



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**20 November 2014**

### **International Festival of Dyslexic Culture at London Metropolitan University an “International First”**

London Metropolitan University played host to the first ever **International Festival of Dyslexic Culture**.

Organised by the Festival organising team, including Anne Morris, a senior lecturer in Neurodiversity and Educational Development at London Metropolitan University, the Festival emphasised the importance of ‘positive dyslexia’ and included an academic symposium alongside a celebration of dyslexic culture.

Anne suggests that this event, which was internationally the first of its kind, could help bring about a “...paradigm shift, where dyslexia could be considered a culture, rather than as a disability”.

The Festival gathered wide-spread interest - dyslexic children and their families, University staff and leading internationally-renowned academics in the field attended the event.

#### **Putting students first regardless of disability**

London Metropolitan University puts students at the focus of learning. Anne argues this is important for all students, whether dyslexic or not: “Everybody should be enabled to find and build on their strengths and achieve success through a meaningful and multi-sensory approach to learning and teaching.”

She adds that we are seeing the “emergence of a new political movement around dyslexic culture”, and that this Festival showed to what extent London Met is “at the forefront of dynamic, inclusive learning and innovative ideas.”

The Festival, supported by the University’s Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, was the first of what is hoped to become an annual event.

The Dean of the Faculty, Professor John Gabriel, says that this marks “a significant milestone” and that it is “important to sustain this initiative in future years to make sure that London Met provides the best support it possibly can to its students.”

#### **Dyslexia Awareness Week**

The Festival coincides with Dyslexia Awareness Week 2014, ending the week on a high note. The Festival called for fundamental changes in the education system, including the switch of focus from listening and watching, to learning by doing and focusing on how different people learn to help dyslexic learners to overcome their difficulties on the one hand, and build on their real strengths, to achieve success.

The event gathered a lot of positive feedback praising it as a “brilliant success [as] the first Festival of Dyslexic Culture” and emphasises how important “the fusion between creativity and academia [is] to a subject like dyslexia”.

-ENDS-

**For more information please contact:**

Mr Chris Lane (Event queries)  
Academic Leader at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH)  
London Metropolitan University

c.lane@londonmet.ac.uk

(+44) 20 7133 5136

Larissa Schneider (Press Office queries)  
PR & Internal Communications  
London metropolitan University

l.schneider@londonmet.ac.uk

(+44) 20 7133 3992

**About London Metropolitan University**

London Metropolitan University has a rich history with a strong educational heritage dating back to 1848. The University as it is today was created in 2002 with the merging of London Guildhall University and the University of North London, the first merger between two universities in the UK. Its roots however lie firmly in the nineteenth century, with the establishment of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Young Men in 1848.

At London Metropolitan University we believe that everyone has the right to an accessible quality education. Our students enjoy the highest levels of support and our courses recently received top marks from the UK's Quality Assurance Agency. We are proud of the diversity & achievements of our students, alumni and staff.

Here at London Met we put our students at the centre of all we do. London Met is a great place to study, located in the heart of one of the world's most exciting cities. We stand out because we offer courses of quality, in a vibrant, socially diverse environment, which will help launch your career. We are committed to helping our students build rewarding careers. Courses are designed and updated to be directly relevant to the current employment market.

London Met is as dynamic and multicultural as the city in which it is situated. Here you will meet and work with people from around the world, who will enrich your development and learning. Since our students come from a range of backgrounds, we have always made sure that the education we offer is accessible and flexible.

The University is spread over three campuses with the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Faculty of Life Sciences and Computing based at Holloway Road, the Faculty of Business and Law at Moorgate, and the Sir John Cass Faculty of Art, Architecture and Design close by at Aldgate.

Our students have access to excellent facilities, from the recently refurbished Learning Centre on Holloway Road to the Superlab – a cutting edge science facility with over 280 workstations. New studio spaces were recently installed at The Cass, designed by the Faculty's own Architecture

Research Unit, to create a stimulating working environment for students. Our Business School is home to the innovative IBM and Bloomberg technology suites.

The University also invests in entrepreneurship and innovation. Accelerator, London Met's business incubator, provides space and support for graduate businesses, and has helped over 30 'start-ups' get up and running in the last two years. Located in Shoreditch, London's hotbed of digital enterprise, Accelerator is the only University business incubator in what has become known as 'Tech City.'

We are very proud of the work conducted by our researchers and the impact that London Met research has on society. In the latest Research Assessment Exercise, more than two-thirds of the University's research output was judged to be world leading, internationally excellent or internationally recognised.