

UPPER, LOWER AND ADULT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017

Dear Parent / Guardian or Student,

Firstly, we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the second hand uniform sale on Saturday 16th September by donating, buying or selling. It was our most successful sale to date and helped many parents with their uniform needs, as well as raising £509.50 for Demelza hospice care for children. Demelza hospice care for children help to make life better for babies, children and young people who have life-threatening or life limiting conditions. They also provide valuable support to their families. We will announce our next second hand uniform sale shortly.

Secondly, if you are already thinking of Christmas presents for your budding young dancer then we would highly recommend tickets to go and see "My First Ballet; Swan Lake". Performed by second year students of English National Ballet School, "My First Ballet; Swan Lake" is a stunningly adapted version of Swan Lake, making it accessible for children aged 3 years upwards. This is a great opportunity to introduce your child (and family!) to the magic of seeing ballet live on stage. This might be of particular interest to all those children who are in Preparatory dance and tap and are following the Swan Lake story this term. Tickets go on sale from 4th November for priority booking and 6th November for general booking. The London performance dates are 29th March - 7th April at the Peacock Theatre, London. For more information please visit: <https://www.ballet.org.uk/production/my-first-ballet-swan-lake/>

Thirdly, please note that from tomorrow (**Saturday 14th October**), between 4:15pm and 6:15pm, the lessons in Studios 1 and 2 are swapping studios.

For information about SLDS relating to autumn term 2017 and spring term 2018, please read below and attached, thank you . . .

Autumn term feedback day - Sunday 3rd December

The sheet on which to sign up to see a teacher will be placed on the notice board in the waiting room on **Monday 20th November**. You need to know the name(s) of your child's teacher(s) - if you do not know who your child's teacher is then please ask them / the teaching assistant when you collect your child rather than emailing the office. Please sign under YOUR CHILD'S name (not your name). Slots are limited to ONE slot per child, so you will need to choose which teacher you most wish to see if your child has more than one teacher; this includes telephone bookings for those teachers who are doing feedback via telephone.

Please note; parents / guardians who booked a slot and did not attend feedback day last term (Sunday 25th June) and did not contact us to let us know should NOT sign up for this feedback day.

Invoices for spring term 2018

Your invoice for classes starting in January 2018 (spring term) will be emailed to you on 20th November to the email address that you have provided for us. If you have not provided us with an email address or we receive a bounce back from the address you have provided, it will be necessary for us to post your invoice to you for which you will be charged £5.00 which will be automatically added to your invoice. The deadline to pay will be **Saturday 16th December**.

If you do not receive your invoice by one week before the end of term, you should contact the office by email straight away so that it can be resent and so that you can meet the end of term payment deadline. It is the full responsibility of the parent / student to ensure they have received and paid their invoice before the end of each term for classes the subsequent term and if payment is not made by the deadline, late payment fees will apply as clause 10 of SLDS Terms and Conditions.

Once you have received your invoice, it is usually not possible to change classes for the following term and for this reason, we ask that parents read below about leaving the school or asking to change any classes for next term.

Notice of leaving the school or request to change classes for next term

Please find attached the timetable for next term (spring term 2018). The only change to the current timetable is that the Wednesday 8:00pm Senior body conditioning (b) class will be move to the slightly later time of 8:15-9:15pm. Also, we have added a new adult beginners tap class (more information is below about this class).

Lower school parents - please make sure you check the timetable for class scheduling at your child's current *and at the next level* because our lower school students can be moved up at any point in the academic year according to their teachers assessment of their ability and progress. To find out your child's next level, you can refer to attached 'SLDS Progression Through Levels'

If your child will not able to attend his / her classes next term at the *current* or at the *next level* for any reason, then notice of leaving must be given to us by email or in writing on or before **Sunday 22nd October** otherwise fees would be payable in accordance with our school Terms and Conditions. Wherever possible we will make every effort to find a solution and accommodate your needs as we hope all of our students will want to continue learning dance with us next term and in future.

We recognise that some parents / guardians may require feedback or further information on possible classes for the next term in order to decide whether or not they wish their child to continue classes in the autumn term. As the feedback day is *after* the date for giving notice of leaving, we are providing an extra date for communication which is specifically for parents who are in this situation.

