



SOUTH  
LONDON  
DANCE  
SCHOOL

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## Upper School Newsletter

### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We hope you are having a lovely start to the spring term. 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. Over the last two sales we have raised a wonderful **£813** for show costume fund. The next uniform sale will be on the **second Saturday of term, 25<sup>th</sup> April 9.30am - 1.00pm**, so please keep hold of any items that are too small for your child until nearer the date.

## Date for giving notice of leaving / request to change classes

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 Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 \*.

**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 summer term 2020 will be emailed to you **by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March** to the email address that you have provided for us. Please note that your invoice email will be sent from the following address, which is a different address to this one:

Upper School - [upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk](mailto:upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk)

The deadline to pay will be the last day of this term; **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

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.

## Invitation to watch classes this week

The teachers very much look forward to seeing the parents / guardians of children in all upper school classes ie. Pre-Primary ballet (II), Pre-Primary tap (III) & Primary modern (III) (Saturday classes starting at 1pm) levels and above when they are invited to watch classes from **this Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February**. We hope many parents / guardians can attend in order to see the progress their child has made over the past few terms.

Regarding watching classes, please note:

- We invite parents / guardians to view their child's class(es) once a year so that they can see how their child is progressing.
- Please bear in mind that the open classes are not performances; we invite you to watch a normal class to observe development and progress.
- Parents, guardians, grandparents, siblings, friends & nanny's etc are welcome to attend but please be mindful that the children need some space in which to dance!
- Please consider that some children in the class may be shy or nervous of dancing in front of an audience.
- Due to above two points please try to bring a maximum of 3-4 audience members per child to watch.
- **No children under the age of 4, or dogs, will be allowed into the studio to watch and no exceptions will be made to this policy which is in the best interests of the children in the classes. This includes tiny babies as it cannot be guaranteed that they will stay asleep for the duration of the class!**
- **Please only bring other children with you to watch the class if they are capable of sitting still for the duration, without an electronic game, book, food etc, i.e. they would have to actually watch the class without distracting the children dancing!**
- You will be permitted to film the class and show it to siblings, friends and other family members who are not able / eligible to attend. Photographs may also be taken.

Unfortunately, if you are not able to watch during the dates offered, we are unable to offer an alternative date. We realise this might be disappointing for some parents / guardians but it is necessary for us to restrict viewings to one week each academic year.

## Spring term feedback days

Please see below your next opportunity to receive feedback from your child's teacher during the spring term:

### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

Miss Tilly - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - 5.00-6.00pm

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

Miss Emma - 3.00-4.30 (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 Jenny - 11.00-12.30pm

Miss Marina - 11.30-12.30pm

Miss Ellie - 12.00-2.00pm

Miss Grace - 1.00-2.00pm

Miss Michelle - 11.00-12.00pm

Miss Lucy - 10.00-11.30am

Miss Helen - 10.00-11.00am

### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

Miss Ciera - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 6.30-7.30pm

Mr. Tony - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - 5.30-6.30pm

The sheet to sign up to see your child's teacher is going on the notice board on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March** on the notice board in the waiting room.

- **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 sign up 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.
- To sign up, you will need to know the name(s) of your child's teacher(s). 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 (**December 2019**) 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.

## **Acting class dates for Summer term**

**Please note that each class will start 1 hour earlier than spring term.** If your child is interested in joining our Sunday acting class for the summer term, please contact me at [sldsufferschool@gmail.com](mailto:sldsufferschool@gmail.com).

**3.30-4.30pm - Acting (I) for children from 4-7 years** (£59.00 for 6 lessons next term)

**4.30-5.45pm - Acting (II) for children aged 8-10 years** (£74.00 for 6 lessons next term)

**5.45-7.15pm - Acting (III) for children 11years plus** (£88.00 for 6 lessons next term)

Class dates for summer term are:

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> June**

**Acting (I)** taught by Lorraine Spenceley who has many years teaching and directing experience. In this class key skills are taught in a fun and confidence building environment including: listening and reacting to others (the main skill in acting!), improvisation, becoming a character, voice techniques and short dialogue work. Children in this class embark on adventures to faraway lands with the teacher which encourages them to be creative and use their imagination. This class also helps to develop student's social interactions and emotional skills in a fun and explorative way.

**Acting (II) and (III)** are taught by Lewis Hart who is currently working in the profession as well as teaching. These classes focus on the requirements for children wanting to audition for and work in TV, film and theatre. Key skills are taught in a fun and confidence building environment including: listening and reacting to others (the main skill in acting!), improvisation, becoming a character, text work (monologues, duologues and group pieces), voice production and accent training.

Children who attend any of our acting classes can sometimes be invited by the Principal to audition for West End shows as well as for representation by one of the top London children's performing arts agencies. As most auditions require acting skills, we only consider putting forward to audition our students who attend our fortnightly acting classes. Children who are accepted into the agency will have the opportunity to audition for professional acting (including theatre, TV and film), singing, dancing and musical theatre work (including West End work). So, if your child is keen to be considered for the agency audition, he / she will need to be a part of our acting classes.

Please contact me if you would like to enrol your child for this term.

## Gymnastics class availability

If your child is interested in joining our **Friday Gym skills (I) class 4.15-5.00pm**, which is open to children from 6 years old, please contact me at [sldsufferschool@gmail.com](mailto:sldsufferschool@gmail.com) if you would like further information. This class aims to develop flexibility, strength and master gymnastic / acrobatic skills which can be used in dance routines.

## 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.

# Summer School - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August

We will be holding a fantastic week of dance, musical theatre and fun for children during the summer (non-SLDS students are also invited). Get the dates in your diary! More information to follow.

## 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.

## Lost Property

The uniform and non-uniform lost property buckets in the waiting room will be emptied (for charity shop / second hand uniform sales) during the half term holidays. So, if you think you may have lost anything at the studios, please ensure you collect it before **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February**.

Best wishes

Helen Cheeseman  
Upper School Administrator - South London Dance School  
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