

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



HSD
HORSHAM SCHOOL OF DANCE

MARCH 24

I can't believe that Spring term is already over. It's been a busy and productive one, with both Ballet and Jazz exams happening, and quite a few new starters joining us, just in time to take part in the shows! Welcome to all of you!

From now on that's where our focus will be for the Summer term - both in class and behind the scenes - it's all very exciting!



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SUCCESS!

We had lots more students taking RAD ballet exams and class awards again this term. From the youngest at Primary aged 5, up to our more advanced students taking Intermediate level vocational exams. Our Bronze Jazz class also took their first ISTD exam just before the Easter break. The results from both Ballet and Jazz exams were excellent, but more importantly, working towards the exams has greatly increased their knowledge and built confidence in their performance. Well done to all!



2 TEACHER'S 'TIP OF THE MONTH'

Our Top Tip for March comes from Miss Michaela, and this is definitely one that she practices as well as preaches!

As the famous quote goes - 'By failing to prepare, you prepare to fail'. Here are some ways that you can make sure you're set up for success with a bit of preparation:

- Arrive in good time for class, ready to dance in the correct uniform and shoes.
- Take a few minutes to recap last week's choreography before class, to save time during class.
- Use any resources made available to you to practice between lessons.

Like the Scouts say - 'Be Prepared'!



3 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer term begins on Monday 15th April.

No classes on bank holiday Monday 6th May.

No classes in half term week 27th May - 1st June.

All day rehearsals for main show - 29th June and 6th July.

Technical rehearsal from main show Friday 12th July 4pm onwards.

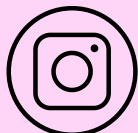
Show weekend 13th/14th July.

Term ends 14th July.

Autumn term begins Monday 9th September.



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MORE SUCCESS!

We are immensely proud of HSD student Holly Whitefield who has been studying for her certificate - Dance Teaching Assistant, run by the British Ballet Organisation. As part of this level 3 qualification - equivalent to an A-level - she has had to observe, assist and devise exercises, and attend lectures given by her tutors at BBO. She recently received her final mark, and achieved a Distinction in all modules! Holly also managed to fit in her Intermediate ballet exam this term, which she again passed with flying colours! Congratulations Holly!



5 TEACHER TRAINING

As well as supporting students who may want experience in assisting classes, HSD has guided several ex-students on their journey to a career in dance teaching. Miss Carmen and Miss Catherine have both recently taught at HSD, having been mentored in their teaching courses by Miss Annie. Miss Georgia is currently completing her final year of her Ballet Education degree at the RAD, and doing her placement teaching with us. It's so important that dance teachers receive formal training - shockingly it's not actually a legal requirement - but at HSD we would only entrust our students to trained and qualified teachers.

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6 FUN FACT :)

Whether ballet is a sport or not is a subject for great debate (in some of my classes anyway!) but there is one type of dance that definitely IS a sport - and this year will actually be part of the Olympics! 'Breaking' (or breakdancing) will feature as an Olympic sport for the first time in Paris 2024. Breaking originated in the United States in the 1970s. It took form in the lively block parties in the Bronx, emerging from hip hop culture, and is characterised by acrobatic movements, stylised footwork and battles where the dancers compete to do the most impressive moves. I for one will be glued to the screen!



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LAST WORD

Now that preparations for the show have started in earnest, there's a palpable sense of excitement in all the classes! I love to involve the students in decisions about choreography, costumes and narrative ideas, and it creates such a great sense of collaboration across the whole school. With all the help we get from parents, and an audience full of friends and family, it's definitely a community effort, with all of us working towards a common goal - I love it!!



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