

Joanna Mardon School of Dance

Newsletter -Summer 2012



Congratulations to all pupils on another very productive and successful couple of terms

Show March 2012

I hope you all enjoyed the fantastic and enjoyable performances by over 300 of our pupils – well done. We are already planning the 2013 show which will be celebrating 20 years of the Dance School! (Am I really that old?!)

National Youth Ballet

Congratulations to the 5 senior ballet students who successfully auditioned and took part in the recent production of Giselle, alongside professional dancers in Torquay.

Staff News

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that, after 8 years, Miss Amy will be leaving us this summer to return to full time teaching at Sidbury Primary School. Amy has been a truly inspirational teacher at the school and will be greatly missed. Hopefully we can persuade her to return on a freelance basis for special events in the future!

I am delighted to inform you that Miss Caroline will be increasing her involvement within the school from September and taking over the Tuesday night classes. Caroline is another highly experienced teacher who taught at the school prior to Miss Amy. Having returned to cover Amy's maternity leave she currently teaches the advanced jazz classes and choreographed the performance jazz for our recent show.

Miss Molly, one of our teaching assistants will also be leaving to pursue a full-time dance course and we wish her well. Miss Georgia will be stepping up into a larger role assisting in junior ballet classes on a Saturday. I would also like to formally introduce Miss Ella who will be assisting alongside Maddie on a Tuesday evening with the junior jazz classes.

New Ballet Syllabus

The Royal Academy of Dance has started to introduce the new ballet syllabus which we have now started to teach. It has a very different dynamic feel to it, aimed at training the dancer for the 21st century. It is a beautiful but challenging syllabus structured in a more creative arrangement for the formal examinations. The link between the new grades is evident, but there will be a period of transition from the old to new. The grades are aimed for study over a longer period of time and this may affect the examination time. From September 2012 all pupils from Primary to Grade 3 will be following the new syllabus. (Grade 4 and 5 will be launched world-wide during 2014 for examination from 2015, so it is probable that our current grade 4 and above pupils will continue with the current syllabus.)

The current grade 3 students have the greatest challenge as they have not had the progression through the earlier grades of the new syllabus and some of the content is quite hard. Therefore, please do not be alarmed if they appear to be in the grade for longer than expected.

Timetable Refinements

Please ensure you read the attached invoices carefully as we have made some slight changes to the timetable from September to meet the needs of all our pupils.

- Current **Grade 3 Tap pupils** – moving from Monday to Tuesday evening
- Slight re-structuring of **Beginners / Junior jazz classes**. (Since we reduced the age to 5 years to start jazz we have found that pupils need to progress into the next class at an earlier age, but they tire very easily during the 45 minute class. We have also extended into 2 advanced classes since we reduced the age to 5. Therefore, to ensure you are getting value for money and your children's needs are being fully met we are having 2 x 30 minute classes. This will mean that some of the current Junior 1 pupils will change from a 45minute class to a 30 minute class, but there will be less children and more personal teaching, the children will not tire and it will be easier on your purses! Any queries please email Jo – jo@joannamardonschoolofdance.co.uk
- We are going to have a large number of **Grade 2 ballet** pupils in September and therefore I am splitting the 1 hour class into 2 x 45minute classes. (Again this will allow for better teaching in smaller classes and be more economical for parents.)

New Website

Some of you may have noticed that the website is currently off-line and undergoing some very exciting changes. We hope to 'go live' by the end of July. Please visit the site over the summer holidays for all your information – www.joannamardonschoolofdance.co.uk

2nd Hand Kit

Due to various reasons we are going to stop selling 2nd hand kit from September 2012. (Character shoes / skirts and higher grade ballet skirts can continue to be resold only through the school.) As the teachers need to be prioritising their time teaching please email Jo to order new kit Monday – Thursday classes. Ann will remain at Clyst Heath to administer kit sales for Saturday pupils as normal.

New Classes

Places will be available in September for new pupils – please book early to avoid disappointment:-

Tap form 4 years	Monday at St. Lawrence Church Hall
Jazz/Freestyle from 5 years	Tuesday at St. Lawrence Church Hall
Ballet form 3 years	Saturday at Clyst Heath Primary School

Summer School

5-13 years – Clyst Heath Primary School **30th July – 3rd August**

A few places available – email Jo if you would like to join us for this fun packed week

Wishing everyone a very happy summer break and looking forward to an exciting year ahead from September. Classes re-commence Monday 3rd September.....

