



**SOUTH  
LONDON  
DANCE  
SCHOOL**

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## LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

6<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We hope you have had a great start to spring term 2019! Firstly, massive congratulations to all of our Upper School students who took their dance examinations last term. The results are excellent and the teachers are very proud. You can view all of the results on our website or on the noticeboard in the waiting room.

Secondly, we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone, especially Ros as chief organiser, who supported the recent second hand uniform sale by donating, buying or selling. This sale raised a whopping £632.50 for Demelza hospice care for children. Demelza 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. The next uniform sale will be at the start of next term, date to be confirmed, so please keep hold of any items that are too small for your child until nearer the date.

### Your child's class(es) after Easter

As you should be aware from 29<sup>th</sup> November email which included a letter from the School Principal, Miss Zoe, commencing this September, we will be changing our programme so that we have annual examinations rather than holding them every 2 terms. This change has been made so that the focus of each summer term can be working towards an external performance. Due to this, progression through the ISTD graded levels will be slower for the majority of children. As explained in the letter, we do not anticipate this to be an issue because all of our students have excellent dance technique and do not need to rush through the grades.

As our students will be progressing more slowly through the ISTD grades, we are going to be making some minor changes to the number of levels currently existing in our Lower School so that all of the children will be at the right level when they reach the most appropriate age for their first dance examinations. Also, as we make this transition into our new annual programme, it will be necessary for us to move up some of our Lower School children into higher levels more quickly than usual.

**This means that it is likely to be recommended for your child to move up to the next level of classes both next term (summer 2019) AND the following term (autumn 2019).**

#### FURTHER INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF WEEKDAY CHILDREN

As your child may be moved to the next level of classes next term, please bear this in mind when looking at the attached Timetable and 'Progression Through Levels' document for next term as your child may be moved up to the next level sooner than you were perhaps expecting. Therefore, please take the time to make sure your child would be able to attend all of the classes at both the *current* and *next level*. 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 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\*.

## FURTHER INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF SATURDAY CHILDREN

We are still in the process of finalising the adjusted Saturday morning timetable for next term taking into account the need for many children to move up to the next level. We anticipate that there will be minor changes to the times of some Saturday morning classes but with all Melody Movement, Nursery 1, Nursery 2 and Preparatory classes remaining on a Saturday morning. We will send out the final Saturday timetable as soon as it is completed next week.

In the meantime, if you have other commitments on a Saturday morning which would mean you would not be available to attend classes at any time during the morning then please let me know before Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February so that I can try to take into account your request when allocating children to classes for next term. It is important you let me know your availability by this date as after 16<sup>th</sup> February, 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 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\*. Thank you very much for your kind cooperation as we make this one-off transition to our new annual system.

### \* 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.

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.

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

## Invoices for classes next term

Your invoice for classes in summer term 2019 will be emailed to you **by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March** to the email address that you have provided for us. Please note that your invoice email will be sent from a different address to this one:

lowerschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk

The deadline to pay will be the last day of this term; **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April**.

If you do not receive your invoice by one week before the end of term, you should contact me 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 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.

## Dates

### **THIS TERM (SPRING TERM 2019) DATES (12 weeks)**

*Half term - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February*

#### **Term ends on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

Spring term feedback day - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March (please see below for teacher's availability)

Class observation week for Nursery, Preparatory and Pre-Primary 1 (I) classes only - w/c 25<sup>th</sup> March

Workshop - Matilda and Fame - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March (see below)

### **SUMMER TERM 2019 DATES (12 weeks)**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May** (*classes will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May*)

*Half term - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May*

#### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

Summer term feedback day - TBC

Acting class dates - TBC

Class observation week for Pre-Primary 1 ballet (II), Pre-Primary tap (II) & Primary modern (II) plus - 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May, Sat 1<sup>st</sup> June & Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Dulwich Fair performance - Level 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and boys (II) commercial / street classes to perform - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May - time tbc

