**Teaching and supporting Visually Impaired students**

**General information**

* Visually impaired students are not usually totally blind.
* Each visually impaired student has their own needs.
* Allow the student to choose where to sit in the classroom for maximum vision of the board if in use.
* Consider carefully the way that you write on the board and the use of coloured pens. Which is best? Ask the student.
* They are likely to require a certain format or **font size** and style and a specific **coloured background** with any written material they are presented with. It is best to ask the student what they require, so that written handouts can be printed in an appropriate format.
* Students are not be able to obtain a textbook in an enlarged format so it may be necessary to copy and enlarge parts of textbooks if the expectation is for them to read certain parts for homework.
* It is possible to change the background colour on a word document and visually impaired students are likely to know how to do this.
* Similarly if you are presenting a PowerPoint or ‘Pressi on the Smartboard, consider the background colour and the colour of the pen you are using.
* For a visually impaired student who uses technology to access the work, skim reading and finding words may be impossible or very time consuming.

**Use of technology**

* A student may have their own electronic text reader and you may be required to send them your written work electronically in a certain format so that they can listen to it.
* We have a program called ‘Read and Write Gold’ which enables students to hear written texts on a computer. This is available throughout the college. You will be shown how to use it.
* There are other programs such as ‘Jaws’ which greatly enlarge images and text on a computer screen. If a student is using this they will need more time to read and see all the information because they cannot see the whole screen at once.
* Students may bring a Dictaphone or the equivalent to record a lesson.