



**SOUTH
LONDON
DANCE
SCHOOL**

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Upper School Start of Summer Term Newsletter - 19th April 2022

Dear Parent or Carer,

We hope you had an enjoyable Easter break and are rested and ready for the next term which starts tomorrow, Wednesday 20th April. There are some changes to the timetable this term compared to last term, so please ensure you look back at the lesson times detailed on your invoice which was sent to you on 21st March from upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk.

If your child has a break between their classes which is supervised by a teaching assistant then this will be detailed on your invoice. Your child may bring with them a LIGHT snack (a whole sandwich or meal is not suitable) which must NOT contain nuts - something like a fruit yoyo bear is ideal for a small energy boost but which is not too filling. Please also send your child with a bottle of water.

The theme for Upper School students this term is '**Work hard and be patient to get your best result**'. You will see some motivational posters up around the studios and we would very much welcome any resources and ideas from the students themselves.

Coronavirus procedures update for SLDS

We recommend our school community follow the Government guidance below:

- It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.
- If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.
- Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

You do not need to inform us about a positive test result for your child or a family member.

However, we do ask that if your child has COVID-19 symptoms, or is unwell in any other way, then as normal in the case of illness, they do not attend classes so that they can rest and recover as well as avoid spreading germs to others in the dance school environment. Thank you for your cooperation.

Going forward, we will only be providing Zoom lessons for a child who has an examination this term and is ill, however, this will only be in situations where the teacher thinks attending a Zoom class will be sufficient to replace the need for a catch up lesson.

Injuries / Child Protection

- If your child has sustained a new injury over the Easter break or is still recovering from an existing injury then please let us know us before their first lesson this term so that teachers can be informed and a rehabilitation plan can be put in place where necessary.
- If you would like another parent to collect your child after their class, then please ensure you email your administrator at least 24 hours in advance so that we can make their teacher aware.
- This term, the office will NOT be manned on a Thursday evening, so in the event of any issue occurring and you or another adult carer not being with your child (i.e. because your child has consent), then please make your child aware that they should go and find a teacher in studio 2 or 3 to report the problem.

Senior students lesson preparation & breaks between lessons

Please can you ensure your child has ALL of the necessary uniform, shoes and other items with them for their evening of classes as last term, many students were repeatedly not bringing what they need to classes and this was hindering their progress.

Also, please remind your child to wait outside the correct studio AT LEAST a few minutes before their lesson time, with their hair in the correct style, wearing correct uniform and with their dance shoes done up. Students should also use this time to start their warm up as there is always plenty of space in the corridor. Some senior students are coming into the studios not fully ready and not warmed up and this wastes valuable lesson time.

If your child attends our full range of classes, then below is a quick reminder of what they need to bring with them (aside from usual uniform items). If you need further detail about any item then please refer to the uniform list on our website:

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SLDS-UPPER-SCHOOL-UNIFORM-LIST-21012022.pdf>

- **Contemporary** - black tracksuit bottoms and black contemporary socks preferred (or thick black sports socks)
- **Commercial / street** - CLEAN indoor only trainers must be worn
- **Stretch & Technique** - BARE lower legs (therefore if students have ballet before or after the class then they will need a large enough hole in the foot of their tights in order to be able to roll the rights up to just under the

knee), hair in a high bun or 2 French plaits tucked under, yoga mat and 2 stress balls:

(https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B08YN5CQ3P/ref=ewc_pr_img_1?smid=A3LY7JGVWRF8ZD&psc=1)

(also, ballet shoes or So Danca canvas Jazz shoes or skin tone contemporary socks may sometimes be needed, otherwise bare feet)

- **Gymnastics skills** - hair must be fully and tightly tied back
- **Power & Skills** - So Danca canvas Jazz shoes in nude are compulsory
- **Modern** - So Danca canvas Jazz shoes in nude are compulsory
- **Examination practice sheet** must be brought to all examination lessons

Thank you for your cooperation.

We will be allowing senior students to use the boys changing room as a homework room at the following times:

Monday - from 6:00pm onwards

Tuesday - 6:00-8.30pm

Wednesday - 6:00-8.15pm

Students must work independently and silently. Please set up the black foldable table to use as a shared desk and use one of the chairs already in the changing room.

Students are expected to behave with respect and consideration at all times. If your child is going to be unaccompanied by an adult at any time then please take the time to remind your child about our Student Code of Conduct and Behaviour policy:

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/SLDS-Student-Code-of-Conduct-and-Behaviour-Policy.pdf>

Thank you for your support in ensuring our school environment is supportive outside the dance studio as well as inside.

Hair grooming request

For Health & Safety reasons, not to mention appropriate presentation as a dancer, having a suitable hair style for dance classes is important.

- Please ensure hair is in a classical ballet bun for girls in **Pre-Primary ballet (I) plus**.
- For children in **Primary and Grade 1 modern and all tap grades**, hair must be neatly tied back.
- 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, lying down on the back of the head and be suitable for movements which involve relaxation of the head and upper body. 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.
- Please ensure your child does NOT have a long fringe or any hanging sections of hair over their face as it makes it impossible to use correct eye focus. Your child should wear a hairband which matches colour of leotard and / or use kirby grips.

Second Hand Uniform Sale & Cake Sale - THIS Saturday (23rd April) 10am-1pm

Uniform shoes and clothing will be for sale (excluding Melody Movement uniforms and the pink dresses / cardigans for Nursery and Preparatory dance classes) and there will also be tasty treats to buy! All proceeds will go towards costumes for our next show. Please note that payment will be cash only.