Class observation week for Nursery, Preparatory and Pre-Primary 1 (I) classes only - w/c 1<sup>st</sup> July

Provisional examination dates - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> July - all dates tbc

Summer School - 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> August

### **AUTUMN TERM 2019 (12 weeks)**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

*Half term - Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November (2 weeks off but 3 Saturdays off)*

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

## Feedback Day

Please see below for feedback opportunities this term with your child's teacher:

### **SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**Miss Chloe** - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 10.00-12.00pm

**Miss Ellie** - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 10.00-12.00pm

**Miss Emma** - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 12.30-1.30pm

### **SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**Miss Pippa** - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am - 11.00am

**Miss Taylor** - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 10.00-12.00pm

**Miss Jennifer** - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am - 12.00pm

**Mr Tony** - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 10.00-12.00pm

**Miss Zoe** - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2.00pm - 3.30pm (if you wish to meet Miss Zoe but she does not teach your child then please email me at least 3 days beforehand so that I can let her know the nature of your enquiry)

The sheet on which to sign up to see a teacher will be placed on the notice board in the waiting room on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March**.

- **PLEASE PUT THE NAME OF YOUR CHILD (NOT YOUR NAME) AND PLEASE ONLY SIGN UP FOR ONE SLOT PER CHILD EVEN IF YOUR CHILD HAS MORE THAN ONE TEACHER.**

- Please make sure you make a note of the slot for which you have signed up and remember to attend otherwise it's a waste of teachers' time and may mean another parent needlessly misses out.
- Feedback day slots are not available to those children who will not be attending the school next term except in exceptional circumstances. Please contact me if you are leaving the school but wish to ask for feedback.
- As feedback places are limited and booked on a first come first served basis, if it is very important to you that you obtain a feedback slot, you should ensure that you visit the studios as soon as the signup sheet is put up in order to sign up as we cannot accept bookings for the 'in person' feedback sessions via email or telephone. This may mean that you need to come to the studios in order to sign up on a day you do not normally come to classes.
- Once all of the feedback slots are taken, we will not be in a position to supply any additional slots. We are also unable to assist with any feedback request after feedback day, nor provide feedback from the teachers in attendance on feedback day at any other time. However, rest assured that if there were any issue regarding your child that their teacher felt they needed to discuss with you, we would get in touch.
- If you require feedback from any teacher who is *not* offering a feedback session this term, then you should contact the relevant upper or lower school administrator by email before **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March** to enable the office to assist with your request. However, please note that we do not provide feedback sessions with our Gymnastics and commercial / street teachers.
- To sign up, you will need to know the name(s) of your child's teacher(s); if you do not know the name of your child's teacher then please refer to the list next to the sign-up sheet in the waiting room rather than emailing the office. Please remember that you may only sign up to see one of your child's teachers each term.
- If any slots are booked and parents / guardians do not attend and do not have a good reason for this, in consideration of other parents / guardians who require feedback slots, those parents / guardians will not be offered the opportunity to attend feedback days in future. Parents / guardians who booked a slot and did not attend feedback day last term (**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**) and did not contact the office to let us know in advance, should NOT sign up for this feedback day - if they wish to obtain feedback they should email me to discuss the situation.
- Please consider that teachers kindly give up their time once a term to provide this service for parents / guardians. This facility is not covered by the fees for classes and administration so it is not a 'deserved right' of parents / guardians to be able to obtain a feedback slot. We hope you support and appreciate this exceptional service which sets SLDS apart from the majority of other dance schools.

## Opportunities for Parents / Guardian's to watch classes

**This section is for parents / guardians of children in Junior Funky Moves, Nursery 1, Nursery 2, Preparatory dance & tap and Pre-Primary 1 (I) levels only.**

Please be reminded that parents / guardians / friends are invited to watch their child's classes **week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> March** and the teachers look forward to welcoming you into their classes.

