

Spring 2023 Newsletter

We are pleased to relaunch our school newsletter. It used to be a regular fixture pre-Covid and we're delighted to finally get it going again! Read on to find out more about upcoming events and student successes.

Fee reminder

A huge thank you to the great many of you who have already paid your fees for this term. If you haven't yet, please ensure that we receive your fees as soon as possible. If you have any difficulties and would like to speak to us about paying in instalments, please get in touch.

Choreographic Competition

Our Choreographic Competition will be taking place on **Sunday 23rd April** in the Main Hall at Jack Hunt School. This competition offers students the chance to choreograph their own dances and perform them to an audience of family and friends. Our adjudicator this year is our former student, Emily Yong. Emily now works as a professional dancer, choreographer and teacher and we are delighted to welcome her back to West Peterborough Dance.

The atmosphere of the Choreographic Competition is always hugely supportive and we adore seeing what ideas the students come up with. All students taking part will receive a certificate and there are trophies for the winners and medals for the runners up of each section. Entry forms and further details are available from your class teacher. The closing date for entries is Saturday 25th March so there is still plenty of time to get your forms in.

Uniform orders

We have reintroduced uniform payment slips recently. When your child receives a new item of uniform, they will also be given a uniform slip detailing the cost of the item and how to pay. We hope this will make things simpler for parents.

We keep a range of uniform in stock but if we don't have the size your child needs then we will order it from our supplier. Uniform orders are done approximately once a month so sometimes there might be a few weeks' wait to receive your item but please be assured we will process all requests as soon as possible.

Volunteer opportunities

As many of you are aware, we are lucky to have several older students who volunteer as helpers in the classes for younger children. This tradition has been part of the school for a long time – both Miss Poppy and Miss Laura started out as ballet helpers! The younger students benefit so much from having the older

dancers to emulate and, as teachers, we appreciate the helpers so much. Many of our assistants use their helping to fulfil the volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh awards, while for others it provides work experience that they can use when applying for courses and jobs in the future. We are always happy to provide references for our helpers.

We are currently looking for new helpers for our Wednesday and Saturday classes so if your child is interested in either day and in Year 7+, please get in touch. The normal class times are below but if they can't do the full time, please still let us know as we can be flexible. We are always grateful for any help.

- Wednesdays – 5.25pm to 7.00pm – Tap and Jazz
- Saturdays – 9.30am to 12.30pm – Ballet (Saturdays are done on a rota system with helpers only doing every other week)

Student Successes

- On 27th November, five of our students took part in the Cecchetti Classical Ballet Awards in London. The Awards are intended to encourage dance quality and demonstrate the high standard of children training in the Cecchetti Method. Chloe Aldwinckle, Charlotte Freer and Riddhi Ghosh took part in the Lower Junior section while Iona Walker and Annabel Yong competed in the Senior section. All five dancers performed beautifully and we were delighted that Riddhi was given a commendation while Annabel was Runner up for the Vacani Award.
- Congratulations to Iona Walker who took part in the Cresset's production of *Peter Pan* during the Christmas period. She performed superbly and we are very proud of her.
- Well done to all our students who took their ballet exams in December. You all did brilliantly and we were so impressed by your hard work and dedication.

Dates for your diary

- ❖ Half term: Monday 13th February – Saturday 18th February (inclusive).
- ❖ Watching Week – week commencing Mon 20th March
- ❖ Term will finish for most students on **Saturday 25th March**. However, there will be some extra classes the following week due to teacher absence earlier in the term. Additional classes will take place on:
 - Tuesday 28th March – Musical Theatre only
 - Wednesday 29th March – Miss Poppy's classes and Miss Hird's classes
 - Thursday 30th March – Grade 5, Pointe Prep, Contemporary 2
- ❖ Choreography competition – Sunday 23rd April