

Newsletter - 2nd November 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian / Adult Student,

To start on a positive note, we are extremely grateful that our studios have been open with so many of you enjoying dancing for eight weeks of lessons. It has been really wonderful over this time to reconnect with our students in person after the long summer break, refuel their passion for dance, get to know many new faces and even hold an examination session. We have certainly used our 'face to face' time well!

I would like to take this opportunity to say how extremely proud I am of how our teachers and students have adapted during the pandemic, meaning we have all felt as safe as possible at this time and therefore, have been able to enjoy dancing in the studios.

Unfortunately, the recent Government announcement means we will have to temporarily close our studios after the last classes this Wednesday evening. All classes will continue as normal, face to face in the studios, up until and including this Wednesday (4th November).

(For those of you who will be attending classes for the next few days, please accept our apology that parents / guardians waiting in the side return to collect their child will be in the dark. We are currently waiting for our electrician to rewire the lights! Thank you for your understanding).

Although we are unable to provide refunds, we are currently considering options for provision of online classes whilst the studios are closed. We are keen to provide lessons where possible to aid the physical and mental health of our students at this time.

However, as you can imagine, there are a large number of factors to consider, plan and organise with regard to online dance classes in order to ensure they are as beneficial as possible to our students and that scheduling is suitable considering screen time attention span. In view of this we will not be in a position to provide any online lessons until *at least* next Thursday (12th November). We will send out detailed information once we have a plan in place. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Let's stay positive and enjoy the last few days we have in the studios. We will miss all of our students during the forthcoming lockdown but hope to see many of you joining us on screen before too long. In the meantime, for inspirational thoughts, please see our recent World Ballet Day Instagram post in which we celebrate four incredible ballet dancers who have succeeded against the odds through **Determination, Courage, Passion and Commitment**.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Grade 2 ballet student, April (age 9) who recently competed in the online ISTD Imperial Ballet awards and was awarded 3rd place for the Grade 1 section. This is an outstanding achievement as dancers from all over the world compete in this event. Well done also Grade 3 ballet student, Esther (age 9) for reaching the final for the Grade 2 section. Both girls danced beautifully and were a real credit to our school. Also, recently, our brilliant Festival Team had a very successful first online dance festival, gaining many places and boosting confidence. Keep up the great work everyone, even from home!

Thank you for reading and we will be in touch again next week.

Miss Zoe

Principal - South London Dance School