**Taken from the British Dyslexia Association**

**Signs of dyslexia (Secondary school age)**

Dyslexia is a combination of abilities as well as difficulties. It is the disparity between them that is often the give-away clue. A dyslexic learner, despite certain areas of difficulty, may be orally very able and knowledgeable, creative, artistic, or sporting. Alongside these abilities will be a cluster of difficulties - these will be different for every person.

Dyslexia can only be diagnosed through a Diagnostic Assessment. However, there are indicators which can help you to identify a young person who may be dyslexic.

**Written work**

* Has a poor standard of written work compared with oral ability
* Has poor handwriting with badly formed letters or has neat handwriting, but writes very slowly
* Produces badly set out or messy written work, with spellings crossed out several times
* Spells the same word differently in one piece of work
* Has difficulty with punctuation and/or grammar
* Confuses upper and lower case letters
* Writes a great deal but 'loses the thread'
* Writes very little, but to the point
* Has difficulty taking notes in lessons
* Has difficulty with organisation of homework
* Finds tasks difficult to complete on time
* Appears to know more than they can commit to paper

**Reading**

* Is hesitant and laboured, especially when reading aloud
* Omits, repeats or adds extra words
* Reads at a reasonable rate, but has a low level of comprehension
* Fails to recognise familiar words
* Misses a line or repeats the same line twice
* Loses their place easily/uses a finger or marker to keep the place
* Has difficulty in pin-pointing the main idea in a passage
* Has difficulty using dictionaries, directories, encyclopaedias

**Numeracy**

* Has difficulty remembering tables and/or basic number sets
* Finds sequencing problematic
* Confuses signs such as x for +
* Can think at a high level in mathematics, but needs a calculator for simple calculations
* Misreads questions that include words
* Finds mental arithmetic at speed very difficult
* Finds memorising formulae difficult

**Other areas**

* Confuses direction - left/right
* Has difficulty in learning foreign languages
* Has difficulty in finding the name for an object
* Has clear difficulties processing information at speed
* Misunderstands complicated questions
* Finds holding a list of instructions in memory difficult, although can perform all tasks when told individually

**Behaviour**

* Is disorganised or forgetful e.g. over sports equipment, lessons, homework, appointments
* Is easily distracted. May find it difficult to remain focused on the task
* Is often in the wrong place at the wrong time
* Is excessively tired, due to the amount of concentration and effort required

A cluster of these indicators alongside areas of ability may point to possible dyslexia and further investigation is recommended.