So that the classes are not disrupted and run as normally as possible, the usual guidelines for class observation week will apply each time you come to watch your child's class. More information will be sent out about this nearer the time.

Lastly, you may also have noticed that we have put up notices on the studios doors this term to let you know what your child will be learning in their classes this term and, in some cases, the story they are following. We hope you find this useful in talking about

dance classes with your child and helping them practise at home. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like any further information.

## Mother's Day Weekend Cake Sale - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am-2.00pm

To celebrate Mother's Day, we'd like to encourage all of our families to get baking in order to be a part of our cake sale on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March! The sale will be kindly organised by our Festival Team parents and we will again be raising money for Demelza hospice care for children. As many of you know, we already raise money for this great cause via the second hand uniform sales.

Please support this worthy cause by dropping off some NUT FREE tasty treats in the waiting room on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March between 10.00am and 8.30pm, or from 8.30am on the Saturday morning. We would very much appreciate your help in providing stock to sell as we anticipate there will be quite a lot of interest in our stall and this a great way to raise money for charity. Additionally, if you are able to volunteer your time to help man the cake stall, please email me, [sldslowerschool@gmail.com](mailto:sldslowerschool@gmail.com) to make arrangements for a helper's rota. Thank you very much for your support with this event.

The cake sale will be held in the waiting room on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am-2.00pm**. We do hope you will support this event and enjoy eating some yummy cakes as a lovely start to Mother's Day weekend!

## Summer School - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August

### DISNEY COURSE FOR CHILDREN 3-5 YEARS

**Daily 10.00am-11.15am**

**£55 for the week**

Due to the success of our **Disney Workshop** the last few years we are pleased to inform you that we will be having another one this year, with different songs and dances from popular Disney movies such as "Moana", "Fantasia", "The Jungle Book", and more!!

The sessions will start with a warm up for voice and body, then we will venture into a fun and fantastic world of storytelling, through song and dance. As we learn the songs and dances by some of their favourite characters the children will explore music and dance from the perspective of the performer.

### DANCE & MUSICAL THEATRE COURSES FOR CHILDREN 6 YEARS + (children will be split into age appropriate groups)

**Daily 11.30-4.00pm** (including a lunch break in Brockwell Park, weather permitting)

**£150 for the week**

The younger group will learn songs, dances and acting extracts from musicals such as "Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat", "Mary Poppins Returns" and "Bugsy Malone". The older group will work on extracts from the musicals, "Hairspray", "Guys and Dolls" and "Sister Act". Both groups will work together on the opening and closing numbers from "Wicked" and "Shrek The Musical".

The afternoon of **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August** will be "Show Day" where we will invite parents/guardians, friends and family to come and watch a little performance of some of the things the children have learnt during the week.

Please contact: [summerschoolslds@gmail.com](mailto:summerschoolslds@gmail.com) asap for more information or to sign up. Please do not contact the school office, thank you.

## Access and parking

**ELECTRIC GATE** - Please make sure you **do not touch the gate** at the rear of the studios as you are walking through as it will stop working. Thank you for your cooperation in this.

**CAR DRIVERS DROPPING / PICKING UP STUDENTS** - the local residents association have contacted us to kindly ask that parents/guardians waiting on Carver Road switch off their car engines to help reduce pollution. Thank you very much for your co-operation in this.

## Carlos Acosta Film

One of our adult students is a producer on this film and we thought it may be of interest to you. Yuli - The Carlos Acosta Story is based on the life story of the ballet super star, with a special screening and Q&A with Carlos Acosta live from the Royal Opera House on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The general release is on 12<sup>th</sup> April. For tickets and more info please go to [www.acostafilm.com](http://www.acostafilm.com). Trailer - <https://youtu.be/i6akxIBLpRU>

Thank you for reading and wishing you a happy spring term!

Verena Leonardini

Lower School Administrator - South London Dance School

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