



**SOUTH  
LONDON  
DANCE  
SCHOOL**

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## Upper School - Start of Term Newsletter - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope you've had an enjoyable Easter break - at least the sun has finally come out for the last few days! Summer term classes start THIS Monday (15<sup>th</sup> April) and we very much look forward to seeing your children again and welcoming quite a number of new students to our school.

To help the term to start smoothly, please refer back to the invoice that was sent to you on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March (or more recently in the case of students who are new to our school), from [upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk](mailto:upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk) to remind yourself of your child's dance schedule for this term as some students have a different timetable to previous. Also, please note that we have recently made some changes to the order of lessons within some of the Saturday sessions and we will notify you about this next week by email, so that your child can be ready for the correct lesson first.

We have recently received the examination results for the ISTD examination session that we held at the end of last term and the teachers will be letting children know their results from next week. Once again, our results are outstanding, so huge congratulations to all of the children who worked so hard preparing for their examination so that they could shine on the day. I am sure you will join me in saying thank you to the teachers for their excellent teaching and support. Also, thank you to the parents who helped on the examination days, it was wonderful to hear how much you enjoyed the experience, especially it seems, playing the music tracks for the higher-level examinations.

Please kindly take the time to read through this newsletter ahead of the first class of the summer term for your child.

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Second Hand Uniform Sale 10am-12pm in studio 1

If you have items to donate to the sale, then please drop them off to the waiting room next week from Monday 3pm onwards, please ensure all items are washed. Use the link below to see which items are considered 'higher value' and therefore, if you wish, you can ask for 50% of the proceeds to be repaid to you. You will need to print out selling labels and attach to any 'higher value' items that you wish to sell.

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Second-Hand-Uniform-Sale-Information-Sept-2023-1.pdf>

We are grateful for donations of all uniform items that are in good condition, but please note that we are not able to sell any items at the 50/50 arrangement, other than those which are specifically listed as 'higher value items' in the above link.

The parent volunteers at the sale are happy to help but strongly advise that you bring with you to the sale a copy of your invoice for the summer term so that you can be sure which level your child will be in since many uniform and shoe items are different for the various levels within the school. You can find your summer term invoice in your emails - it's was sent to you on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March from: [upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk](mailto:upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk)

Once again, the sale is CASH only and please bring change (coins) as unfortunately, there will not be any float available.

There is still plenty of stock of tap & National shoes (which are in fact better second hand as the leather is softer), also ballet shoes and National skirts. We have a more limited stock of uniform items and there are no Melody Movement uniforms, pink dresses / cardigans, or lavender ballet skirts available.

Please note that the uniform sale is run by parent volunteers and unfortunately the email address is not being manned at this time, so you will need to attend the sale if you wish to purchase any items or enquire about donations.

## Reminders for when your child is at the studios

Thank you for your cooperation with reminding your child about below before the start of term . . .

- Please be reminded that the front door code is the same as last term. There is not always someone in the office to answer the door, so please ensure you let anyone know this code, who is dropping off or collecting your child.
- Healthy snacks - please encourage your child to continue to be mindful of the snacks they choose as it can have a significant impact upon their performance in the dance studio.
- Use of phones in the changing rooms - in the interests of child protection, please ask your children to refrain from taking photographs and filming in the changing rooms.
- Please remind your child that food may only be consumed in the waiting room and must comply with our allergens policy:  
<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/South-London-Dance-School-nut-products-policy-1.pdf>
- Supervised breaks remain the same as last term - if you are new to the school and unsure as to whether your child's break is supervised, then please contact Tilly asap. Also, please be reminded that any snacks must comply with our allergens policy above.

