

DYSLEXIA AND ME: Famous people living with dyslexia

What do Thomas Edison, Henry Ford and Steve Jobs have in common? They were all dyslexic! It's possible that better strategic and creative thinking, so common in those with dyslexia, could provide a real business advantage.

Richard Branson, the founder of the Virgin empire says: "I seemed to think in a different way from my classmates. I was very focused on trying to set up a business and create something. My dyslexia guided the way we communicated with customers."

Succeeding with dyslexia

The high levels of creativity often accompanying dyslexia, are evident when you look at the number of successful creatives who have the condition. Many of the world's most creative actors, such as Johnny Depp, Keira Knightly and Orlando Bloom have dyslexia.

Artist Pablo Picasso was described by his teachers as "having difficulty differentiating the orientation of letters". He painted his subjects as he saw them – sometimes out of order, backwards or upside down. His paintings demonstrated the power of his imagination, which was perhaps linked to his inability to see written words properly.

My own creativity was apparent at school - I was the art teacher's favourite and aced Art and Design gaining an A (without really trying!). If we started moving away from the established model of placing so much emphasis on conventional testing in education, we would suddenly notice many more talented individuals just waiting for their chance to shine.

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In this blog series Mamta explores dyslexia and how it's affected her life and career.