



**SOUTH
LONDON
DANCE
SCHOOL**

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Upper School Newsletter - May 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We do hope this email finds you well and that you and your family are managing to stay well and positive during these uncertain times.

We are delighted to let you know that our first half term of online classes has been very well received and we are extremely grateful for all the lovely feedback and photographs we have received, some of which you can see on our Instagram and Facebook pages. Our teachers are very happy to be able to continue to spread their joy of dance and provide a bit of normality / structure to your child's day by teaching online. Please do check out the article about our online classes on the Around Dulwich website <http://arounddulwich.co.uk/virtual-south-london-dance-school/>

Assuming we are NOT permitted to resume 'real life' dance classes this term, we are delighted to continue to offer our online classes for a further 6 weeks and we very much hope you will want to continue with or join our exciting, new online school! All students are welcome to join the forthcoming second block of 6 weeks of online classes, whether or not they took part in the first block of classes.

Please see attached the full list of classes available *** and contact me by **Monday 18th May** for further information or to enrol. If you are currently taking online classes and wish to continue then you do not need to contact us as we will invoice you automatically.

*** Please note that if any children return to school at any point this term then we will need to change some of the timings of live classes.

Some of our classes, which are listed below, are open to our students who do not normally learn that particular genre of dance and so we hope more of our school community will by now be interested in trying something new whilst staying at home!

Children's and adult's classes open to all

Melody Movement & Nursery ballet (18 months – 3 years)

30 mins class - Pre-recorded - £50 for 6 classes

Classes will start with our 'Hello' song and magic feet exercise and then children will learn simple dance steps following a fun story. As this may be the first structured class for some children, physical effort and mental concentration is combined with happy songs and free expressive movement. We suggest you dance along with your child to enjoy the class together.

Preparatory Dance & Tap (3-4 years – children of school Pre-Reception age)

45 mins class - Pre-recorded - £48 for 6 classes

Children will learn / improve basic dance skills such as skipping, galloping, pony trots, points and knee bends through following the story of one of Aesops fables. Basic tap skills will also be taught.

Pre-Primary (I) ballet, tap & modern (4-5 years – children of school Reception age)

60 mins class - Pre-recorded - £72 for 6 classes

Children will develop dance skills and start to learn basic technique. Stories such as 'Frozen' are used in ballet and modern to capture the children's imagination and to develop creativity. Basic tap technique and sense of musical timing will be developed in these classes.

Beginners ballet (for boys and girls approx. 6-8yrs)

45 mins class - Pre-recorded - £42 for 6 classes

Children will develop classical ballet technique and musical timing and begin learning the skills required for the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance (ISTD) Primary ballet examination. Creative exercises will develop musicality, artistry and imagination.

Junior Commercial / Street (for boys and girls age 5-8 yrs)

45 mins class - Pre-recorded - £42 for 6 classes

This class will include a warm up, stretches, work on street movements / technique and a fun street style routine that will be developed over the 6 weeks.

Level 1 Commercial / Street (for boys and girls approx. 9yrs plus)

45 mins class - Pre-recorded - £42 for 6 classes

This class will include a warm up, stretches, work on street movements / technique and a fun street style routine that will be developed over the 6 weeks.

Mid-Level Adult Ballet

60 mins class - Pre-recorded - £67 for 6 classes

This class will consist of technical barre work, toning exercises, static adage, allegro, and a cool down with stretching.

Mixed Level Adult Jazz

45 mins class - Pre-recorded - £51 for 6 classes

This class will start with a warm up, stretches, technical centre work, then two routines will be taught over the 6 weeks.

Mid-Level Adult Tap

45 mins class - Pre-recorded - £51 for 6 classes

In this class you will work on rhythm, technique, close work and a short sequence that will be developed over the 6 weeks.

Above classes are also open to non-SLDS students and therefore, we are introducing our new **'Refer a Friend' scheme. We will be offering a £10 discount to the cost of your own online classes if you invite a friend (who is not currently a student of the school) to join one of our online classes and they sign up.** So, please forward above information about our 'open to all' online classes to your family and friends and ask them to quote your name when they get in touch so that we can take £10 off your next invoice for classes once they have enrolled.

