

Individual Member Trustee Position

Personal Statement

Why would I like to be elected as a Trustee of the BDA?

-because I am extremely passionate about children learning to read and write and am shocked by the amount of children that still, with today's knowledge, can't read to a good standard. I believe that being a Trustee for the BDA would put me in a position to help make a difference.

I am a self-employed tutor working with young people with dyslexia; prior to this I worked in a school. Over the last two years, since becoming a tutor, I have had many conversations with parents who have shared their child's school journey. The lack of support for so many children in school is wrong, and often this appears to be purely from a lack of knowledge on the educators part. Campaigning for sustainable change by encouraging educators to become dyslexia aware, and taking action within the classroom, would be at the top of my list, as I know it is at the top of the BDAs list too.

I started my dyslexic learning journey in 2009 by completing the BDAs dyslexia Level 3 qualification, continuing on to a post-grad certificate in literacy difficulties, and then culminating with a Masters in SEN Education with my dissertation being all about reading. I believe knowledge is power and is needed to instigate any form of change. I love to share my knowledge with other educators, as well as to empower parents to support their child and navigate the school system. We have learnt so much about dyslexia in recent years, and there is still so much more to learn.

One of the great developing initiatives is that individuals are becoming more aware of dyslexic strengths, and this is thanks to the BDA, and others, sharing people's stories. I have noticed on social media that more and more adults are admitting to having dyslexia, or that they struggle, and this can only be for the good. It reduces the stigma that has been part of the history of dyslexia.

Having read through the BDAs mission, campaign areas and values, I would very much like to be involved. Within my own areas of particular

interest, and skills that I can bring to the table, is a passion to instigate change within the education system. How?

By creating initiatives to get more educators on board with dyslexia awareness training.

By researching into the implications of compulsory early screening, compared to the cost of 'picking up the pieces' later on in a child's education.

By encouraging early intervention for children so they don't spend their educational journey always in catch up mode.

Being a Trustee for the BDA would be a fabulous opportunity and one that I would give my all to.