



Upper School Newsletter - Monday 16th March 2026

Dear Parent or Carer,

I am pleased to be looking ahead to the summer term and hopefully some warmer weather. SLDS staff are busy as ever with final preparations the forthcoming ISTD examination session which takes place next week. I would like to wish the best of luck to all of the students taking examinations - they have all worked exceptionally hard and I am sure their results will reflect their efforts.

If you are not aware of the ISTD examinations board that we follow at SLDS, then you may wish to read here:

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/recent-news/examinationnews/>

Using this link, you can also see our outstanding results from previous sessions.

The teachers look forward to meeting some parents / carers on **Sunday 22nd March for feedback sessions**. If you have not yet booked a slot, then you can sign up on the noticeboard upstairs in the waiting room. Once you have booked a slot then please ensure you attend so that teacher's time is not wasted, or remove your name from the sheet so that another parent / carer can take your slot - thank you for your cooperation.

Your invoice for summer term 2026

As previously advised, there will be some changes to the timetable for next term, so please carefully check your invoice (attached) to find out the correct session time and studio for your child. Also, you can view the whole timetable for the summer term here:

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/studio-timetable/>

The new term commences on **Monday 13th April 2026** and will include 13 weeks of lessons and for this reason it will be a slightly higher cost than your invoice for the current term which is only 11 weeks. Term dates can be found here:

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

Please note that classes will take place as usual on bank holiday Monday 4th May.

Sunday Musical Theatre class dates can be found on our website and please note that next term, MT classes will revert to the earlier time (as per autumn term 2025) as stated on your invoice.

If you have a query about your invoice, or you notice anything that is incorrect, then contact your administrator immediately. If you do not hear back from them after 5 days or before the end of term (whichever is sooner), please contact them again to make sure we have received your email.

Please ensure payment is made on or before the last day of this term which is **Saturday 28th March**. If payment is not made on time, you could lose your space or an administration fee would be added to your account. Kindly ensure all payments state the students name, otherwise it cannot be allocated to the correct student. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Payment of this invoice confirms your acceptance of our school Terms and Conditions:

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/terms-conditions/>

Please note that the date for giving notice of leaving the school or requesting to change any classes for next term has now passed and therefore fees in lieu of attendance next term would be chargeable.

Summer term class levels

Next term, unless you have been otherwise notified, all students will stay in the same level of class as they are currently, even if they are taking an examination this term. This is because we do not move students up to the next level until the new academic year i.e. September.

However, in some classes in which most or all of the students are taking their examination this term, some students / groups will commence preparation work for the next grade, so that they can progress more quickly when officially moving into the next level in September.

If your child attends Levels 1-4 commercial / street classes then please be advised that they have been assessed by the teacher and Principal with regard to moving up to the next level which will be when they are ready and this will not necessarily at the same time as their peers. Bear in mind that there are fewer levels in commercial / street compared to modern grades and so movement through the levels is slower, also note that taking a Freestyle examination does not impact moving up to the next level in commercial / street or modern.

As our teachers are qualified and experienced professionals, we politely request that parents / carers respect their judgement over whether a child is ready to move up to the next level. We also ask that parents recognise that their child may not be ready to move up to the next level of class at the same time as any sibling / friend.

If you would like to read more about progression through levels at SLDS, then please read here:

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/CHILDRENS-PROGRESSION-THROUGH-LEVELS-AT-SLDS-06022024.pdf>

and

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Introduction-to-Dance-Examinations-at-SLDS-23112023.pdf>

Staff update

As you know, Miss Ellie will soon be having her first baby and so she will be stepping back from teaching for a short time. Miss Amelia has already taken over her Saturday morning classes and our current Saturday teaching team will take over her Saturday afternoon classes after Easter. Miss Kayley and Miss Jemima will be taking over her Monday classes after Easter and Miss Amelia will be covering her Thursday classes.

Also unfortunately, Miss Tilly will not be able to continue teaching on a Monday next term as her 'normal job' is extremely busy. She is really sad not to be able to continue to see all of the children at SLDS but she promises to stay in touch. Miss Kayley will be taking over her classes.

Miss Jemima has unexpectedly had to move out of London and so she will be reducing her teaching next term to only a Monday. Miss Daisy is very excited to be taking over her Saturday morning classes and our new staff member Lee Hoy will be teaching our higher-level ballet students on a Wednesday. You can read about Lee and our other teachers here:

<https://southlondondancestudios.co.uk/ballet-tap-modern-national-street-dance-teachers/>

Foot / ankle sessions with Angelo & gym / acro skills with Miss Amelia

After the excellent sessions we had with Angelo in the autumn term, I am very pleased to let you know that he is booked for three further dates this term to work with the Primary ballet (II) / Grade 1 modern (II) plus children on:

- Controlling pronation & sickling
- Strengthening metatarsals, arches & ankles
- Improving extension of feet
- Correcting tracking for rises, relevés and jumps
- Pointe work (for girls who already do pointe work)

This is open to students who were not invited to attend in the autumn term, or chose not to attend. These sessions are incredibly beneficial for all young dancers to reduce chance of injury and improve ballet and modern dancing placement and technique. Groups will be smaller than in the autumn term and when we know who wants to attend, we will group the children accordingly.

