

AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER 2018

Dear Parents and Friends,

Firstly I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to everyone.

A massive thank you to everybody who supported our April School Show and Gala which raised £12,000 for the Royal Surrey County Hospital intensive care unit. It was particularly moving when Professor Piers Gatenby came to the Gala to collect the cheque.

The most heart-warming and emotive moment was the Gala, produced in secret by my wonderful staff and ex-pupils. There are no words to convey my admiration and gratitude to all those involved. The messages from ex-students who were not able to attend were equally emotional and to see everyone all gathered together makes me so very proud of my wonderful ballet family "Ballet Byfleet is for Life!"

News of our former student.... Congratulations to Sarah Trinder who has just left us having taken her RAD Advanced 2 exam. Following her success in the American Grand Prix and being offered places at English National Ballet, Ballettschule Basel, she accepted a place at the Dutch National Ballet School, Amsterdam. We send her our love and very best wishes for the future. Sarah is proof that dedication and determination have brought their own deserved success, "Bravo Sarah!" Sarah also achieved amazing results in GCSE's whilst still attending all her ballet classes (over 6 per week) with no detrimental effect to her academic results.

We would also like to congratulate Melissa Masefield who attended the RAD Summer School and was awarded the scholarship for next year's summer school. This is well deserved, Melissa you are a lovely dancer!

Our students have participated in many events during the spring/summer this year.

In May we were invited to perform at the RAD's Pop up event in Battersea Square, our dancers performed beautifully and the event was great fun for all involved. Also in May some of our students danced at the Wey Voices concert at the Byfleet Methodist Church. As our studios are based at the Methodist Hall we are always very happy to support their various charitable events throughout the year.

In June some of our students were invited to Elmhurst Ballet School in Birmingham. Before Miss Sue completed her training at the Royal Ballet Upper School she trained at Elmhurst Ballet School and as alumni was invited to participate in their special alumni event. All our pupils were a credit to us performing alongside present Elmhurst students and our performances were received with universal praise! We had great fun on the day especially travelling on a coach that sadly broke down every 10 minutes but in the best tradition of the theatre "the show must go on!"

This July Parish Day was a challenge as many of you were already on holiday but I would like to convey my thanks to children and parents who participated. There were some lovely photographs of the day in the local press.

In August a number of our pupils (and ex-pupil Emma Lewis) were involved in Miss Erika Vincent's (director of the Biz Theatre School) amazing production of "Cats". In aid of such a worthwhile charity "Shooting Star Chase". To be part of the theatre community is a great privilege and my congratulations to all involved in this wonderful Show, you made us all so very proud.

Exam ResultsBravo to all!

Ballet 79 candidates ... 63 Distinctions and 16 Merits

The 90 club were

Grade 5 Millie Tones 91, Charlotte Mandeville 93

Grade 7 Amy Campbell 90, Emma Coates 94, Alice Pople 94

Grade 8 Zoe Donaldson 93, Emily Dougans 91

Tap/Modern 33 candidates... 28 Distinctions and 5 Merits

The 90 club were

Grade 1 Modern Jersey-Rose Gardner 90, Peter Henderson 91, Aila Zaman 92

Grade 1 Tap Peter Henderson 91, Aila Zaman 90

Grade 4 Modern Millie Tones 93, Lily Hardiman 91

Forthcoming events – Exciting News!

Auditions for Northern Ballet's Nutcracker at Woking New Victoria Theatre are on 15/16th September for selected students. A member of the artistic team at Northern Ballet will be conducting the auditions with specific requirements regarding standard and height required.

RAD Pop Up Event - the RAD is hosting another pop up dance event at King's Cross station on Saturday 20th October, the event will be hosted by Blue Peter Presenter Radzi Chinyanganya. We are delighted that our school has again been invited to participate.

There will be further auditions in January 2019 as the Bolshoi Ballet will be coming to perform in London in August 2019. We await news of the productions.

Staff News!

We are absolutely delighted send our warmest congratulations Miss Jade and our former teacher Miss Beth as both of them are expecting a baby in the New Year, we are very excited that they will be adding to our Nursery classes in due course!

Term Dates are as follows -

Autumn/Winter Term resumes Monday 10th September.

Half Term - Monday 22nd October - Saturday 3rd November inclusive

End of Term - Saturday 1st December 2018.

Ballet Exams – 13th, 14th and 15th December 2018

Spring Term resumes Saturday 12th January 2019

Half Term – Saturday 16th February – Saturday 23rd February 2019 inclusive

End of Term – Saturday 30th March 2019

Ballet Exams 5th and 6th April 2019

To all students in our School we uphold our mission statement that we are committed to bringing every student to their full potential through excellence in teaching and training.

Sincere thanks for your continued support.
Miss Sue.