

Dear Parents and students.....we made it!

Having our students back in class for the summer term was very special and I'm so glad we managed a full term of face-to-face classes. Hopefully, the Autumn Term will be a slightly less eventful term with isolations and that we are able to run nearer to our "normal!". I aim to return easing procedures that are no longer required but keeping some of huge benefit, to create an improved "normal"! I will continue to monitor any guidelines set out by our exam board "ISTD" as well as our venues and will update you nearer September.

We are so incredibly proud of how the students navigated through COVID and the support of the parents has been invaluable. I have said it many times, but the school simply wouldn't have made it without your loyalty and support. We want to wish our lovely leavers all the best, most having been with us since they were 3 yrs. Here's to a lovely Summer and successful Autumn term, as always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask!

All the best, Becky and the LDA team!

**IF ANY OF YOUR CONTACT, MEDICAL OR EMERGENCY DETAILS HAVE CHANGED, PLEASE EITHER UPDATE YOUR CUSTOMER PORTAL OR EMAIL [BECKY@LETSDANCEACADEMY.CO.UK](mailto:BECKY@LETSDANCEACADEMY.CO.UK)**

**TIMETABLE:**

The timetable will now have been sent to you, or can be viewed in your customer portal "thinksmart portal" app. You will notice many classes are either colour coded or have an age guidance. This is merely a guide and is more to help parents navigate our vast timetable! It also means we have loose bubbles, and should we need to revert to any form of bubbles or be able to trace a student's contacts next term, we can do so without having to change the timetable completely. It will also come in handy when we start to work on the show in February, as the younger students will be put into teams. More information on the show will be sent at Xmas, but for now save the dates: 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> July. **The waiting list will be opened on 14<sup>th</sup> August, please can current students inform me of any changes before this date to have priority.**

**UNIFORM:**

As students are likely to be able to use the waiting room and changing rooms in September, **students will be required wear the correct uniform.** All uniform details can be found here: <https://www.letsdanceacademy.co.uk/uniform-2nd-hand>. We are likely to run a few uniform days prior to the start of term, for those who wish to avoid the start of term rush! Details will be sent out nearer the time. Students will now be able to go bare foot and grip socks will no longer

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**AUTUMN TERM:**

Saturday 18th September- Friday 3rd December  
Half term: 25th – 31st October

**EXAM DATES:**

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December

14<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> February

If your child is due to take an exam you will be notified at the start of the term

**FULL SCHOOL SHOW:**

15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> July  
The Radlett Centre

**CHOREOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WINNERS**

**JUNIOR SECTION:**

Loren Rodea, Josie Becker and Emilie Yetton

**MIDDLE SECTION:**

Leah Whittington and Millie Taylor

**SENIOR SECTION:**

Charlotte Caswell

**LDA SCHOLARSHIP:** Eoin Broderick

ADJUDICATORS AWARDS:

**Novice:** Lucy Geach

**Costume:** Aime, Harry Branch and Harriet Fuller

**Musicality:** Charlotte Caswell

**Theatricality:** Emma Davies, Esme Cook & Kizzie Geogheghan

**Adjudicators Award:** Eoin Broderick

**A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO**

**CONTEMPORARY TEACHER LEWIS WHO ATTENDED HIS MASTERS CEREMONY**

**Lewis studied an MA in Dance Anthropology**



## NEW CLASSES:

Students are welcome to trial new classes for free, with current students having priority. A full list of classes can be found here:

<https://www.letsdanceacademy.co.uk/timetables>

Ballet Prep for ages 2.5yrs +

Beginners Modern for ages 4-5yrs & 7-8yrs

Beginners Modern and Tap for age 6yrs+

Beginners Tap for age 11yrs+

Beginners Jazz for age 7-8yrs

Beginners Jazz & Street for age 9 -11yrs

LEAPS KICKS AND TURNS IS BACK: Lessons from 9 – 18yrs

## CHOREOGRAPHIC COMPETITION:

As you will have hopefully seen, we ran a very successful Choreographic competition in our pop-up theatre! Students were excited to have more of a music video set up and their own videographer! A huge congratulations to everyone who took part, particularly those who won their category or received a special prize. It was so successful we will look to use the pop-up theatre for future events. Each teacher also chose their stand-out students for 2020/21 who were awarded a certificate for their hard work. Well done everyone.



## EXAMS:

We also successfully ran our end of year exams! Please visit “dates for your diary” for our future exam dates. If your child is ready for an exam, I will contact you at the start of the exam term. Exams continue to be optional and by not taking them, does not stop students from moving up a grade if ready to do so.

## ISOLATIONS:

If your child missed classes due to isolation last term, please contact Becky. I have some pre-recorded summer classes from last year “Splits for summer”, Pirouette perfection”, “Choreographic challenge” and Core Strength that I’m happy to email in replacement. These can also be purchased if anyone else wishes to take part for £12.

