

Online Classes Newsletter - 9th November 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian / Adult Student,

Thank you very much for your considerate and appreciative replies to my 2nd November letter about the studios being forced to close and that we would therefore have to consider online class options. We feel extremely fortunate that our studios are spacious enough that we have been able to have all of our students in the studios every week right up until the current lockdown and that we have not had to split up classes having some students online whilst others are in the studio.

It goes without saying that we had all hoped it would not be necessary to go back to Zoom classes, however unfortunately we have no choice at this time and so we ask for your support and positivity in particular in trying to encourage as many of your children as possible to try our online classes. The teachers are very excited to see the students and have lots planned, even for the smallest of spaces! We have already received some emails from parents / students letting us know that they are concerned about lack of space, or that they do not think their child will engage with online classes. We encourage all of our students to try as the online classes we provided in the summer term were a great success and our students felt a wonderful sense of achievement and belonging in having participated.

Miss Emma and I have worked tirelessly since the lockdown was announced in order to find the very best online solution for our students. As a result, I am pleased to let you know that we have put together a dedicated timetable for live online classes as well as created the attached two documents:

- A **'Welcome to dancing via Zoom'** document about using Zoom and getting the most out of live online classes
- **Additional T&C for online dance classes** (including safety considerations)

Please take the time to read these attachments thoroughly in advance of your / your child's first class as you may want to prepare suitable flooring for tap dancing for example and although most people by now are familiar with using Zoom, it is a good idea to check you have the most up to date version installed and to try out some of the tips on the 'Welcome' document, to try to avoid any technical difficulties occurring in your / your child's first class.

In planning the Zoom classes timetable, Miss Emma and I considered numerous factors in order to provide the best possible experience for each of our students. We have done our utmost to:

1. Reduce the number of different levels within one class as we do not believe mixed level classes would work effectively for online classes, meaning bubble groups have been split up and students have been regrouped by level
2. Limit the number of lessons that each student attends per evening, as we realise it is more difficult to sustain focus when not in the dance studio; this means that some online lessons may take place on a different day to our 'in studio' timetable

3. Keep students with their usual teacher (not possible in every case)
4. Work around teachers' availability including when they have sufficient space / a quiet environment to work!
5. Reduce screen time where lack of space and unsuitable flooring will most seriously impact the class, but still allow enough lesson time to meet targets, in particular for those groups working towards examinations in our summer 2021 session
6. Provide an online lesson to replace each class in which each student is enrolled
7. Ensure children's lessons are not running too late into the evening as we realise it can be harder for students to sustain energy levels when they are not in the dance studio environment.

As you can imagine, addressing all of above has not been straightforward, hence we did not want to rush creating the timetable in order for it to commence the day after closing the studios. So, we would like to thank you for your patience in waiting one week for the online classes to start so that all energies could be invested into ensuring all aspects could be fully considered.

We understand that this different timetable will not work for everyone, but considering other evening / weekend commitments at this time are reduced, we hope the majority of our students will be able to attend our classes online just until we are able to reopen the studios. As mentioned in my previous letter, in line with our additional T&C related to Covid-19 and any other infectious disease which were introduced on 22nd July and subsequently revised on 19th August, we are not able to provide refunds, but we are more than happy to provide Zoom classes for those students who are able to make the scheduled lesson time(s) and would like to join us online. However, if you / your child is not able to attend, or after trying a few times, not willing to participate, then please do not feel overly concerned about progress *** (*students who are in examination level classes please see below*).

We look forward to seeing many of our students online very soon! You will receive your meeting ID('s) and password(s) in the next few days from infosouthlondondanceschool@gmail.com. Some students will receive ALL of their meeting ID's and passwords together on ONE email, whilst other students will receive different emails for different classes in which case, the email subject will state the class(es) for which that particular email will include the meeting ID('s) and password(s). Please ensure you have received a meeting ID and password for each class you / your child attends by 4pm on Friday and email infosouthlondondanceschool@gmail.com immediately if any appear to be missing. You will need to retain the email(s) you are sent with the meeting ID('s) and password(s) so that you can use the same access details each week for your class(es).

Best wishes and thank you again for your support.

Miss Zoe
Principal
South London Dance School

***** Additional information for students who are in examination level classes**

Whilst in the online classes, the teachers will be moving forwards in teaching training exercises, choreography and syllabus content, they will do their best when we are back in the studios to help those students who did not attend all of the online classes to be able to catch up with their group, however, please bear in mind that this may also require additional practise at home. The exclusion to this is Grade 4 plus classes which will be steaming ahead with examination preparation in the online classes meaning attendance online is important, therefore please contact us if you need to discuss your child's participation in online classes.