

NEWSLETTER

JULY 26

hSD
Horsham School of Dance

The summer holidays have only just begun - but the weather feels like we've been here for a while! It was a bit of a challenge finishing off term in a heatwave, especially with an exam session and our 'Mini-show' planned. The latter almost didn't happen after our original venue cancelled our booking with only 4 days to go! In true showbiz tradition though, everyone pulled together and the show certainly did go on! Next term we look forward to welcoming back Miss Katie to our team after her maternity leave, and further ahead we have our main show taking place at the newly refurbished Capitol Theatre in July 27!



1

MINI-SHOW!

After everyone's hard work, it would take more than a heatwave and a last minute venue cancellation to stop our 'Mini-Show' from happening! Bohunt School came to the rescue and accommodated us at the last minute, and everyone juggled timings to make sure they'd be there for the big event. It was fantastic to see our youngest dancers fully decked out in fabulous costumes, and truly stepping up to perform so confidently - well done to all of them! A huge thank you as well to our senior students for their wonderfully inspiring performances, and for their help assisting the little ones.



2

SUCCESS!

As always we've had lots of notable successes over the last few months. Our competition dancers continue to do well, with Pippa and Charlie reaching the National Finals of the All England Dance Competition with their Modern Ballet Duet - we wish them luck for that! Ana Gonzalez was accepted into the Royal Ballet School's Mid Associate Programme. She'll be taking up that place at their centre in Scotland, as sadly for us the family are relocating! And Alex - pictured here winning bronze at Bright Star Festival - has been chosen as part of a guard of honour that will welcome King Charles III to the Royal Academy of Dance headquarters in September!



3

PIROUETTE WORKSHOP

Some of our more senior ballet students had a fantastic opportunity to do a pirouette and turns workshop, delivered by my colleague Michael Kopinski at his beautiful studio. Michael gave them so many wonderful insights, and they came away truly inspired and hopefully feeling a little more confident in how to approach these most challenging of ballet steps!



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4

STUDENT HELPERS

After the Mini-Show we had some comments from parents that really struck a chord with me: "I really like the older girls' involvement with the younger ones at HSD, I think it's lovely for all involved."

And: "The way the older dancers performed and interacted with the younger children was brilliant to see and something for those at Holly's age to really aspire to."

I completely agree and have been looking into ways that we can enhance and formalise a system for student helpers, so that they can have training and accreditation. If your 11+ child might be interested in taking a dance teaching assistant course with us, then do let me know and I'll keep you posted.



5

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Saturday 5th September: Family Fun Day
- w/c 19th October: Dressing up week
- Saturday 12th December: Christmas Showcase
4.30 at Tanbridge School (tbc)

Autumn term

Start: Tuesday 8th September
(No classes Monday 7th)

Finish: Saturday 12th December

Half Term Week: no classes from Monday 26th to
Saturday 30th October.

Save the dates:

Main Show weekend 10/11/12 July 2027

Dress rehearsal weekend 3/4 July 2027



MAIN SHOW 2024 - PETER PAN

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6

FAMILY FUN DAY!

Back in 2019 we held a Family Fun Open Day and it feels about time we did that again!

Saturday 5th September 11.30am-2.00pm at North Heath Hall

- Free taster sessions for all the family
- Ballet makeovers - costume dress up
- Ballet bun tutorials
- Beat the teacher challenges
- Second hand uniform sale
- Discounts on fees for introducing new families
- Show theme reveal for 2027!

We would love for as many families as possible to attend and will be asking for a bit of help from older students, and also mums that are great with hair!

We'll be in touch with more info but let us know if there's anything you'd like to see on the day.



7

CLASS SPACES

Currently we have spaces in the following classes. We always offer a free trial to anyone trying a new style of dance so do get in touch!

- ☀ Beginners Tap and Modern from approx 5+ Tuesdays at 5.15-6.00
- ☀ Bronze Jazz (7+) 6.00-6.45 and Silver Jazz (10+) 6.45-7.00 Tuesdays
- ☀ Ballet from 3-5 years on Thursdays
- ☀ Grade 1 Tap and Modern - from ages approx 7yrs + Saturdays 9.30-10.15am

There are also still spaces in our Summer Ballet sessions held throughout August - please get in touch for details.



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8

AWARDS!

We've continued giving out our Dancer and Class of the Month Awards - congratulations to all the well deserved winners! Since

January they have been:

January: Dancer - Daisy Hatch

Class - Gold Jazz

February: Dancer - Lottie Menhennett

Class - Grade 8 Ballet

March: Dancer - Emily Spyker

Class - Grade 3 Ballet

April: Dancer - Alice Clarkson

Class - Grade 1 Thursday Ballet

May: Dancer - Holly Clark

Class - Grade 5 Ballet

June: Dancer - Holly Pedley

Our next awards will be announced at the end of September!



9

LAST WORD

As I write this we're at the beginning of a long break away from classes - but hopefully not from dancing altogether! Keeping up some practice - even if it's just a bit of regular stretching and strengthening, or going over dances already learnt for new grades - will really help get everyone back into the swing of things more quickly when we return! (And there's always the option of joining us for some ballet during August!)

The holidays are also a chance to think about *how* we want to return - a new academic year is always a great chance to re-set, and I certainly always feel more motivated after a break! So have a great one - and we'll hit the ground running in September!!



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