**Everway Access arrangements for exams: The complete solution**

Today we're here to talk about access arrangements for exams and in particular our complete exam solution package.

So, for most of you, you will be familiar with our branding on the left hand side texthelp. We have rebranded to Everway.

The great news is our award winning range of products are now available under the Everway branding.

So, the number on the right hand side 17.3% relates to the amount of SEN students within schools in the UK.

That number has now risen to nearly 1.6 million in 2023 and what does that mean? Well, we've now got an average of 40 students in each school in the UK that need readers and scribes.

So, the examination challenges that exam officers and SENCOs face is the shortage of human readers.

Then we've got teaching assistants that usually can't facilitate exam access arrangements.

We've got GCSE exclusion and we've also got budget.

So, we've got all these different challenges that exams officers face on a daily basis.

So changes the latest access arrangements specifically adds EAL to the list of needs/disabilities.

What that means is section 5.5 states "A candidate for whom English is an additional language may use a computer reader/readers."

So, that's massive in schools now that have EAL learners within their school.

They can now use our computer software in an examination.

So, we've got a human reader at £12 per hour.

We've got 40 students that ultimately need that reader and scribe times the amount of GCSEs.

Now before such times that I jump in and read back the cost, I am going to tell you a story where I met with an exam officer, SENCO and Head of Department, walked through our software, everyone loved it but when it came to cost I gave them the cost of the software for the year SENCO looked at me, the exams officer looked at me and said I think that's going to be too much money and the first thing I said is that's totally fine but do me a favour however, and find out how much you've spent to date on human readers and scribes at your school and they agreed to come back to me.

So, I got the phone call and the information came back was Alan we'd like to go ahead and buy your software.

Oh fantastic, brilliant, can I ask why?

We've looked at costs and they are considerably more than what you are offering in terms of your software.

Oh and by the way do you offer multi years options to which I said yes we offer 3 and 5 year options. And they said ok we've got the budget for a 5 year package can we proceed?

So, it goes to show how much was being spent on human readers and scribes.

So, for everyone listening there today £13,000 is the average cost of human readers and scribes. It's a huge number. Now that will differ depending on the size of your school. It may be lower it may be higher but that is the average cost of how much it is to pay for readers and scribes.

And here we have Abigail Hawkins "A computer reader provides independence and it reduces the demand on staffing. Whilst there might be that initial outlay of money and cost, it works out cheaper in the long run."

So, again, that is a really powerful statement from Abigail.

So, how do we support students with access arrangements and reduce the cost of exams?

JCQ states and I'm not going to read it all but "SENCos may wish to consider the use of technology to a much greater extent instead of readers and scribes”.

In essence use a computer reader and a computer scribe where possible.

So, here's our complete exam solution. Every subject, every device.

We've got our Read&Write software, ExamWritePad and Equatio that can be used for example that can be used on Windows, iOS, ExamWritePad software on a windows device and Equatio on a windows device also.

And here we have a breakdown of our products so first we've got our Computer Reader.

Secondly, you've got our speech recognition or dictation software.

You've then got our Maths reader like I say it can read numbers, symbols, units and locations and we've also got ExamWritePad there at the very bottom which offers a secure writing environment specifically designed for use in exams.

So here we have our Read&Write Dedicated Exam Mode as you can see on screen students point of view in an exam we've both got text to speech. We've got screenshot reader in accessible text. We've got screen masking providing your students with a colour overlay should they need it.

Dictation again if the student qualifies, they can use dictation software in an exam.

PDF Reader simply reads the PDF document, and you've also got the digital highlight that students can use to highlight any work in the same fashion that they can use a physical highlighter in an exam.

So, here we have our software in action. So, we're looking at the paper.

You can see there now you've got our continuous and it can turn off that click to speak.

I can go into the settings of the software. I can change the speed at which is reads. I can add any voice pictures.

I can go ahead there I click on click to speech.

And you'll notice there that you have the information being tracked and read.

So, next we're going to move onto our screen masking option which again will provide students with a colour overlay and in this example we've actually added in a reading light which will actually provide students with focus on a particular section of the document as it's being read.

Again, that's really, really useful for students and as you can see on screen we're changing for example the opacity. We're also changing the colour overlay or adding in a reading light. Again, that just gives the students focus when they need it.

The next to look at is Dictation so again students that qualify to be able to dictate.

You can see here on screen we're clicking on the talk and type icon and we can simply use our voice to dictate directly into the document.

Again, my microphone isn't connected but the example here will show how you can simply dictate directly in there using your voice.

Again, you can use the text to speech to proof read your work. To make sure what you have actually written is correct and you can see on screen we've got that split screen available.

We've got our question paper on one side. We've got our word processor for example ExamWritePad on the other allowing for that information to be read.

So, here we have our award winning ExamWritePad. So, it's a secure compliant word processor. Processing for exam accessibility arrangements.

And you can see on screen we've got our header and we've got all the information in relation to ExamWritePad. It's simply a word processor specifically designed for exams.

On top of that we've got Equatio. Now Equatio in exam mode will provide students with screenshot reader. So, the same way with an English exam you can read inaccessible text, screenshot reader specifically within Equatio will allow students to read numbers, symbols, units and notations. So, if for example you have the likes of Dyscalculia you can have this information read back in an exam using our Equatio software in exam mode.

And here we have the software in action.

When I scroll on down to find the maths I wish to have read. I put on Screenshot Reader and we highlight the text that we want to have read. The software will then process that and then we can click play.

So, again allowing for that information to be read back in an exam condition using Screenshot Reader here specifically for numbers, units and notations.

Ok so in summary our software securely supports students with access arrangements.

It meets the JCQ guidelines as a Normal way of working for accommodation and again that's a massive point. It's a normal way of working for students that want to use it both in a classroom environment, in a home setting or more importantly when it comes to exams locking the software down into exam mode again meeting those guidelines as set out by JCQ and technology reduces the cost of exams, generating substantial economical savings.

So, again going back again to that point there that I mentioned at the start in terms of how our software can help to save money this is how it could work.

Our software helps to promote confidence and independence. So, again helps promote student confidence and independence.

So, for further information feel free to reach out at education@texthelp.com and by all means put my name in the subject feed and I'll be happy to get back to you.