To support the teachers and to meet the current financial pressures of the studio building in order to ensure the dance school will be in a position to be able to re-open when permitted to do so, we will continue to charge normal lesson fees for our online classes. However, where we can, we are trying to support children of our school whose families are experiencing exceptional financial difficulties due to Covid-19 and therefore, please do contact us if you wish to ask for support as we would like as many of our students as possible to be able to benefit from the experience to keep dancing during this time. We are pleased to say that we are already providing a number of bursaries to those in need so that they can continue to dance. On this matter, if you would be interested in 'sponsoring' another SLDS student for their dance classes or private lessons (see below), then please contact us to discuss how this could work.

As per our usual Terms and Conditions, we will be applying 10% discount for second and subsequent siblings as well as our usual 'hours' discount for those who attend over 4 hours of eligible online classes per week.

If you are not currently enrolled in our online classes then please ensure you contact me by Monday 18th May for further information or to enrol as after this date it may be too late. Classes will commence on Saturday 6th June and term will end on Friday 17th July.

Online classes teaching standards

Our teachers have worked extremely hard to make the online dance class experience as wonderful and safe as possible for our students and we are very proud of the standard of their work. When choosing online classes, please bear in mind that many classes that are offered by other schools / individuals are not taught by experienced / qualified teachers. With this in mind please find attached 'Mark of Quality Fact sheet' provided by the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing of which we are members.

As well as our usual fantastic teaching team, we are very pleased to confirm that guest teachers Avalon Rathgeb and Rosie Porter will again be joining us for the second half of this term. Miss Avalon will be teaching American style rhythm tap with emphasis on developing rhythmical understanding and close work technique to our Grade 2 to 5 students. She is a world-renowned tap dancer who is one of the few female tap dancers to be a principal dancer with North America's only full-time dance company 'Tapestry dance company', and she is an alumni of Jacobs Pillow Dance. Miss Rosie will be coming to your home to teach commercial / street classes, virtually from Germany where she is waiting to restart performing and taking on the role of Assistant Dance Captain in 'Dance of the Vampires' which is one of Germany's best-selling musicals. Miss Rosie taught at SLDS in 2017 and she also brilliantly choreographed our new ballet of Neil Gaiman's 'Coraline'. She is very multi-talented and is as at home teaching commercial / street as she is ballet.

Online private lessons

We are very excited to let you know that after half term, we will be offering **LIVE online one to one private lessons with our wonderful teachers**. Private lessons are taught via Zoom so that your child can benefit from live interaction and immediate feedback on their performance. Children can choose to work on technique, syllabus exercises, specific steps / movements, performance / character, developing confidence, musicality, developing own choreography, strength, flexibility, body conditioning etc. In fact, anything your child would like to work on and to which their teacher agrees! Recently, we have successfully trialled online private lessons and found that even if a student has limited space in which to move, there is still so much they can achieve. There is also the added benefit of having one to one time with a teacher they know and love which could help with feelings of isolation and loneliness at this time.

Private lessons will be charged at £23 for 30 minutes. Private lessons will be recorded for safe guarding purposes but recordings will not be used for any purpose (except legal) without permission from the Parent / Guardian. **Please reply to this email asap if you are interested in booking private lessons for your child with a minimum booking of 3 lessons over 3 weeks.**

Finally, we will of course be in touch as soon as we know any more about reopening the studios, examinations and our show. We very much hope our dance community can get back together very soon. In the meantime, stay safe and keep dancing!

Best wishes,
Miss Emma

(covering for Helen)

PS - if you're a parent in need of "surviving lockdown" support, *Families* magazine has you covered. Home learning, pre-school play, virtual family tours, health, art and craft activities, printables - and the chance to win Amazon vouchers...

And it's free - read your digital copy

here: <https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/londonsoutheast?fr=sOTY0NTEyMzkxMzQ>

For more, follow *Families South East* on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FamiliesLondonSouthEast/>

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