



SPRING TERM 2ND COMBINED NEWSLETTER

5TH FEBRUARY 2018

Dear Parent / Guardian or Student,

We hope you are having an enjoyable start to spring term 2018! We are very pleased to tell you the two most recent second hand uniform sales have raised a staggering £1,000.00 for Demelza House charity, so we would like to say a huge thank you to all those who have helped and supported the second hand uniform sales, and of course a special thank you goes to Ros as chief organiser! The next sale will be at the start of next term; on **Saturday 21st April 10.30am-1.30pm** in the waiting room. For further news and information about the rest of this term and summer term 2018, please read below . . .

New timetable for next term (summer term 2018, commencing 16th April)

Please find attached the **timetable** for classes next term (summer term 2018) i.e. commencing after the Easter break. The consequence of a large examination session (such as we have this term) and many of our 700+ students moving levels, is that it becomes necessary to adjust the timetable to avoid clashes between lessons and to accommodate all of our students in suitable classes. Therefore, you will notice a lot of changes to both the weekday and Saturday lesson days and times.

You will also find attached '**Progression Through Levels at SLDS**'. On this document, you should look for your child's **current level** for each genre and also check the name of their **next level** in case they are asked to move up next term (and in the case of children taking an examination, you can be certain that they will move up next term). Then you can look at the **timetable** to check the day and time of classes for your child at both their **current level** (not necessary if your child is taking an examination this term) and the **next level**.

For example; if your child is currently in Nursery 2 then you need to check ALL of the Nursery 2 and Preparatory dance & tap classes that we offer on a Saturday to make sure you could attend each of them.

It is necessary to check that your child would be able to attend all of the classes being offered next term at *both levels* because your first notification of your child's class for the next term will be on your invoice, and at that point it is usually too late to move classes and the deadline to give notice of leaving the school will have passed.

Please note; even if your child was moved up to the next level at the start of the current term, if they have progressed well so far, this term then they may be moved up again for next term. Children can remain in a lower school level from one to four terms

After referring to both attachments and reading the additional information below, if you notice any issues with your child's timetable for next term, in particular any clash between dance genres, or need further advice, then please contact me by email.

Unfortunately, I am not able to deal with enquiries about the new timetable solely by telephone as it's important that we have a communication trail.

We sincerely hope that it will not be necessary to make changes to this timetable and therefore, that this is the final version. However, if we are notified that a number of students have clashes between lessons, it may be necessary to release a second

amended version after half term. We are not, however, in a position to be able to adjust the timetable if you find you / your child are unable to attend lessons next term due to clashes with other commitments.

Notes about the new timetable

INFORMATION FOR SATURDAY CHILDREN

- The entire Saturday timetable has been changed due to trying to improve timings for some children and provide enough space for examination children. This will open up more space for our lower school students and due to this we intend to move up a large number of our Saturday children to the next level next term.
- If your child is already in Preparatory dance & tap, and you have a strong preference for either the Pre-Primary (1a) (yellow) classes or the (1b) (green) classes, then please ensure you make your request before half term. We cannot guarantee to accommodate your request but will do our best. If we do not hear from you then your child will be allocated to either the (a) or (b) classes depending on space available.
- Any child with a break on a Saturday 4.30-4.45pm will be supervised by a teaching assistant. The 15 min breaks for the red and magenta sets of classes will also be supervised by a teaching assistant. Any other break on a Saturday will not be supervised.
- Any child with a break on a Saturday 4.30-4.45pm will be supervised by a teaching assistant. The 15 min breaks for the red and magenta sets of classes will also be supervised by a teaching assistant. Any other break on a Saturday will not be supervised.

INFORMATION FOR WEEKDAY UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Tuesday Pre-Primary 2 ballet has moved to the earlier time of 4.15-5.00pm, which we hope you will agree is a better time for children of this age. We hope all of the children who are currently in this class and not taking their examination, and those children will be moving into this class can make it in time from school.
- Children in Friday Primary Ballet and National will have a 30-minute break between classes which will not be supervised. We suggest the relevant parents get together to organise a supervision schedule to save all of you from having to wait every week.
- Grade 3 ballet will be on a Tuesday and Wednesday, and not on a Monday or Friday.
- Grade 3 tap (I) and (II) will be on a Tuesday instead of a Monday.
- Students taking Grade 5 tap will go straight into Intermediate tap on a Tuesday.
- Grade 4 ballet will be split into Standard 4 and Grade 4 on a Wednesday only - we will contact the relevant parents later this week to let them know in which class their child will be placed and to give more information about 'Standard' ISTD syllabus and examinations.
- Intermediate Foundation National will not be offered, therefore the highest National grade we will offer is Grade 4.

