

## Press Release

Embargo - **11.59pm on 5th September 2018**

### **Scottish Startup launching App to help students tackle presentation fears**

**With the next academic session looming, young entrepreneur Chris Hughes is launching an App to increase support for students with learning differences in higher education.**

- Present Pal launches today on the App Store, Google Play and free for students through the DSA
- The App aims to level the playing field for dyslexic students when faced with the daunting prospect of public speaking.

Freshers week events are about to erupt across the UK, with thousands of prospective students preparing to begin their higher education journey. Universities are busy promoting their exciting events and societies, but perhaps what they are less vocal about is the potentially distressing reality that students will soon have to stand up and present to a room full of their peers and deliver a presentation.

Research has found that graded presentations are a requirement for 93% of students and with a shocking 77% of the general population actively fearing the prospect of public speaking, it is clear that presentation anxiety is a cause for concern. Presentations are especially daunting for those with learning differences, and the panic of trying to read scrawled notes made the night before coupled with the anxiety of public speaking is a real phobia for 86% of dyslexic students.

Present Pal is a presentation support software that helps presenters to deliver a more confident and prepared presentation. It guides users through their presentation with interactive flashcards on their smartphone/tablet, integrating fully with Microsoft PowerPoint.

**Dyslexic student Emily had Present Pal recommended to her through the DSA grant, she said:** "Present Pal has been such a god send for my presentations at uni! And it's been fun to use. Also during my presentation I felt more confident than I ever had before".

The software has various expert-advised features such as pop up bubbles which act like a safety net to store key information and images, helping students like Emily to present confidently to their peers. Users can also personalise Present Pal to suit their individual needs by choosing from colour overlays and fonts to reduce their visual stress whilst presenting.

**DSA Needs Assessor Adam Tweed said:** "Present Pal addresses so many of the anxieties I hear from students when it comes to presenting. It combines recommended techniques such as the use of cue cards, with visual adjustments such as screen tinting and font choice together with easy-to-use presentation control. Its roots may lie with DSA but this is a universally useful solution for anyone who needs to present."

Present Pal, which will be available on the App Store, Google Play and free for students through the Disabled Students Allowance, is launching on the **6th of September**. If you think you may be eligible for the DSA grant, check your eligibility [here](#).

**Founder and CEO Chris Hughes said:** "The idea for Present Pal came about through my own experiences as a dyslexic student, during which I realised that there is no real presentation support available for struggling students. The soft launch of Present Pal has given us an excellent opportunity to refine and revamp the App in time for uni starting. The team and I are really delighted with the final App and can't wait to help as many students as possible. It's great to see all of our hard work finally coming together!".

Visit Present Pal's website to purchase a subscription now <https://subscription.presentpal.co.uk>

## **Notes to Editor**

### **Media Enquiries should be directed to:**

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Press Kit: [www.presentpal.co.uk/press/](http://www.presentpal.co.uk/press/)

**High-resolution Present Pal logos and photographs can be accessed [here](#)**

[Video](#) [Infographic](#)

### **Research Sources**

Estendio research at SECC Freshers Fair 2016 with 130 students

### **About Estendio**

Estendio is a multi-award winning Scottish start-up which was incorporated in November 2014 by 19 year old Chris Hughes. Estendio's mission is to provide software and support applications which allow everyone, regardless of their abilities, to access equal opportunities and thrive in both their academic and professional lives.

**Website:** [www.presentpal.co.uk](http://www.presentpal.co.uk)

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