

End of Term Newsletter - Summer 2023

Summer Term Dates - this term finishes Monday 17 March.

Autumn Term Dates – please read carefully!

Tuesday 06 September - term starts for exam coaching

Monday 11 September - term starts for whole school

Monday 23 October to Friday 03 November inclusive (2 weeks) - half term / no classes

Friday 15 December - end of term / last day of classes

New & Second Hand Uniform We have the amazing Gillian Griffiths looking after our NEW and second hand uniform.

Please get in touch with her if you are looking for anything as there is plenty of stock, in particular character and tap shoes, and all proceeds go towards our bi-annual charity show. **Please ensure that you check the uniform requirements for your class with either Gillian or on the school website and NAME ALL ITEMS. Please note that the soles of ballet shoes should be in one piece i.e NO SPLIT SOLE SHOES unless your teacher has agreed otherwise.**

Show 2024

***Planning ahead* Show 2024** We are excited to announce that our next show will take place on **Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 March 2024** for dancers aged +6 years and dancing at Grade 1 level or above, though our younger dancers are encouraged to come to watch - the show is enjoyable for all ages! More information on how to sign up to be in the show will be forthcoming when we return in September. In the meantime please put the show and rehearsal dates in your diaries!

Sunday rehearsals will be 28 Jan, 4, 11 & 25 Feb & 3 March, Tech rehearsal Thursday 7 March and Dress rehearsal Friday 8 March. Each class of G1 and above will perform one dance, with the exception of combined Tap & Modern classes who will have one of each genre. If you are keen to perform in more dances then now is the time to try another class!

NEW CLASSES - Mini Contemporary

We are excited to be offering a new 'Mini Contemporary' class from September - **Thursdays, 4:00 - 4:45pm at Park Hall** so get in touch to organise **your first half term of classes FREE:**

Staff Changes As all of you will now know; **Miss Nicholls** is very sadly leaving us this term. We wish her well in her new ventures and will miss her greatly. Miss Nicholls "would like to thank everyone for making the last 16 years at HDS so enjoyable. When I started in September 2007, I had no idea that the school would become such a big part of my life and that I would meet so many wonderful people. I have seen children grow into young adults and have had the privilege of being able to teach siblings and see families grow. I have also worked with the best teachers, musicians and assistants and will miss it dearly. It's time for me to take on more responsibility at the school local to me in Stevenage and to focus on my family life. I will always be grateful for the opportunity and will cherish my time at HDS. It really is a fantastic school, with the students at the heart of it."

We are thrilled to welcome **Miss Coster** to our faculty; for those of you who haven't already met her please head over to the website to get acquainted. We are also excited to be welcoming back **Mrs Oreng** who will be teaching our Tuesday ballet classes next term.

Changing/Waiting Facilities at Venues

Waiting/changing spaces are available for before and after class at St Nicholas Church Hall (changing must be done in The Cunningham Room and NOT the foyer but parents picking up may shelter in the foyer!), Park Hall (though valuables must be brought into class), Musicale (please use considerately as this is the thoroughway to music lessons for other users), and High Street Methodist Church (entry via the first door, changing room up a few stairs to the right). **Please try to ensure your young dancer goes to the toilet before class.**

Invoices and Fees

Invoices for the Autumn Term fees will be emailed out in the Summer holidays; *please use your invoice number in your payment reference.* Please let us know immediately if there are any changes to your schedule (cancellations or changes). **If changes are made after you receive your invoice, administration charges may apply.** If you do not receive your invoice by the start of term, please let us know. Fees have increased to cover increased costs of running the classes, and can be found on the website. If you would like to continue classes but are experiencing genuine financial difficulties please get in contact to see what we can offer.

Timetable changes

Please see the attached timetable for any changes. All the affected classes are highlighted and have been contacted already but please do get in touch if you have any questions. Not all proposed changes were able to be implemented.

We are so grateful for your continued support and wish you all a fabulous Summer, a restful break, and look forward to seeing you all for the Autumn Term.

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