



STUDENT VOICES

"It's nice to know that there are resources available for me to use because I don't have the same learning capabilities as most. I have been shown how to use the Read&Write Gold programme so that I can listen to text being read out to me – this allows me to digest the information better and gain a clearer understanding of the text. I also like the Reader Pens as I can scroll over words or sentences and listen to it being read back to me rather than having to read it myself. The voice assistive Dragon software is also really useful – I can speak into a microphone and the computer will type what I'm saying, which means the text is much more fluid than if I were writing it myself. I think the provision of technology at Priestnall School is really good for all students, but the assistive technology is particularly helpful for those with specific learning difficulties. The teachers ensure that we all receive the best possible support which is tailored to our own individual needs."

Student, Year 10, dyslexic

"Curriculum support has provided me with an iPad and external keyboard which means that I can type all my lesson notes, enlarge them and print them out so that I can see them better. Without access to this kind of technology I would really struggle to read my notes, so I'm very grateful that this provision has been made for me."

Student, Year 7, visually impaired



they don't draw attention to themselves as much as they would with a live reader sat next to them.

Equal opportunities

The developing use of technology has been very important for us; having 66 of our current cohort accessing one of, or a combination of 12 different types of access arrangements, we need as much assistance as we can to ensure no student is disadvantaged as a result of their specific SEN or needs. The use of Lucid EXACT to support screening and application of access arrangements has assisted massively, especially as for each of this year's 66 applications we estimate that it takes approximately six hours (on average) per student to assess, and apply!

To conclude, Priestnall School is proud of the fact that all our SEND students are given the same opportunities to learn as everyone else and, perhaps more importantly, have the same opportunities with regard to assessment and examinations. We are trying hard to keep up to speed with new technologies emerging in the market and ensuring,

headphones. We also have Reader Pens for classroom use which include a built-in Collins Dictionary – a feature which, for obvious reasons, does not come with the Exam Reader Pen. More and more of our students are using these pens in the classroom and for formal exams and assessments. The students like the fact that they are easy to use, are very subtle and

where possible, that we provide our students with the technology and equipment to progress at the same pace as everyone else. Knowing that our students can work independently before they leave our school is a huge challenge, but one that we are more than happy to take on; especially as the core values of Priestnall School are 'educating for life'.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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