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**ABBEYFIELD  
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Thursday 16th November 2023

Dear parents/carers,

This letter is to inform you of an update regarding our approach around Scotopic Sensitivity Screening for students and use of coloured paper in school. Research has shown that the impact of coloured paper for students is limited and that other strategies can be more effective, there are some useful research links available at this website: <https://www.nessy.com/en-gb/dyslexia-explained/understanding-dyslexia/dyslexia-and-vision>

Due to this we have made the decision that we will focus our resources on more learning support interventions and quality first teaching in classrooms instead of screenings and resourcing of coloured paper.

Our advice for any child where it is felt that coloured overlays or tinted glasses are required to support their reading is that they are professionally screened by an optician. We are aware that some opticians in the town do offer Colorimetry testing and can give a formal diagnosis. These include:

- Sheinman Opticians, Abington Street, Northampton
- Eyecare, Kingsthorpe, Northampton

There are also some online websites that can do the same. Both routes would offer your child the option to use coloured glasses that are a specific tint for them and therefore support them with their reading in all areas.

- <https://www.happyeye.co.uk/visual-stress-test-3-w.asp>
- <https://www.readez.co.uk/test-yourself/>

We will continue to offer Dyslexia screenings and support alongside other SEND needs assessments and support for students. We will also offer overlays for students to use who have completed one of the online assessments or have a formal diagnosis and require an overlay to support them with their reading, these will need to be requested through form tutors who will discuss with the SEND department. We will however be moving away from printing on coloured paper for years 7-10 from January 2024. Year 11 will continue to use this until their GCSEs as it is close to exams, and it is their normal way of working.

If you are eligible for pupil premium and require support financially to provide glasses, then school can support with a payment plan. Please contact your child's year team to enquire.

Yours sincerely,

Claudia Cowap-Whiskin  
Assistant Principal