- Students who learn pointe will be allocated two classes per week, depending on their availability based on the rest of the dance schedule.
- Not all students in Grade 2, 3 & 4 modern (I) will move up to the level (II) classes - this will be by assessment by the Principal later this term, so I will not be able to advise on this at this time. Likewise, children will be assessed with regard to moving up to the next level in Thursday commercial / street classes. The appropriate Thursday modern & commercial / street classes will be detailed on your invoice. Inevitably, some children will have breaks between their modern and commercial / street classes on a Thursday which will not be supervised.
- Students in Grade 5 modern (I) and (II) and Grade 6 modern, will need to attend a second modern class per week if they wish to work towards their Grade 5 modern examination. The second class will be on a Tuesday evening.
- Students in Advanced 1 modern unfortunately cannot attend Level 5 commercial / street as there is a clash.
- We will have two Wednesday Senior Body Conditioning classes and students in Grade 4 ballet / Grade 5 modern plus will be allocated to the classes depending on their other lessons during the evening and available spaces in each class.
- Dan would like to increase Thursday Boys Street (II) to a 60-minute class instead of 45 mins. Please let me know your thoughts on this and we will go with the majority vote - katie@southlondondanceschool.co.uk
- We are reintroducing a Primary tap class on a Wednesday and we would like to encourage those boys in Wednesday Grade 1 modern and Boys Street (I) to start this genre to improve their sense of timing and rhythm. Please contact katie@southlondondanceschool.co.uk to book.
- Thursday Junior Funky Moves will be 45 minutes instead of 30 minutes which, we hope you agree, will be much better.

INFORMATION FOR ADULT STUDENTS

- As we are starting another new beginners tap class, you will notice that your existing tap class will be called one level higher. Your class will remain on the same day as current unless your teacher has discussed with you about moving to another level.
- Please note from summer term the adult tap (i) on Wednesday (changing to adult tap (ii) next term) will change to an hour instead of 45minutes and start at 8.45pm.
- You will also note the following time changes to these adult classes for next term; Tuesday adult jazz/street/modern will now be at 8.45 -9.45pm and the Monday adult ballet will now start at 8.30 and finish at 9.45pm.

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

If your child will not be able to attend his / her classes next term at the *current* or at the *next level* for any reason (i.e. due to our timetable changes or any personal circumstance) then notice of leaving must be given to us by email or in writing on or before **Saturday 10th February**. Please ensure you contact me to give notice or ask to change classes by this date to avoid incurring any fee for next term as per our school Terms and Conditions *. 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.

Please do not assume that we have received your email; it is your responsibility to ensure you receive response from us before the deadline for notice of leaving.

However, we recognise that some parents / guardians may require feedback or further information on the possible classes for the next term in order to decide whether or not they wish their child to continue classes in the summer 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. Myself / Miss Carla (our examinations administrator) will be available in person in the office or by telephone on **Tuesday 6th February 4.00-7.45pm** or **Jen will be in the office Wednesday 7th February 4pm - 7.45pm**. Please call or drop in during this period to talk to us (US letter), should you require information on classes before the deadline for giving notice of leaving the school or changing classes for next term. *Please note: as administrators, 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's performance in class, or comment on whether or not your child is moving up (excluding children taking examinations who will move up).*

*** Terms and Conditions relating to invoicing and giving notice of leaving / changing classes**

11. If you intend to withdraw yourself or your child from SLDS or change any class(es) that you or your child undertakes, **a minimum of half a term's notice (with the notice being received in writing (letter or email to the relevant Administrator is acceptable) on or before the last day of the first half of the term)** and the withdrawal or change will take effect from the beginning of the next term.
12. Withdrawal from or changes to classes you are / your child is signed up for may only take effect at the **start of each term**. Please note that where a parent / student gives notice of their intention to withdraw from or change classes **at any time after the last day of the first half of the term in any given term**, that notice will only take effect from the start of the second term following that notice and you will be invoiced and liable to pay for the relevant classes for the full duration of the first term following the notice. For children in Melody Movement, Nursery and Preparatory dance and tap classes, you will be liable to pay a £30 fee to contribute towards the administration involved in filling your child's space at a later stage.
13. **For the avoidance of doubt: there is no right to withdraw or change classes midway through a term – if you give notice of your intention to withdraw or change class bookings during the half term break, during the second half of any term or at the end of term or during the holidays, this notice will not take effect until one full term later.**
14. If you wish to make a request in advance for preferred class(es) (at the existing or at the next level) for the next term, **a minimum of half a term's notice (with the request being received in writing (letter or email to the relevant Administrator is acceptable) on or before the last day of the first half of the term)** and we will accommodate the request as soon as possible.

