

## **Upper School Newsletter**

### **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 . . .

### **Spring term 2021 timetable & invoices**

As explained in my 22<sup>nd</sup> September newsletter, following our recent examination session, for the remainder of this term, children are staying in the same bubble groups and teachers are now working on ISTD syllabus content / training exercises at the next level. The exception to this is some of our higher-level tap groups who have already been informed about their lesson content.

Given the current situation with Covid-19, we are expecting (and hoping) that next term (commencing January 2021) will be able to continue as current i.e. with the same bubble groups and largely, the same timetable. We think this will be the most straightforward and sensible solution at this time. We are, however, looking at making a few minor changes to the timetable and those students who are affected will be notified over the coming weeks.

With everything remaining the same next term, 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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: **[upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk](mailto:upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk)**

The payment date will be the last day of this term; **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Beyond spring term 2021**

We are considering the following long-term schedule:

**End of summer term 2021 - examination session**

**Early-Mid January 2022 - show**

**End of summer term 2022 - examination session**

This means that class content for the remainder of this academic year will be primarily examination work in preparation for the summer 2021 examinations. During this time, we very much hope that in summer term 2021, we will be able to revert back to a more normal timetable, without bubble groups, so that students can be split into the correct levels for each separate dance genre that they learn.

In September 2021, we plan to have a term off examination work and (finally!) commence show rehearsals, and then after the January 2022 show performance date, we will go back to examination work at the next level, in preparation for the summer 2022 session.

Holding examination sessions in the summer term over the next two years will mean that children who are ready (or have taken an examination) can, as usual, move up to the next level each September.

Then, from September 2023 onwards, we will resume our usual annual schedule of holding an examination session in spring term and show in summer term 2023, again with children moving up to the next level in September each year after the show term.

Of course, all of above is subject to change given the current situation, so please continue to read our newsletters!

## 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](mailto:sldsperformances@gmail.com) before 24<sup>th</sup> 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 new students who have joined us this term or for our online classes in the summer term will also 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.

## References for school applications

Please note that we are always able to provide dance focused references for school applications but we are only able to provide drama or performing arts focused references if the student attends our acting classes and/or has had a main acting part in our most recent show.

## 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.

## Uniform and hair for classes

Now that many students have moved up to the next level following their examination, or because the group has been moved up following our recent examination session, we request that you refer to the link below to ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform and shoes for their level:

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SLDS-UPPER-SCHOOL-UNIFORM-LIST-09102020.pdf>

However, please note that due to coronavirus currently, bare feet are not permitted, so the following options apply for modern and body conditioning classes:

- GIRLS - Grade 4 modern and above - So Danca canvas split-sole jazz shoe in nude (available from Duo Dance) (please note: leather split sole jazz shoes are now NOT permitted) (no socks)
- GIRLS - Primary to Grade 3 modern - pink leather or canvas ballet shoes with elastic, OR the above So Danca jazz shoe (pink ballet socks should be worn with ballet shoes, but no socks should be worn with the So Danca jazz shoe)
- BOYS - Primary to Grade 3 modern - black leather or canvas ballet shoes with elastic with short white ballet socks, OR the above So Danca jazz shoe in nude with no socks

If you are unsure of your child's level and therefore do not know what to look at on the uniform list, then please get in touch as we realise the invoices for this term were listed by bubble group, not grade / level so are not helpful.

The next second hand uniform sale is planned for the morning of **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**, weather permitting as it's likely it will again have to take place outside with slots being available to book in advance.

Hair styling for girls in Grade 2 modern plus - please ensure long hair is tied back in a style suitable for modern dance so that it doesn't hinder your child's progress. Hairstyle needs to be suitable for turning as well as lying down on the

back of the head. A pony tail, bunchies or a classical bun are NOT suitable. French plaits tucked under, a side bun, or 2 small buns on sides of head are all acceptable.

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

Best Wishes,

Miss Zoe

Principal

South London Dance School