- If your child comes to the studios by themselves, please remind them to wait outside the correct studio (as stated on your invoice) AT LEAST a few minutes before their lesson time, and they should use this time to start their warm up in the corridor. Please remind your child that they must have their hair in the correct style, be wearing correct uniform, have their dance shoes done up and not be wearing any jewellery.
- Children who have long enough hair should please have it in a classical ballet bun for ballet classes. An information sheet about this was attached with your invoice (please refer to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March email from [upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk](mailto:upperschool@southlondondanceschool.co.uk))
- Please also ensure your child has with them all of the items they need for their class and any other classes which they have back-to-back, since they will not be allowed to go upstairs between consecutive lessons. Students should also continue to bring all valuables with them into the dance studio with them and a bottle of water if needed.
- Please ensure you name all uniform items and shoes, especially shoes and any uniform items which are removed in class.
- Lavender Ballet Skirts - Pre-Primary and Primary ballet  
Please ensure you have sewn 2 tucks into your child's Matilda Roch Valley ballet skirt to ensure it fits tightly on the waist, not hips - instructions on how to do this can be found below:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/4/folders/18dyWg749hrdz8qUxXR13NKz05aoOqpJ4>
- Heel Taps for Tap Shoes - Pre-Primary and Primary tap  
Please ensure that your child has the appropriate heel taps for their tap shoes (a small metallic bit to be added to the shoes added to their tap shoes) as without them, children are not able to hear all the beats they should be making. Duo Dance, and most other specialised dancewear shops normally supply heel taps, and they should be able to advise you about how to add them to your child's tap shoes. If you are buying new shoes for your child then please ensure you ask about heel taps at the time of purchasing the shoes to save having to make an extra journey!
- Friends of students may only come into the studio building if they are with the student / their family at all times, or are genuinely waiting during the class for a particular reason e.g., travelling home together. We do not allow children / young people who are not SLDS students into the studios purely for social purposes.
- We will once again be allowing senior students to use the boys changing room as a homework room for all senior students on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 6:15pm onwards. Students are expected to work independently and quietly. Please set up the folding table to use as a shared desk.

## Injuries, allergies, illnesses, other medical conditions & SEND

- In order to ensure the safety of our students, it is of the utmost importance that parents / carers inform us of any allergies or illnesses their child may have, so that we have this on record in case of any medical emergency.
- If your child suffers from any medical condition or has been / is in the process of being assessed for SEND and you have not already informed us, then please contact me by 9am on Monday so this can be noted on your child's record and so that our teachers can provide the best possible support for your child.
- If your child carries with them an epi-pen, or any other medication which we might need to administer, then please contact me by 9am on Monday.
- If your child has suffered an injury over the Easter break, or has a pre-existing injury, then we MUST be notified by 9am on Monday so that teachers can be informed and a suitable rehabilitation plan can be implemented to include decisions about participation in classes. Returning to dance training following an injury usually necessitates specialist intervention so please make sure you keep us updated with any medical / physiotherapist appointments so that we can update the teachers. Please note that it is the full responsibility of the child's parent / carer to decide when their child is ready to return to dance classes and only when they are fully fit to dance following sustaining an injury. Whilst injured your child should attend and watch all of their classes to limit the amount they will fall behind their group.

## Staff update

I am very sorry to let you know that Miss Yasmin, our Thursday evening commercial / street teacher has decided to move on to new opportunities and her last day of teaching will be next Thursday. Miss Yasmin has been a caring and inspirational teacher and we will all miss her very much. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for her hard work and support over the years that she has been a teacher at SLDS and in wishing her all the best for her future projects. Please tell your children before their lesson this Thursday, so that they can say their goodbyes in person.

I am pleased to announce that Miss Rani will be taking over the position from Thursday 25th April. Rani trained at D&B theatre school, later studying BA in dance at Roehampton University. She is an experienced commercial, hip-hop, lyrical and contemporary teacher who is passionate about building an inclusive and creative learning environment in which young people can develop their dance skills and personally. Miss Rani will start the term by introducing the students to grooves and foundations in various commercial styles.

## Save the date - summer holiday workshops - 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August

Our summer holiday workshops will take place from Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August. Further information will be sent to you during the first half of term about what the week will include, but rest assured it will be fun and challenging for the children, so make sure you save the date now! The children will work towards an informal performance for you to watch at the end of the week.

Our summer and autumn 2024 term dates can be found here:

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

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

Facebook - @southlondondanceschool

Instagram - @south\_london\_dance\_school

Wishing you a relaxing weekend and then an enjoyable start next week to summer term 2024!

Miss Zoe

Principal

South London Dance School