

# Newsletter Spring Term 2020



Feb 2020

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Now that the Spring term is well and truly in full swing, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the new pupils who have joined us this term. We do hope you enjoy your classes with us!

There is lots of news and information to read, so please take time with a cuppa to read on, in order that you are aware of any changes/news with regard to classes, forthcoming events etc. etc.

**PLEASE DO JOIN US IF YOU CAN** - on Tuesday 4th February for our charity **fundraising Adult Ballet Class!** No experience necessary— just turn up join in and have fun whilst raising money for the mental health charities; 'MIND' and 'YOUNG MINDS' Freman College Gym, at 7.45—8.30pm suggested donation of £5 on the door (NB—the front door to the school will not be open, please use the rear entrance to the gym—pass the swimming pool on your left and follow the path round to the right).

Do get in touch with any questions or queries you may have.

Here's to a fantastic 2020!

Best wishes, Philippa McMeechan



Instagram

Please find us, follow us and like us on Facebook and Instagram

Buntingford School of Dance  
Mitchell School of Dance.

We often post stories and information. Please check us out!

A bit about the exam board we are associated with;



We enter students for OFQUAL accredited examinations with the ISTD. The ISTD is one of the world's leading dance examination boards with the widest range of dance genres available. Standards of training for teachers and examiners are extremely high. Many of the top vocational colleges around the world incorporate the ISTD syllabus and exams into their training for students and for teachers. It is this track record and consistently high standards, that makes it the syllabus and exam board of choice for us in

Buntingford and Stansted. UCAS points are awarded from Grade 6 upwards, and the technical standard and attainment required at Grade 4 upwards, ranks as equivalent to that required of a GCSE.

## More Exam Successes!

A huge **WELL DONE!** To everyone who took exams at the end of last term, all passed in **BALLET, TAP & MODERN** with flying colours! Amazing achievements all round with thoroughly well deserved results! Exams were taken from Primary all the way up to the extremely demanding vocational level Intermediate exam. Thank you to the parents for all their support, as a good result is very much a team effort.

We are often asked about exam entry—Pupils are continuously monitored and are invited by the Principal to enter exams when it is felt they are ready to do so. It does not follow that pupils will always take exams at the same time as others in the class, as individual progress varies. An exam entered before a student is ready can result in a poor mark or a fail, which can put a child off dancing for life. No student should ever feel under pressure to enter an exam, and once exam standard is achieved, a student may move up to the next level rather than taking an exam, if they so choose.

**WELCOME MISS DAWN** We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Dawn Baker who joins our teaching staff this term. Dawn will be teaching the Modern and Tap classes on Tuesdays. Dawn has a wealth of experience in dance teaching, with proven results. We are looking forward to having you on board Miss Dawn.

Our Primary candidates taking their first Ballet Exam!



THE WORLD'S BIGGEST DANCE EVENT  
**MOVE IT**  
13-15 MARCH 2020 EXCEL LONDON



Move It is a great day out! So many performances to see and workshops to take part in! Former pupil, and our Saturday ballet assistant teacher Josie will be performing on the main stage on Saturday and Sunday with Bodywork Co. This exhibition is a great day out for

anyone with an interest in dance, and particularly for anyone hoping to go on to train vocationally, as most of the big colleges have stands / will be performing there.

**Summer Arts Festival—Buntingford, 19—21 June 2020** We have been invited to take part in the Summer Arts Festival, and perform on the stage. More details will follow. Classes will be selected to take part and we will notify those in the next couple of weeks. Please hold the date and come and support us!

**Cecchetti Choreographic Competition SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2020, CECIL SHARP HOUSE, LONDON, NW1 7AY**

As an alternative to our in-house choreographic competition, we are offering students a fantastic opportunity to take part on a 'larger stage'! Our pupils have had so many of their own wonderful choreography ideas over the years, that we would like to encourage any student who is keen to enter this national competition, against other budding choreographers. Please contact us if you would like to take part and we will send an application form.

## PUPIL NEWS

Well Done to; Chloe Hall and Caitie March, who represented the school admirably as part of the cast of the Hertford Theatre Panto. The Snow Queen, over Christmas!

Olivia Dyson took the lead role in the Broxbourne Theatre Co. production of Puss in Boots at the Spotlight Theatre—Congratulations Olivia!

Orla Swan has successfully auditioned for roles in the Chelmsford Ballet Co production in March.

