



**SOUTH
LONDON
DANCE
SCHOOL**

130 Herne Hill, London SE24 9QL
www.southlondondanceschool.co.uk
tel. 020 7978 8624

Upper School Newsletter

8th October 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We hope you are enjoying the Autumn term so far. As mentioned in the previous newsletter we were very pleased with our fantastic examination results. You can view all of the results on our website or on the noticeboard in the waiting room. Special congratulations to the winners of the school shields / trophies because these students achieved the highest marks in their areas, as follows:

Ariadne Saloutros has won the modern shield

Lula Garcia has won the tap shield

Esther De La Pena has won the ballet shield

Lula Garcia has won the National shield

Sienna Garwood Gowers and Juliet Tweedie have won the class exam cup (highest mark overall from all Pre-Primary ballet, Primary tap and Primary modern examinations)

We are sorry to announce that Miss Pippa has left the modern teaching team after many years of teaching at SLDS, as she has been offered a wonderful opportunity to advance her career. Miss Pippa's wonderful teaching and fantastic choreography will be greatly missed by all her students. We are very happy to announce that Michelle Campbell will now be teaching the modern classes on a Thursday. We are very excited for Miss Michelle to join our team as she has many years of teaching experience and a great passion to pass on her love of dance.

Miss Michelle began her dance training from the age of 3 at various dance schools around London. At the age of 14, Miss Michelle studied at The BRIT School of Performing Arts, gaining her GCSE's and went onto sixth form to complete her A levels and achieve her Diploma in Dance. She took her professional vocational training at Bird College, gaining a Diploma in Musical Theatre, which she recently upgraded to BA Hons in Performance Studies at Arts Educational Schools London.

Miss Michelle has performed in UK Tours, TV, and has had various opportunities in performing abroad. After an extensive and successful professional career working in the industry, she is now dedicated to her teaching and is currently working towards taking her ISTD Licentiate teachers exams in Tap and Modern. She plans to then go on to complete her Fellowship exam, which will open up opportunities with the ISTD and in the near future hopes to qualify as an examiner.

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

Next term, the school timetable and your child's classes will remain the same. However, **if your child will not be able to attend his / her classes next term then notice of leaving must be given to us by email or in writing on or before Friday 18th October**. 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 *.

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.

* 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.

Invoices for classes next term

Your invoice for classes in spring term 2020 will be emailed to you **by Monday 25th November** 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:

Upper School - upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk

The deadline to pay will be the last day of this term; **Sunday 15th 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 in 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 current timetable.

Feedback day

Please see below for this term's opportunity to receive feedback from your child's teacher:

Sunday 8th December

Miss Marina 10.30-11.30am

Miss Natasha 10.30-12.00pm

Miss Lucy 10.30-12.00pm

Miss Emma 11.00-1.00pm (if you wish to meet Miss Emma as Acting Principal but she does not teach your child then please email me, at least 3 days before this date so that I can let her know the nature of your enquiry)

Miss Grace 11.30-12.30pm

Miss Ellie 12.00 -2.00pm

Mr. Tony 12.00-2.00pm

Miss Tilly 12.30-1.30pm

Miss Jenny 12.30-2.30pm

Miss Helen 1.30-3.00pm

Miss Michelle 1.30-2.30pm

Monday 9th December

Miss Ciera 6.30-7.30pm

The sheet to sign up to see your child's teacher will be placed on the notice board in the waiting room **Monday 25th November**. When you come to sign up for feedback day, there will be a list of all classes including teacher's names on the notice board in the waiting room.

Uniform / studio reminders

SLDS SWEATERS - may be worn for warm ups only

GIRLS WEARING BLACK LEOTARDS - for ballet or tap classes may wear a black cotton Lycra crossover ballet cardigan if they are cold in the studios, no other jumpers will be allowed.

BUGGIES / SCOOTERS ETC - please leave buggies and scooters outside the studio building just beyond our back door 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.

Student behaviour and missing property

I am saddened to say that recently one of our senior students phones was vandalised in the changing room whilst she was in class. Please remind your child to bring any valuables into the studios with them. Also, please continue to be vigilant that no one follows you in through the front or back door for everyone's safety.

Going forwards, we will be monitoring any issues that occur in the changing and waiting rooms, so please email me immediately if you feel the need to report anything unusual. Also, students should tell a teacher at the time if the office is closed.

Please continue to stress the importance to your child of respecting the dance studio premises and other people's property. Students are expected to help to keep the waiting area and changing room tidy, including washing up anything they use in the kitchen. We rely on the older students to set an example to the younger students with regards to behaviour which at all times must be exemplary and bullying, graffiti, theft, damage to property and any other anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.

Reminder to students who have more than one lesson in one evening

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that we have had instances in the past where a child has attended one of their classes of their evening schedule and then gone home without telling a teacher. Consequently, the teacher of their next class (and their peers) have been concerned for their welfare and safety, not knowing why they attended only one class then 'disappeared'. So that this situation doesn't happen in future, could we request that you notify us by email with at least one day's notice when you know your son / daughter will need to leave the studios without completing their full evening's schedule of classes.

School Sweaters

We are hoping to put in a sweater order over the half term break, so please place your order by **Friday 18th October** to secure your sweater order. These fashionable sweaters come in a choice of TWO colours - pink/white and black/grey.

If you'd like to order a sweater then please download the order form - <https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SLDS-Sweater-Order-Form-27062018.pdf> and place your completed form in an envelope marked 'sweater order' and enclose payment (exact cash only please as we cannot give change). Please put your envelope through the secure office letterbox. Thank you.

Reminder - auditioning / taking classes with another dance organisation

Please note the following from our school terms and conditions:

Students at SLDS may not audition for nor attend another dance school (including CAT schemes and Associate classes) unless prior written permission has been granted by the Principal.

The reason we have this rule in place is so that children have consistency in their dance training. Also, so that potential timing clashes between classes can be discussed and understood in advance of acceptance onto any training scheme.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, or in future you find that you would like your child to attend additional dance training outside SLDS, then please email me before applying to audition.

Class availability for this term

We have some spaces in our fun Junior Funky Moves class which gives boys rising 5 to 7 years the chance to learn current commercial dance styles to up to date music in a lively and fun environment. Boys improve their ability to learn new routines quickly and also develop their strength and flexibility. Please contact me / my colleague Verena slds lowerschool@gmail.com to book your place.

ADULT CLASSES

We would like to let you know that we have a few spaces left in the following adult tap classes:

Adult Tap (I) - Thursday 8.45-9.45pm - if you've done a very little bit of basic tap before

Adult Tap (III) - Thursday 9.00-10.00pm - if you've done basic tap in the past for a year or so

Please contact our adult students' Administrator, Verena, sldsadultclasses@gmail.com, if you would like to enrol in any of these classes.

Finally, we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the recent second-hand uniform sale by donating, buying or selling. This sale raised a wonderful **£559.00** for the show costume fund. The next uniform sale will be at the start of next term, date to be confirmed. We are in desperate need of more stock so please have a look through your cupboards and bring in any uniform that no longer fits your child, Thank you 😊

Best Wishes,

Helen Cheesman

Upper School Administrator - South London Dance School

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