



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

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Dear Parents / Carers,

You may be aware that at university some students are eligible to apply for equipment/support from the DSA (Disability Student Allowance), for example a computer if one is needed because of their disability, non-medical helpers, extra travel because of disability, or other disability-related costs of studying.

The availability of support seems to vary from one university to another so if you think that your child might be eligible they should contact the Student Services of the university for which they have accepted an offer. Often this support is only available to those with a diagnosed: mental health problem, long term illness or any other disability. And a 'diagnostic assessment' from a psychologist, medical professional or suitably qualified specialist teacher is often required – if this was done before a student is 16 they will probably need to be reassessed.

A note about assessments that we do at Presdales, and dyslexia: Please note that the assessments that we do at Presdales are for exam access arrangements (such as extra time, use of a laptop etc) only and are not diagnostic assessments (ie we do NOT diagnose anyone with dyslexia). If your daughter/son is intending to apply for DSA based on learning needs that have been identified during their time at Presdales, and you believe that they will require support because they have dyslexic tendencies, you will probably need to arrange for them to have a private dyslexia assessment. You may be able to get help towards the cost of a diagnostic assessment; further information can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/overview> but do also look on individual university websites.

Disabled students can also apply for an extra maintenance loan, or a specialist support grant - this application is made through Student Finance England. Please use this link to find out more about this: <https://www.ucas.com/student-finance-england/living-costs-full-time-students#specialsupport>

If you have any questions about this please email me and I will get back to you as soon as possible: [stewartra@presdales.herts.sch.uk](mailto:stewartra@presdales.herts.sch.uk)

With very best wishes,

Mrs Rachel Stewart  
SENCO