Former pupil Jasper Eaglesfield (who has arranged our show music many times!) has been awarded a scholarship at The Royal College of Music. An amazing achievement! Jasper will be studying for a music degree specializing in composing and we wish him the best of luck!

## The Nutcracker—December 2019

What an inspiring trip to watch English National Ballet dance The Nutcracker at the London Coliseum in December. A really great way to round off the year. Clara, The Sugar Plum Fairy and the Prince were all wonderful dancers and our older students really enjoyed watching a friend who is in her last year at Central School of Ballet and was selected to take part in the performance! A very good example of what can happen with hard work and perseverance. A great evening out! Where shall our next trip be?...



## Aspire!

After 2 years of running our *Aspire!* scheme we are delighted with the results! *Aspire!* is a scheme on offer to all pupils who wish to challenge themselves further. The scheme gives pupils the opportunity to take an additional higher level class in any genre, with the aim of progressing quicker, and at a pace they set for themselves. The scheme is open to any pupil in Ballet, Tap and Modern classes who is interested in taking an additional class in any of the genres they currently take, the idea being they would take classes at both their current grade and the grade above. If your child would like to attend an *Aspire!* class in any genre please let us know, or if you have any questions, please do get in touch.

**SATURDAY MORNING TEA & CAKE** Once again a HUGE THANK YOU to the volunteers who make cakes on Saturday mornings at Freman. All proceeds go to the costume fund for the next show. So please do eat and drink as much as you like!! We are asking everyone to now **BRING YOUR OWN TRAVEL MUG**, and help yourself to tea and coffee as usual. This will help us cut down on unnecessary expenditure on disposable cups (which could go towards costumes) and of course will be more environmentally friendly. Many thanks everyone, particularly our fantastic cake bakers!

**DATES FOR THE NEXT SHOW!!** Please hold **Sat 27th and Sun 28th March 2021, AND the w/c Monday 22nd March for after school rehearsals**—exact days to be confirmed nearer the time. Some students may be needed in February half-term, tbc

## **New Ballet Leotard— Grade 5 Upwards...**

Apologies for the delay in getting this out to everyone. Having chosen a style which everyone seemed to really like, and was within a reasonable budget, we have heard that the manufacturer may be phasing it out!! This is rather frustrating, as we had sized most people, but we obviously need to make sure we can guarantee supply— we will update everyone asap and choose a new style if necessary.

### **A Few Reminders:**

A big thank you to everyone who pays their class fees on time—this is very much appreciated. Please may I remind everyone that if a student wishes to change classes/ stop a particular class, then notice must be received in writing (please do not just mention it to the class teacher) PRIOR to the start date of the BSD half-term. Please note start date of the BSD half-term may not be the same as the date of your child's first class of the half-term. E.g. If we start back on a Monday then notice must be given no later than 5pm the Sunday, even if your child does not have their first class until the Friday of that week. If notice is not received in writing then a half-terms fees are payable. Please keep a copy of the written notice sent, as occasionally we have found that, particularly with emails, they have not arrived or have ended up in junk, which can cause misunderstanding. Therefore please follow the following steps; 1) Ensure you receive a reply from us to acknowledge your email and 2) Keep a copy in this case we need to refer back to the original. If an original dated copy cannot be produced then fees become payable. Full terms and conditions are on our website.

**ACCESS AND USE OF FREMAN COLLEGE** – We are very lucky to be able to hire the facilities at Freman College for some of our classes. Please could we remind everyone of the following;

Please ALWAYS access Freman College via the path up past the Swimming Pool and Tennis Courts and through the door to the Gym Corridor and across the paved area to the Pavilion. Under NO circumstances use the main school entrance or other entrances to enter or leave the building.

All pupils and parents must remain in designated areas if waiting during classes - Designated areas are The Gym Corridor, The Pavilion & Changing Rooms, Please DO NOT use the Hall, Main Foyer or Dining Room.

Please ensure pupils bring enough to drink if staying for several classes as pupils should not be using the dining room water cooler to refill water bottles (there are school events in the dining room sometimes which prevent this).

Thank you all very much for your cooperation!

## **General Uniform Reminders**

Please make sure that your child arrives to his/her class in the correct dance uniform.

Girls in Primary ballet and above, should come to the class with their hair in a ballet bun if long enough—please ask your class teacher if you are not sure how to do this. Scrunchies, donuts, and coloured hair clips are not part of the uniform.

Hair should be tied back neatly in all other classes. Please note that plain black socks should be worn in Tap, and in Modern classes in the pavilion where shoes must be worn