

Lower School Newsletter

Monday 19th October 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As we approach half term, I am sure you will agree that we are very lucky so far to have had 7 full weeks, together in the dance studios. Long may it continue! As well as welcoming back so many of our Upper School and Adult students from the start of this term, more recently, we were very happy to also welcome back some of our younger students, with more starting with us on Sunday's after half term. Well done to all of our students for making this possible by their superb hand washing, social distancing and staying safe.

Our recent examination session went very smoothly so thank you to our Examinations Administrator, Ciera for organising everything so well and to all of the parent / guardian helpers. We await the results with anticipation and will share them as soon as we can, but in the meantime, it's safe to say that the examiners were impressed with our standards and thoroughly enjoyed their time with us.

Thank you all once again for your patience, positivity and kind feedback as we have navigated a new way of working together this term.

Please read the information below as it details forward planning . . .

Class content this term & classes in spring term 2021

Please accept my apologies that the information in our 22nd September newsletter about class content for the remainder of this term, examinations and bubble groups being mixed level was intended only to be sent to our Upper School students. I am pleased to say that our Lower School classes are NOT mixed level and class content remains as normal at this time for all of our Lower School classes. I know our Saturday Preparatory children are really enjoying learning the story of 'The Nutcracker' and I am sure our Sunday Preparatory children will too! It's such a lovely story to follow for the Christmas period.

Regarding classes from January 2021, given the current situation with Covid-19, we are expecting (and hoping) that next term will be able to continue as current i.e. with the same bubble groups and timetable. In order to continue to be able to run classes smoothly and in a financially viable way as a Community Interest Company, it will be necessary for

us to reintroduce our policy with regard to giving notice of leaving the school before October half term, as follows (from our T&C):

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**.

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.

Above notices must be given to us by email on or before Saturday 24th October. 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.

Your invoice for classes in spring term 2021 will be emailed to you **by Tuesday 24th November** 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 different to this one: lowerschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk

The payment date will be the last day of this term; **Monday 14th December**.

Once you have received your invoice, it is usually not possible to change classes so please ensure you contact us before the forthcoming half term if you need to change anything for spring term.

The Show

We now have pencilled dates with the theatre for early-mid January 2022. We realise this seems a long way off, however, in consideration of current circumstances, we believe this is realistic and also fits in well with examination sessions.

If you have paid for your child to participate in the show and you think they will want to perform in January 2022, then we would be EXTREMELY grateful if you would be willing for us to retain your payment at this time as processing refunds is very time consuming. However, if you know now that your child will NOT be able to perform in January 2022 and would therefore like to receive a refund for the amount you have paid (£75), or you are not in a position for us to retain your payment at this time, then please email sldsperformances@gmail.com **before 24th October** for your refund to be processed by the end of November.

The positive news resulting from this second postponement of our show performance is that children who are currently in our Lower School Nursery and Preparatory classes and so were previously too young to take part, will be able to perform! We hope many of you will want to take part and we will send more information to you during the first half of next year.

Feedback day in spring term

Considering spring term is likely to be similar to the current term, we would like to reassure you that we do intend to have an opportunity for parents / guardians to be able to obtain feedback about their child's progress next term. This is likely to be an advance booking system and then a 10 min meeting via Zoom with ONE of your child's teachers. We will provide more information about this as soon as possible.

Zoom classes for students who are isolating

Regarding our new clause below:

No refund will be provided in the instances below however . . . a live Zoom class would instead be provided;
(iii) a student is unable to attend classes because they have to self-isolate

Please note that we require a period of 48 hours after we have been informed by a parent / adult student about the isolation in order for the administration team and teacher(s) to be able to organise the Zoom class(es). This means that it will NOT be possible for us to provide a Zoom class if the class is the same day as the day that we have been informed, or the next day i.e. the first Zoom class would be provided 48 hours after notice. We trust you understand that this time period is needed to facilitate the request.

Thank you for reading and wishing you a lovely half term break **(25th October to 1st November)**.

Best Wishes,

Miss Zoe

Principal

South London Dance School