.

Hugh Alexander, MA(Cantab.), DpSE AMBDA, was appointed Head of the Unit in September 1995.

Purpose of the Unit:

The purpose of the Dyslexia Unit is to ensure full public school opportunities for able pupils who, because of their dyslexia, experience considerable difficulties with language processing but are capable of progressing towards GCSE, A Levels and Higher Education. Typically, members of the Dyslexia unit show talents in fields such as mathematics, the creative arts, computing, music or sport, which outshine their language difficulties. Bloxham School offers excellent facilities for the development of a wider range of such talents.

Dyslexia unit pupils do not study Modern Languages; instead for these six periods per week they are taught in the Unit. For all other lessons they follow the normal timetable. The Unit curriculum includes and the development of efficient reading, study skills, and word-processing. In addition, pupils learn about dyslexia itself; the advantages it can bring and the most effective strategies to overcome its disadvantages.

Admissions Procedure:

For admission to the Dyslexia unit, the pupil will have had a comprehensive educational psychological assessment, and Unit candidates are not therefore required to sit the

Common Entrance examination. Candidates must have a combined score on either the WISC test or the BAS scales of 120 or above.

The stages of admission are as follows:

- (i) Parents or guardians look around the School, and meet the Headmaster and Mr Alexander. This may be with the prospective candidate, or they may return with their child for a subsequent visit. At this stage, it is important to bring copies of any educational psychologists' assessments which have been carried out. It is especially helpful if copies of these can be sent to the School in advance of the visit.
- (ii) The Application for Registration, Confirmation of Registration and Questionnaire forms are completed in the normal way (see prospectus).
- (iii) The Headmaster, normally after consultation with the candidate's present school, will write to invite the candidate and parents to an Assessment Day at which the candidate is assessed by the School's Consultant Educational Psychologist, Mrs Sheila Shaw MA, MSc, Adv.Dip.Ed., AFBPsS, and interviewed by the Headmaster and Mr Alexander. Assessment Days are usually held twice a year on a Saturday. The Headmaster will advise parents by letter of his decision soon after the interview. Mrs Shaw will discuss the findings with parents on the day and send a full written report within three weeks, whether or not the pupil is accepted for Bloxham. If the pupil is not accepted, she will advise on the suitability of other school. Mrs Shaw's fee is £400.
- (iii) Parents accept the offered place and pay the confirmation fee.

There is an additional charge of £995 per term for membership of the Dyslexia Unit.

Dyslexic pupils in the Sixth Form are no longer Unit members, although they can continue to receive advice from Mr Alexander for which there is no charge.