



Adult Student Newsletter - 15th June 2020

Dear Adult Student,

I am very pleased to write to you personally following the end of my maternity leave. I am sure you will join me in saying a huge thank you to Emma for the absolutely wonderful job she has done of managing the school whilst I have been away, in particular setting up and operating our fantastic online school. Emma is currently covering for our Adult, Upper and Lower School Administrators and going forwards, she will continue to be heavily involved in the school as our Deputy Principal.

This term has been challenging and interesting and I am very proud of how well so many of our students and teachers have adjusted to online classes. I hope those of you who are participating in our online classes are enjoying them and would like to thank you for your support. I do, however, understand that online classes are not suitable for all of our students and I know we all cannot wait until we can be back together in the dance studios again.

Emma and I are starting to put together the 'normal' timetable for academic year 2020-2021 and then, once we receive more information about how and when we can reopen the studios for 'in person' classes, we will be able to adjust the timetable to suit. We anticipate that at least the first half of the autumn term will have to be a combination of online and 'in person' classes, but through this method, we very much hope it will be possible for each of our adult students to attend classes in the studio either weekly or fortnightly and to continue to participate in all of their other classes online.

So that we can accurately put together the timetable for academic year 2020-2021, please reply to this email letting us know if you are planning to leave the school or would like to drop / add / change any classes when we reopen. Obviously, you do not yet know what the timetable will be so it will not be possible at this stage to make all decisions, but if you have already made any choices about classes next academic year, then please let us know by Sunday 21st June to help us with our timetabling.

We are also busy preparing the studios for reopening in the safest possible way. As well as deep cleaning, repairing, repainting and reflooring the upstairs, we will be temporarily removing many shared resources, the sofas etc and ensuring hand washing facilities are as hygienic as possible. We are already working on

how we can implement social distancing within classes and for all of our school community in the communal areas. Our Adult and Lower School Administrator, Katarina Hill, is undertaking online training for Covid-19 safety and she will be responsible for ensuring our reopening is as safe as possible.

I will write to you as soon as we have further information about reopening including the autumn term timetable. In the meantime, please read the information below.

Term dates (updates in red)

SUMMER TERM 2020 DATES

Our online classes this term finish on **Friday 17th July**.

AUTUMN TERM 2020 DATES (12 weeks)

Monday 7th September - Sunday 19th October

Half term - Monday 19th - Sunday 1st November inc (we may be holding some classes over half term to make up for previously cancelled classes)

Monday 2nd November - Sunday 13th December

SPRING TERM 2021 DATES (11 weeks)

Monday 4th January - Sunday 14th February (6 weeks)

Half term - Monday 15th to Sunday 21st February inc

Monday 22nd February - Sunday 28th March (5 weeks)

Show at Bromley Churchill Theatre - Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th January

SUMMER TERM 2021 DATES (12 weeks)

Saturday 17th April - Friday 28th May (classes will take place on Saturday 1st May and Monday 3rd May which is a Bank Holiday weekend)

Half term - Saturday 29th May to Sunday 6th June inc (note - there are two Saturday's off)

Monday 7th June - Sunday 17th July

Live Zoom classes for adult students over the summer holiday!

As the possibility of being able to go on holiday is unclear, we are wondering whether our adult students might like to continue some of their dance classes over the summer holiday for a 4 or 6 week block. We would like to introduce live Zoom classes for our adult students over the summer and we hope you will be interested!

Classes would be once a week and would take place in the evening on whichever day suited the majority of the group. And those students who were not able to make the day / time of the live class, could watch a recording of the live Zoom class.

Also, we hope it may also be possible for us to hold occasional 'in person' classes in small groups in an outdoor space; this is something we are currently looking into.

We anticipate that we would need to charge normal fees for these classes, pro rata for the number of weeks the classes take place.

So that we can start to organise these summer holiday classes, if you are interested in signing up then please can you reply to this email by **Monday 22nd June** answering the following questions:

1. Which genres of dance would you be interested in signing up to over the summer?
2. Would you prefer a 4 week or 6 week block of lessons?
3. What time in the evening would best suit you to attend your Live class?
4. Which weekday evenings would you be able to attend?
5. Please give any other relevant information to help us plan our summer holiday classes for our adult students

LIVE online private lessons via Zoom for adults!

We would like to open up our very successful LIVE Zoom private lessons to our adult students so that you too can benefit from personal feedback.

You can choose to work on technique, specific steps / movements, performance, confidence, musicality, artistry, strength, flexibility, body conditioning etc. In fact, anything you would like to work on and to which your teacher agrees, so even if you have very limited space in which to move, there is still so much that can be achieved.

Private lessons will be at the reduced rate of £23 for 30 minutes.

Please reply to this email asap if you are interested in booking private lessons for yourself with a minimum booking of 3 lessons over 3 weeks. If we have enough interested then we may also be able to continue online private lessons over the summer holiday and into next term.

SLDS' Covid-19 Bursaries for Young Dancers Scheme

I am very pleased to let you know that we have been able to support several of our students whose families are currently experiencing exceptional financial difficulties under our new Covid-19 Bursary Scheme. The children are most grateful to be able to attend online classes which they otherwise would not have been able to do.

Due to the massive economic impact of Covid-19, we anticipate that unfortunately, more children may need support over the coming months in order to be able to continue learning dance with us. As the dance school is suffering as a business, unfortunately we are not in a position to be able to sustain this support long term. Therefore, if you are able to help and would be interested in 'sponsoring' one of our students for their dance classes then please do get in touch to discuss how this could work.

Upper school student news

We want to wish **Jasmine Gillott** the best of luck as she leaves SLDS aged 18. Jasmine has danced with us since she the age of 5 during which time she has achieved outstanding examinations results, won many medals at dance festivals and most recently was chosen to represent the tap faculty at the ISTD Bursary awards. Jasmine has been an inspiration to many of our younger dancers over recent years and we are extremely proud of the young woman she has grown into. We all wish her the best of luck in her gap year before she goes to university to study Environmental Science.

Did you spot ex-student **Ruben Garcia** on BBC4's Men at the Barre - if you missed it do catch up, it was aired Wednesday 27th May. It is a fantastic documentary about male ballet dancers including a trip to White Lodge where we spot Ruben standing out in his year 7 boys ballet class. Ruben had been thoroughly enjoying his first year at the infamous Royal Ballet School and he cannot wait to get back!

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter; I hope the information is helpful to you. Please contact Emma at your normal Administrator's email address if you have any questions.

Best Wishes,

Zoe Dawson

Principal - South London Dance school

PS - I would like to let you know that Maggie Bulman, who makes fabulous dance costumes for our students, is currently selling handmade masks for children and adults in a range of fab materials ;) This is following the incredible voluntary work she did making PPE for local NHS workers. Please follow this link to purchase yours - <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/maggiEBulmanmasks>