Additionally, on these dates, Miss Amelia will be running **gym / acro workshops** for students to learn / improve gym skills which can be used in modern dancing and develop strength and flexibility. Your child does not have to attend our Friday gym skills classes to be able to come to the Sunday sessions.

The sessions with Angelo and Miss Amelia will take place next term on:

Sunday 17th May

Sunday 14th June

Sunday 28th June

We advise that your child attends all three sessions, with a minimum of attending two sessions.

We are not able to give times and prices at this stage as initially we need to know which students wish to attend, therefore, if you are interested in your child attending, then contact sldsupperschool@gmail.com by Monday 23rd March and let us know which 2 or 3 dates your child would be able to attend, what times they would be available on each date and which workshop(s) they are interested in attending i.e. feet / ankles with Angelo and / or gym / acro with Miss Amelia. Of course, we recommend that your child attends both workshops if possible as it's a wonderful opportunity for them :)

Grade 1 National fun event for parents / carers to participate!

Last summer term, this was a really enjoyable event for the children as well as their parents, so next term, once again we would like to invite the parent / carers of children in Grade 1 National to join in with their child's National class on the below dates:

Monday 29th June - 4.30-5pm in studio 3

Saturday 4th July - 5.50-6.20pm in studio 1

National skirts and shoes are not necessary for parents (!) and neither do you need to prepare as your child will teach you what to do on the day!

Timetable for September

We are already looking ahead to the autumn term by making a start on the timetable which, of course is a major challenge.

It would be very helpful for us to know any information that you think we might be able to try to accommodate. For example, if your child cannot get to the studios straight from school until a later time than 4.15pm on any weekday, then that would be helpful for us to know. Or if your child attends another weekday evening activity that is important to them and will continue in the new academic year, then let us know.

It would also be very helpful to know if you plan for your child to stop any genre at the end of the summer term.

Please let us know any information that you would like us to consider by Monday 23rd March. Thank you for your cooperation.

Summer Holiday Programme 2026 - Tuesday 25th - Friday 28th August

Register your interest for this now by completing the google form linked below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNFLhjqspPD_CO79EcGqYTLgZyB3mIOM745k8NGS2gG_1LVQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor

or contact sldsummerprogramme@gmail.com if you have any questions.

For students who are currently in Year 2 plus, it will be a fun and challenging week of dance, acrobatics and musical theatre with fantastic guest teachers joining your favourite SLDS teachers. It will be a great way to get back into dancing after the summer holiday so DON'T MISS OUT!!! Groups will be split by age / level.

For younger children (currently in school Reception and Year 1), it will be a fun week of arts & crafts, yoga, singing and dancing, with a little performance for parents and friends at the end of the week.

Junior Funky Moves class for Reception to Year 2 - Thursday 4.00-4.45pm

I am really trying to get more boys interested in dance and our Junior Funky Moves class is perfect for them. Of course, girls can also join the class!

Children learn street dancing moves in a creative and fun story-telling context with themes such as space, superheroes and Toy Story.

The fee for the 13-week summer term will be £123.00. Contact Lynsey if you'd like to sign up your child to start after Easter - sldslowerschool@gmail.com

We would be most grateful if Reception to Year 2 parents / carers could please put this class on their school class what's app group to spread the word as we would love to bring new children, especially boys, into this class next term.

Consent Slips

If your child is in Year 5 or above and you feel they are mature enough for you to give consent for them to leave the dance studio unaccompanied then please contact Loretto for further information - sldsupperschool@gmail.com. Unfortunately, we are not able to apply consent slips to the next term's registers after the end of the current term, so please ensure you get in touch before the end of this term.

Security & Child Protection Reminders

- Please ensure you close the back door when entering or exiting the building. This is really important for safety reasons, especially as some children are not always with an adult.
- In the interests of child protection, please ask your children to refrain from taking photographs and filming in the changing rooms. Thank you for your cooperation.

Uniform & Lost Property

Please note that over the Easter break, the lost property in the waiting room will be cleared out and taken to the charity shop / put into our second-hand uniform sale stock, so please make sure you come in on or before the end of term if you have lost anything. We are sorry but we are unable to respond to phone calls or emails about lost property.

Children's dance parties

We can offer dance parties on Sunday's during term time and any day (subject to availability of teachers) during school holiday periods. One of our experienced and / or qualified dance teachers will lead a fun dance party for your child and his / her friends. The children learn a dance routine of any dance genre to their chosen piece of music which they can perform to parents at the end. If you'd like more information then contact infosouthlondondanceschool@gmail.com

Best wishes for an enjoyable end to this term and a wonderful Easter holiday. Over the break, if you want to plan ahead for a theatre trip in the summer term, then have a look at London Children's Ballet's production of Anne of Green Gables which will be on at the Peacock Theatre in Holborn from 3rd to 5th July:

<https://www.sadlerswells.com/whats-on/london-childrens-ballet-anne-of-green-gables-2026/#book>

Our students Oliver and Fola will be performing as well as our ex-student April. And it's very exciting that Fola has had a special new part created just for her.

Best wishes,

Miss Zoe

Principal

South London Dance School