

## Newsletter Spring 2010

Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome back and may I take this opportunity of wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

December saw thirteen lucky pupils performing in front of Darcey Bussell at the Royal Academy of Dance for the launch of her new range of children's dancewear. Their photographs appeared in many national papers and also the New York Times. The dancers were Imogen Alvares, Lilly Brown, Emily Dougans, Olivia Leitch, Emma Lewis, Sophie Lewis, Annabel Pickering, Amelia Silk, Hope and Sophie Roberts, Niamh Robinson, Katie Valentine and Lucy Wood.

Lucy Wood was the winner of the first Angelina Ballerina Award. She along with Emily Dougans, Annabel and Harrison Pickering and Amelia Silk were invited to dance in the finals at English National Ballet headquarters after submitting DVD's of their dances in a national competition for young dancers. They danced before a distinguished panel of judges and had their photograph taken with Angelina. Lucy received her award at the prestigious Critic Circle Awards at the Royal Opera House on January 21<sup>st</sup> and will also spend a day with English National Ballet at rehearsals for the Angelina Ballerina Tour. Congratulations to all concerned.

In spite of the heaviest snow for years all our pupils managed to appear in their roles in the Byfleet Players production of Goldilocks. They were required to be versatile, playing such diverse roles as a strongman, a human cannonball, fairies, clowns and high school musical dancers. A great deal of fun was had by all. Pupils taking part were Lara Lucano, Jessica Cook, Lauren Hurst, Sophie Lewis, Olivia Leitch, Hope Roberts, Katie Valentine, Amy Charlton, Rhianna Driscoll, Emma Lewis, Niamh Robinson, Oliver Downey, Alexander Lewis and Oliver Wilkinson-Smith.

It has been lovely to have had news of past pupils. Laurretta Summerscales at just 18 danced the Principal role of Myrtha Queen of the Wilis in English National Ballet's production of Giselle at the Coliseum at the Saturday matinee performance on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Miss Gretchen saw the performance on behalf of the school. Rosanna Hoult will be appearing at the New Victoria Theatre Woking at the beginning of February in the touring production of Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat and her brother Nicholas Hoult has been nominated for a BAFTA for his part in Skins.

Miss Sue has been asked to pilot the new RAD grade syllabus which is to be launched in 2011. Selected pupils will be filmed and invited to demonstrate the work. She will also be part of an international faculty, which includes Wayne Sleep, at an Easter Course to be held at Dulwich College.

## **RAD Ballet Examination Results**

Again excellent results were achieved.

### **Vocational Examinations:**

Intermediate Foundation; Keira Bird and Nadia Slater, Distinction.

Intermediate; Kerri Brown, Distinction, Paige Doran, Merit.

Advanced 1: Natalie Dodd, Distinction, Georgina Woodward, Merit.

Advanced 2; Anna Lewis, Distinction, Hannah Punter, Merit.

We are proud that Anna and Hannah have been awarded ARAD after their success and particular congratulations to Anna on her excellent result after returning to ballet having completed a degree at Cambridge University and working in the City. Congratulations also to Hannah on obtaining the offer of a place at Cambridge University and Rebecca McVeigh on her offer of a place at Durham University.

### **Grade Examinations**

58 candidates took examinations 40 passing with distinction and 18 with merit. The 90 club are: - Kerri Brown Grade 7 99%, Lucy Wood Grade 4 98%, Skye Hester Grade 7 97%, Jessica Cook Grade 7 96%, Rosie Dinsdale and Annabel Pickering Grade 3 94%, Breezy Haywood Grade 5 92%, Oliver Wilkinson-Smith Grade 3 92%, Isabella Anscombe Grade 6 91% and Beth Connellan Grade 7 91%. Particular congratulations to Rebecca Mabin and Niamh Robinson who topped the 90 club by achieving 100% for Grade 5 and Grade 4 respectively.

7 pupils were awarded the Class Award for Pre-Primary.

### **DATES**

Half Term Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February inclusive

End of term Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March

School Show Rhoda McGaw Theatre Woking 28<sup>th</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July with a Gala on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August when Nursery, Pre-Primary and Primary pupils also have a separate performance in the morning.

RAD Grade examinations Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup>.

ISTD Tap and Modern examinations Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March Primary-Grade 6

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March Intermediate Foundation –Advanced.

Thank you to Mrs Corrine Brown and Mrs Rachel Cook who kindly run the coffee shop the profits of which all go to buying equipment for the school such as the portable barres. Please ensure you pay for all items, there is an honesty box and if for any reason you do not have the money at the time please put it in as soon after as possible. It is obvious from the receipts that this does not always happen.

It would be greatly appreciated if your telephone calls to Miss Sue and General Enquiries were made Monday to Friday between 9am and 3pm.

You are most welcome to email [sradmin@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sradmin@tiscali.co.uk) at any time and Avril will endeavour to respond as quickly as possible. Please advise changes of contact details or classes as soon as possible in order that our records are as accurate as possible.

### **IMPORTANT**

Invoices should be settled BEFORE the start of term and posted or delivered to me at Arden Cottage. Please do not hand in at lessons. Please add £5 per class to all payments made after term starts. Very many thanks to all who do pay on time.

Miss Sue