REQUESTS ALREADY SENT TO US TO CHANGE CLASSES NEXT TERM

If you have already sent in a request regarding classes next term, please email me immediately if you no longer want us to try to accommodate your request, otherwise I will do my best to accommodate your request. Note that it is very likely that once I have accommodated your request, it would not be possible to move your child back to the original class(es). Also, if you notice that the changes to the timetable for next term have affected a request you have already made, please contact me at the earliest opportunity possible, and **before half term**, so that we can try to find a solution.

Invoices for classes next term

Your invoice for classes in summer term 2018 will be emailed to you **by Friday 16th March** 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 the last day of this term; **Thursday 29th March**.

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 and for this reason, we ask parents to refer to the information within this letter and attached documents.

Reminder of term dates

NEXT TERM - SUMMER TERM 2018 DATES (12 weeks)

Monday 16th April - Friday 25th May

Half term - Saturday 26th to Friday 1st June

Saturday 2nd June - Saturday 14th July

NOTE - classes ARE taking place on bank holiday Monday 7th May

Parents watching week - week 5 - Monday 14th - Saturday 19th May inc

Summer term feedback day - TBC

Acting classes - 29th April, 6th, 13th & 20th May, 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th June, 1st July - dress rehearsal at studios

Acting classes play rehearsal in theatre and performance - Saturday 7th / Sunday 8th July TBC on venue

AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK - AUTUMN TERM 2018 DATES (12 weeks)

Monday 10th September - Saturday 20th October

Half term - Sunday 21st October to Sunday 4th November (2 weeks but 3 Sunday's)

Monday 5th November - Saturday 15th December

Autumn term feedback day - TBC

Acting class dates - TBC

Sunday examination practises - 30th September, 7th & 14th October, 11th, 18th & 25th November, 2nd December

Provisional examination dates - Monday 3rd - Sunday 9th December

Another new adult beginner tap class starting next term!

We had such demand for our beginner's adult tap class which started in January and has had rave reviews (!) that we plan to start another beginners class next term. The class will be on a **Monday evening 8.30-9.30pm**.

The main aspects of our adult tap 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're interested, email jen@southlondondancestudios.co.uk asap to book your place.

Spring Term 2018 feedback day - Sunday 18th March

The sheet on which to sign up to see a teacher will be placed on the notice board in the waiting room two weeks prior to feedback day i.e. it will be put up on **Monday 5th March**. 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.

Please note; parents / guardians who booked a slot and did not attend feedback day last term (**Sunday 10th December**) and did not contact us to let us know should NOT sign up for this feedback day.

SLDS play performance - Sunday 8th July

Our acting classes will be presenting two short plays on **Sunday 8th July (6pm ish)** at the brand-new Streatham Space Project - <https://www.streathamspaceproject.co.uk/> We are very excited to be using this new venue for our first ever plays to be performed! We very much hope that many of you will be able to come and watch to show your support. Information about tickets will be released nearer the time, so please keep this date free!

For children who are in our acting classes; a letter will be sent out just after half term with more information about rehearsals, cost to participate etc. We are trying to keep costs to an absolute minimum so that as many children as possible can be involved.

Diary reminder - Presentation of Class Work 2019

Please keep your diary clear for our **February 2019** Presentation of Class Work to be performed at Langley Park Boys School in Beckenham. We are still confirming dates, so please keep ALL of the following dates available if your child would like to participate:

Sunday 27th January

Sunday 3rd February

Saturday 9th February

Sunday 10th February

Sunday 17th February

More information will follow, but briefly:

All children who have reached examination standard by December 2018 will be eligible to take part i.e.

- children in Saturday Primary modern (III), or weekday Primary modern and who are taking their examination in December 2018, and all modern levels upwards
- children in Saturday Pre-Primary 2 ballet (II) or weekday Pre-Primary 2 ballet, and all ballet levels upwards
- children in Saturday or weekday Primary tap, and all tap levels upwards
- children in all National, Commercial / street and Contemporary classes

Our Presentation of Class Work is an excellent opportunity for children to perform on stage in front of family and friends. Each group presents a dance or exercise that they have learnt in class for their examination. As the Presentation of Class Work is a lesser commitment than our full-scale shows (both financially and time-wise), we do hope all of our eligible students will participate to benefit from the on-stage experience. For example, there are no costumes as there are for our full-scale productions, instead children wear SLDS uniform as required for examinations and their SLDS sweater. In order for the show to be able to take place, as usual, we will need one parent / guardian per child participating to chaperone.