I will be available in person in the office or by telephone on **Wednesday 18th October 4 - 6pm** or **KATIE Thursday 19th October 4pm - 6pm**. Please call or drop in during this period should you require information on classes before the deadline for giving notice of leaving the school or changing classes for next term. ***Please note: we are only able to give advice regarding classes your child could progress to for the following term, we would be unable to provide specific feedback relating to your child in class or comment on if your child is moving up.***

Security at SLDS

In the interests of security it is of the utmost importance that parents and students are vigilant when it comes to who is following them into the SLDS premises. Please **DO NOT** let anyone in who does not have a child participating in dance classes and if you see anyone in the building who is acting suspiciously to let a teacher or the office staff know immediately. We have noticed on a Saturday that the back doors aren't being fully shut when people are entering and exiting, so please do make sure these are firmly closed behind you.

Lost Property

The uniform and non-uniform lost property buckets in the waiting room will be emptied (for charity shop / second hand uniform sales) over the half term break. So, if you think you may have lost anything at the studios, please ensure you collect it before the half term break.

Uniform and hair notes

PANTS - please, no pants underneath pink ballet dresses and any leotard, biketard or catsuit - they look unsightly and spoil the line of the body.

HAIR BUNS FOR ALL GIRLS IN PP1 BALLET (I) PLUS - all girls attending PP1 ballet (I) plus with hair long enough to tie back will need their hair in a bun. We also hope you enjoyed last week's bun demonstrations. Having a neat bun for their classes will stop their hair from falling out or having wispy ends hanging in front of their faces. This will hopefully stop them from getting distracted by their hair but also help them feel special and like they are real dancers which always has a positive effect on their work. If you are still struggling with how to do a correct bun then the teachers and teaching assistants are on hand to help you. We really hope everyone can cooperate as correct grooming and presentation is an important part of learning ballet!

Last chance to order a lovely new SLDS sweater!

It is not too late to order a new SLDS sweater. If you would still like to purchase one please hand a form (attached) in to the office with the correct change by **Friday 20th October**.

Adult classes new and existing for next term

We do plan to start new beginner's adult tap classes in January 2018. **We only start new beginner's classes approximately every three years, so if you're interested, email jen@southlondondancestudios.co.uk asap to get more information / book your place.** If you have already contacted Jen to express your interest, then you do not need to do so again and we look forward to welcoming you into your new class in January for getting fit in the New Year!

The main aspects of our adult classes are doing some exercise whilst having fun and meeting new people. In our beginners tap classes, basic tap technique and steps are taught and put together in sequences to various different types of music. Rhythm and coordination improve as well as physical stamina and control. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible and I will then send information on how to enrol and pay towards the end of this term.

For January, we will also be taking complete beginners into our Adult ballet (I) class on a Wednesday 8.30 -9.30pm and our adult jazz/street/modern class on a Tuesday 8.30 -9.30pm. Our adult classes are open to all ages!

In our Adult ballet (I) class, posture, strength and flexibility are improved through learning ballet basics. Body conditioning exercises and technical ballet movements are taught, and balance, control and coordination are developed.

Our Adult jazz/street/modern class is a general level class and the teacher adapts the routines to suit individuals, so this class is suitable for all levels (except professional level). This class includes a thorough warm up, stretching and strengthening work followed by practicing different dance movements and ultimately learning a few routines of contrasting modern dance styles over the term.

Please do get in touch if you would like to register your interest in joining one of our adult classes!

Adult students Christmas get together - Sunday 10th December from 6pm*

* please note time change from previous newsletter

We would like to invite all of our adult students to the adult Christmas get together on **Sunday 10th December from 6pm at the studios**. Partners / family / friends are all welcome too. Each class will perform a short something they have learnt during the term - nothing difficult! There will then be a party afterwards in the studios (please feel free to bring some nibbles / drinks with you - alcohol included!) This is purely for fun and we want you to enjoy yourself, so please don't feel nervous or any pressure to participate (I think the teachers also enjoy putting something together and seeing their students perform!) This is also a good opportunity to see what happens in the other adult dance classes and to meet our other adult students!

Best Wishes,

www.southlondondancestudios.co.uk