

Susan Robinson School of Ballet Autumn Term Newsletter 2015

Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome back to another action packed term. The staff and myself hope that everyone is feeling refreshed after their summer break. The end of July and early August was still very busy for some of the teachers and students. We send our congratulations to all the dancers who represented us so well at the All England Dance Competition Finals. We were very proud so many of our pupils were placed. The Under 15 Ballet Group were awarded first place and performed at the Gala. Unfortunately one of our cast fell ill but the day was saved by Emily Francis, who was assisting at the Finals. Tights, shoes and hairpins were lent by the girls and in the best theatrical tradition the show went on. Thank you Emily. We were absolutely delighted when Niamh Robinson was awarded the coveted Young Ballet Dancer of the Year Award and was presented with a cheque for £1,500 by Dame Beryl Grey.

We have now said goodbye to Niamh, who is at Elmhurst School of Dance, and is to be particularly congratulated for achieving A* grades in all her 10 GCSE subjects and also to Lauren Hurst, now at Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, who achieved A* and 2A grades in her A levels. These students demonstrate that utter dedication to their dance training is no bar to achieving academic excellence.

Please do come and support our dancers at the following events.

October 11th. A Gala in aid of the Red Cross at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane at 7pm. Numerous artistes from the dance world will be taking part including stars from the Royal Ballet and Strictly Come Dancing, Diversity and Stomp. Our students will be dancing in the finale with dancers from vocational schools. It promises to be a memorable evening.

October 11th. Queen Charlottes Hall Richmond at 2.30. I have arranged a dance for some of our students to perform in a programme that is a tribute to the Rugby World Cup. In addition Niamh will perform her winning solo from The All England Dance Competition with kind permission of Elmhurst School of Dance.

4th -7th November. New Victoria Theatre Woking, Northern Ballet Theatre's production of The Nutcracker. We have 26 lucky students who, following an audition, will be taking part performing as mice and children in the party scene.

11th November. Royal Albert Hall at 5pm. Our group, The Jumblies, is one of the 26 schools chosen worldwide to take part in this performance. We have been honoured to have been selected to be a part of this every year since its inception.

6th-9th April 2016. Our School Show 'Pointe, Pirouette, Performance' at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre Woking.

A reminder that if there are any pupils, including those new to the school, who wish to be part of this, the completed forms (which can be found on the school web site www.srballet.com under Notices) should be returned by half term at the very latest (Saturday 17th October).

May I also remind you we are holding a competition to design the front cover of the programme of the show. Please include the title ('Pointe, Pirouette, Performance') and our school name and write your name and age on the back.

IMPORTANT

Our costs do unfortunately increase and we have for some time assimilated these rises but I now have to make a small increase in the fees of £5 a term. The term fee will be £80 for a ten week term from January 2016. There is a discount for those taking additional classes in any discipline and these will cost £75 a term. The exceptions are Nursery Ballet which will be £75 a term and Primary Tap and Modern which will be £60 each.

In case of financial hardship please do not hesitate to contact me.

Just a gentle reminder that fees are due before the start of each term and I greatly appreciate those who do pay promptly, thereby avoiding the late payment fee. A terms notice is required.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE EXAMINATION RESULTS

Vocational

Intermediate; Christina Beams and Emily West both with Distinction

Intermediate Foundation; Anastasia Hotchin, Georgia Thompson and Grace Vigrass all with Distinction

Grade examinations. 38 pupils took the exam 22 passing with Distinction and a Gold Medal and 16 with Merit and a Silver Medal

Primary in Dance All 5 candidates passed with Distinction and a Gold Medal.

Bravo to our 90 club who were Emma Lewis Grade 8 with 98, Anastasia Hotchin Grade 5 with 97 and Intermediate Foundation with 94, Zoe Donaldson Grade 5 with 94, Jade Cawthraw Grade 8 with 90 and Christina Spanellis Grade 5 with 90 .

Miss Vicky is also delighted to report Jade Cawthraw also passed her ISTD Modern Grade 6 with 92.

Many congratulations to all the candidates.

Term Dates

Spring Term commences Tuesday 5th January

Half term Monday 15th February to Saturday 20th February inclusive

Term ends Monday 21st March.

Thank you for your continued support, Miss Sue