Clothing and footwear items to sell can be left in the box in the waiting room. For further details, please refer to: <https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Second-Hand-Uniform-Sale-Information-January-2021.pdf>

or email sldsuniformsale@yahoo.com

Please bring baked goods to sell to the office from **THIS Thursday (21st April) onwards** (including direct to the sale on the day). *Please ensure all baked items are nut free.*

We need parent helpers for the cake sale so please contact your administrator if you are able to help, even if just for an hour when your child in their dance class. Thank you for your support.

Fire Drills this term

We will be carrying out our bi-annual fire drills in a couple of weeks to give our students a chance to hear the alarm and practice what to do when they hear it.

If you / your child are on the premises during these times and not in a class, please follow the evacuation procedure as detailed on notices around the studio building. Anyone who is not under the supervision of a teacher is responsible for evacuating the premises by themselves safely and efficiently.

If you have signed a consent form for your child, I would like to draw your attention to the following point in the agreement:

You will need to be satisfied that your child is mature and capable enough to know what to do in case of an emergency including exiting the building by themselves in the event of a fire.

Students who are taking an examination this term

I hope your child has been practicing at home with the music and their practice sheet over the Easter break. It's really important that you establish a regular practice schedule for your child because there is still a lot of work to be done this term in preparation for the examinations due to students continuing to catch up on technique and training on which they missed out during the pandemic.

Please make sure your child brings their examination practice sheet to all lessons in that particular genre. If your child does not bring their sheet then it may be necessary to have a private lesson at additional cost in order to go through the notes.

It is vital that classes are not missed this term until the examination. However, if you know your child will have an unavoidable absence, or in the case of illness / emergency, then please email sldsexaminations@gmail.com straight away to make arrangements for your child to catch up. Thank you.

Lost property

Our lost property buckets in the waiting room have now been cleared of all un-named items. If you or your child are missing anything which was not named, please ensure you get in touch by **3pm this Friday (22nd April)**. After this time all un-named items will either be donated to the second hand uniform sale or a charity shop.

Term dates for academic year 2022-2023

The below dates, as well as the dates for this term, are available on our website -

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/general-information/term-dates/>

Autumn term 2022 (13 weeks)

Monday 5th September to Saturday 15th October

Half term - Sunday 16th October to Sunday 30th October

Monday 31st October to Saturday 17th December

Spring term 2023 (11 weeks)

Monday 9th January to Saturday 11th February

Half term - Sunday 12th February to Sunday 19th February

Monday 20th February to Saturday 1st April

Examinations pencilled for **Sunday 26th March to Sunday 2nd April 2023** (excluding Saturday 1st April)

Summer term 2023 (12 weeks)

Saturday 22nd April to Friday 26th May (*classes are on as usual on Bank Holiday Monday 1st May*)

Half term - Saturday 27th May to Sunday 4th June (1 week but 2 Saturday's off)

Monday 5th June to Saturday 22nd July

Upper School Performance at the Albany Theatre Deptford - 1st & 2nd July 2023 (plus rehearsal on **Sunday 25th June** at SLDS) - *to include some class work dances to be performed by some of our younger Upper School children and selected solo / group choreography pieces which will be created and performed by some of our senior Upper School students. All students who attend our Sunday Musical Theatre classes and are members of our Festival Team will also perform.*

Timetable & class fees for academic year 2022-2023

We are currently working on the timetable for September 2022 to July 2023 which we hope to release at least two weeks before May / June half term.

If you already know your child will not be continuing dancing with us next academic year, or wishes to stop attending any dance genre at the end of this term, then please let us know as soon as you can, as this information really helps us to plan ahead. The official date for giving notice of leaving the school or changing any classes your child attends will be Sunday 29th May, by which time you will have received the timetable for next year.

Unfortunately, fees for next year will have to be increased to go towards our ever-increasing running costs. We will inform you about class fees when the timetable is released.

REMINDER: Summer holiday dance & musical theatre programme - reply by 29th April

We are considering offering summer holiday workshops for our students (and also for non-SLDS students) aged 3 to 18 years.

The workshops would be split by age and duration of the day would be suitable for each group and taught by a range of qualified / experienced teachers and professional performers.

At this stage, we would like to find out what arrangements would be most useful to working / busy parents / carers over the summer. Therefore, if you are interested in your child attending a summer programme with us, then please reply to the questions below **by Friday 29th April:**

1. Child's name
2. Child's current school year
3. Which genres of dance / performing arts would your child be interested in learning to over the summer e.g., ballet, tap, modern, acting, commercial / street dance, musical theatre, jazz, contemporary dancing?
- Please give as much detail as possible about what your child would be most interested in
4. Would you prefer the workshops to be one day per week throughout the summer holiday or daily for a full week?
- If you answered that you would prefer a full week of workshops, then which week(s) would your child be available to attend?
- If you answered that you would prefer the workshops to be one day per week throughout the summer holiday then which day(s) would your child be available to attend?
5. What hours would be most helpful for you / suitable for your child for the day of workshops?
6. Please give any other relevant information to help us to best plan our summer holiday camps for you

I hope you have a great start to the summer term.

To stay up to date with events happening at our school, follow us on social media:

Facebook - @southlondondanceschool

Instagram - @south_london_dance_school

Best wishes,

Miss Zoe

Principal - South London Dance School