If you think your child would like to participate in this event then please make sure you keep the relevant dates free. Please bear in mind that Sunday 17th February is likely to be the first weekend of half term for the majority of students, so be aware of this when booking a ski break for example!

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 end of term.

Reminders for when you are at the studios

USE OF STAFF CAR PARK AT REAR OF STUDIOS

This is a polite reminder that parents may NOT park in this area. Firstly, it is permitted for use only by staff by Lambeth Council, and secondly, it would be extremely dangerous to have lots of cars manoeuvring around the tight space when children are exiting the building. Please respect this policy for the safety of all of our students and families. Unfortunately, going forwards, it will be necessary to ask the children of parents who do not respect this rule to leave the school with immediate effect. Thank you for your cooperation with this important matter.

ENTERING AND EXITING THE BUILDING

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 come 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.

When you leave the building, please remember that you must exit through the back door of the studios onto Milkwood Road.

Exiting out of the front door creates congestion and can be dangerous for young children who are going in and out of classes in studio 1. The only situation that we will allow students to exit out of the front door is late in the evening when it is dark and students leave the premises by themselves and in the interests of personal safety, they feel exiting through the front is preferable.

BUGGIES / SCOOTERS ETC

Please leave buggies and scooters at the outside at side of the studios where the buggy / bike hoops are located (bring your own lock if necessary) as it's really dangerous to carry them with you, or leave them unattended around the building.

CHANGING YOUR CHILD

Please don't change your child or stop to put on their shoes anywhere other than the designated changing rooms - EVEN IF YOU ARE LATE. It is extremely dangerous for your own child and others. This includes the downstairs disabled toilet as teachers constantly need access to the props and boiler cupboard for heating control which is inside. On a Saturday, if you bring your child already in his / her dance uniform then it is acceptable to remove coat & outdoor shoes and slip ballet shoes on when they are lining up for their class as long as they stay close to the corridor walls so that they are safe from people passing by. This may save the need for some parents and children to use the changing room upstairs and thus ease people flow around the building.

Grade 3 plus modern, footwear option

We mentioned in the January newsletter that we have noticed that some children in modern lessons are struggling with sliding / turning movements due to having sticky feet. As a solution we are now allowing children in Grade 3 modern and above the option of wearing 'foot thongs'. The style of foot thong we recommend is by Bloch foot thong 3 (code: S0675):

<http://uk.blochworld.com/product/S0675L>

or

http://www.movedancewear.com/dance_shoes_contemporary_shoes-bloch_foot_thong_3/2043/?sku=BL%20S0675LBSEM&gclid=Cj0KCQiA4bzSBRDOARIsAHJ1UO6j32mLxY-I_LH3FGEknacvWDsFOYetdKr09mNZ3oQ6dzYgMYgsIKUaAuu2EALw_wcB

Ordering a National skirt

For those students who are taking examinations or have grown out of their National skirt, this is a reminder to make sure you order a new National skirt if you need one. You can order your own National skirt online using the information that I sent to you on 26th January, or you can use this link:

<http://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/National-Skirt-Order-Form-050218.pdf>

Catsuits - order deadline is THIS Wednesday

The deadline for ordering purple catsuits for girls in Grade 3 modern (II) plus is **Wednesday 7th February**. Note - children in Grade 3 modern (I) do not need purple catsuits. I sent the information by email on 29th January, or you can use this link:

<http://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Purple-Catsuit-Order-Information-05022018.pdf>

Finally, good luck to . . .

Miss Caroline who will be leaving us at the end of this term to have a baby. Another SLDS baby (!) is such wonderful news and we'd like to wish Miss Caroline and her husband, joy and happiness with their new addition to the family. We'd also like to thank Miss Caroline for all her hard work over the years; she has been a fantastic teacher here and we will really miss her.

Miss Georgina, one of our Saturday teachers, is running this year's London Marathon for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which grants wishes to terminally ill children. This is Miss Georgina's first marathon, so we are incredibly proud of her efforts and would like to wish her good luck, "Go Miss Georgina!" If you would like to support Miss Georgina and raise money for a great charity then please do sponsor her: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/georgina-chew>

Also, good luck to the students who have been selected to audition on 18th February for the children's acting agency. We hope your audition goes well.

Thank you for reading - if you have any queries, then please don't hesitate to contact me. Please remember that half term is **Sunday 11th February to Sunday 18th February inc** and there will not be any classes during this period. We hope you have a fantastic rest of term!

Best Wishes,
Katie

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