## SHOWTIME:

After missing our show for 2 years, I’ve finally secured a date for 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022. We are going to revert to a full school show, where every student will have the opportunity to take part. There will be 4 shows across the weekend and a dress rehearsal. Senior students will take part in all the shows, with junior students being split into 2 teams and taking part in 2 shows. All details of the show will be sent to you at Christmas, with entry forms due in by February half term. Students will need to be available for ALL OF THE DATES TO TAKE PART.

## DANCE COMPANIES AND PERFORMANCES:

Now the theatres are starting to open, and more performance opportunities become available, we will look to audition for our dance companies once again. This will depend on what opportunities we can secure as to when this will happen, but I will let you know as soon as we have a date.

## COURSES THE TEACHERS ARE DUE TO ATTEND OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS:

- Mental Health in Dancers
- Free time steps and developing Rhythm in Tap
- Non syllabus ideas in Pre-Primary Ballet
- Focus on pointe work
- Overview of complementary techniques
- How to develop jazz technique
- Inclusive dance: A whole school approach
- Nutrition for dancers
- Creative ideas for choreography

As well as some of the new amalgamations in Modern and Tap.

## TEACHERS AWARDS FOR 2020/21

### CLASSICAL BALLET

JUNIOR	Rita Davenport Roxy Keates Evie Goh Anya Jing Isobel Garrod Phoebe Chadwick
MIDDLE	Isla Giblen Zoe Hollick Francesca Lithgow Abigail Foley
SENIOR	Megan Harman Ruby Sheppard Charlotte Caswell

### MODERN DANCE

JUNIOR	Georgina McTurk Kezia Douglas
MIDDLE	Cai Lines Beth Adams Beatrice Vennear
SENIOR	Emma Wheatley Erica O'Connor Sophie Lord

### TAP DANCE

JUNIOR	Macy Bond Eleanor White Selena Watt
MIDDLE	Maya Tozer Lucas Hooper Lizzie Feather Amelia Sadikot
SENIOR	Emily Reed Zoe Holliday

### VENUE PROCEDURES:

As parents are aware, LDA hires all our venues. Whilst restrictions ease, we are contracted to follow our venues guidelines alongside guidelines set out by our exam board "ISTD" and "out of school settings". So, we may still have some hire restrictions in place. I will update parents nearer September once these have all been received. My priority is to try and allow students to use the waiting/changing areas, so they can wait in between classes and if it's raining. I also appreciate that parents are desperate to watch students in class, I really hope we can also reintroduce our watching week for the last week of term. I will continue to communicate with parents over our running in the Autumn but will certainly try to get back to an improved "normal" as quickly as can be.

### DROP OFF AND PICK UPS:

One major upside to our COVID procedures was the very safe drop off and pickup of students. I certainly felt from a safeguarding point of view that having parents come to the pick-up areas, and the teachers being able to hand younger students straight to a parent was very effective. Likewise, having a doorbell on the doors, enabled the teachers to know exactly who was in the building and ensured late students were met by a teacher and students weren't left unattended if a parent is late.

Whilst it is the parents' responsibility to drop off and pick up on time, we are likely to keep some of these procedures in place if they increase the student's safety.

### CUSTOMER PORTAL - THINKSMART PORTAL APP:

Many of you are now using our portal, aside from just viewing your timetable did you know you:

- First, next, and last class of term
- Mark if you're going to be absent and a reason
- Manage/view up and coming payments
- Contact us directly from the portal



### WHAT' NEW!?:

Look out for Becky and Gabby's joint venture in bringing some of the UK's top teachers and choreographers to Hertfordshire. We plan to run termly workshops that are open to all dancers in Herts, inviting some of the best in the business locally. A lot of workshops are held in London, and we wanted to make access to inspirational leaders as easy as possible for local dancers. More information to come...watch this space!



### JAZZ DANCE

MIDDLE	Evie Ward
SENIOR	Jess Anfield
	Esme Cook
	Emma Davies
	Zoe Webb
	Poppy White
	Ellen Park

### CONTEMPORARY DANCE

JUNIOR	Maria Ziaullah
MIDDLE	Freya Wilson
	Zoe Hollick
	Violet Pope
SENIOR	Georgia Duncan
	Megan Harman
	Charlotte Caswell
	Bel Chaplin
	Kizzie Geoghegan
	Emily Martin

### STREET DANCE

JUNIOR	Rose White
MIDDLE	Aidan Broderick
SENIOR	Olivia Patterson
	Jess Anfield

### PROGRESS AWARD

JUNIOR	Elodie Manku
	Rebecca Ashworth
	Josie Becker
MIDDLE	Emily Martin
	Eliana Seymour
	Beth Adams
	Summer Phillips
	Seren Madoc
	Emma McCree
	Amelia Sadikot
	Molly Whittingham
SENIOR	Megan Harman
	Liberty Fraser
	Eoin Broderick

### DISCIPLINE AWARD

JUNIOR	Ellen Delaney
	Xia Hugo
	Maria Ziaullah
MIDDLE	Aoife Hegarty
	Jasmine Ninkovic
	Elena Standen
SENIOR	Hope Lennard
	Heidi Lowe
	Bella Pratt