



## **STANBRIDGE EARLS SCHOOL GAINS HIGHEST RATING 'SPECIALIST PROVISION' BY CReSTeD**

Stanbridge Earls School in Romsey, Hampshire has been awarded the highest rating of schools for dyslexic pupils – Specialist Provision status. Stanbridge offers pupils help for Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia and other specific learning difficulties. This CReSTeD rating is the 'gold standard' and results from a detailed inspection having been carried out to ensure that Stanbridge complies with CReSTeD's high standards for meeting dyslexic pupils' educational needs.

Stanbridge is training some of its mainstream staff in special educational needs, and would prefer any new recruits to hold SEN qualifications. With specialists from the learning centres now teaching some mainstream classes, and more teaching staff expecting to hold SEN qualifications, specialist dyslexia teaching is now being integrated throughout the whole School.

The School has held CReSTeD's second level Dyslexia Unit category for some years, as a result of its very successful specialist units. Pupils have gained major benefits from the specialist learning centres, since the idea of one-to-one teaching was pioneered at the school in 1963 and will continue to do so.

The specialist units continue to benefit pupils who need one-to-one tuition, and are playing a most important role in Stanbridge's integrated tuition. The Accelerated Learning Centre houses one-to-one literary specialists for Dyslexics. Additionally, its teaching staff includes English as an additional language, Life Skills coaches and Speech and Language Therapists. The Maths Learning Centre's team of specialists provides one-to-one support for Dyslexics and Dyscalculics and a Paediatric Occupational Therapist gives one-to-one and groups support to pupils with dyspraxia. In all the total number of specialist staff is in excess of 25.



It is Stanbridge Earls' experience that pupils present with complex combinations of these difficulties and by having the expertise on site we are able to tailor programmes to suit individual student's needs.

Dyslexic pupils are likely to experience difficulty with both Literacy and Numeracy. Hence, pupils gain from being taught by specialists from the learning centres, who are now teaching mainstream subjects such as Science, English and Maths.

Whilst it has been possible to gain specialist teaching qualifications in Literacy, achieving specialist Maths qualifications for teaching Maths to dyslexic pupils has been more difficult to access. However, it is now becoming a reality, as a result of the teacher training courses delivered by Learning Works, in partnership with Stanbridge Earls School. Teachers in Stanbridge's Maths Learning Centre are the flag bearers, taking advantage of studying for a qualification which is the first of its kind.

The integration of specialist tutoring from the pupil's standpoint means that all pupils can understand each others challenges better, which builds their confidence and friendships.

From a parent's point of view, the higher the rating means that they can be confident about the quality of education offered across the school. The same applies to LEAs who sometimes need to look for out of county placements to provide more specialist provision than they would normally have.

Headmaster of Stanbridge Earls School, Geoff Link said: "Our initiative to integrate special needs teaching into the whole school environment means that a dyslexic child's needs are met when they are in mainstream classes, while the special learning units continue to provide one-to-one tuition. We are proud to have been awarded this highest rating, reflecting our developing teaching methods".