

## Happy New Year!

Welcome back to all of our dancers to what we hope will be a successful and busy 2023! Albeit a bit late . . . I do hope that you all had a Peaceful and merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you all. We have many days of exams during both the spring & summer term this year and please keep an eye out for emails that have strict closing dates.

Miss Heidi x

## Royal Academy of Dance Ballet exams

### RAD Examinations

Congratulations to all of our dancers who took their RAD Ballet examinations in the Autumn term. Congratulations to everyone on your amazing results!

### Royal Academy of Dance

High Distinction – 2  
Distinction – 11  
High Merit – 7  
Merit – 0  
Pass – 0

Special mention to Alexis who gained 90% in her Grade 5 and Aaliyah & Lucia who were both awarded a distinction for Intermediate Foundation.

A super well done to Mabel & Paige who took their Pre-Primary class Award and both appeared to really enjoy the whole experience and were rewarded with top marks!



*Paige & Mabel looking very excited for their first Ballet exam!*



## Fantastic start to the year!

### The Royal Ballet

It was amazing to watch Rosie dance with the Royal Ballet in Crystal Pites Ballet 'Light of Passage' at the Royal Opera House.

Toi Toi Toi Bella for your many performances in the Royal Ballets Sleeping Beauty at The Royal Opera House.

### Tring Park School

Many congratulations to Chloe and Lotte who successfully auditioned for a full time place at the prestigious school.

### "Annie" UK Tour

Many congratulations to Georgie who has commenced rehearsals for the UK Tour of Annie. Have the most fantastic time Georgie and Break a leg from us all!

### Southern Dance Awards

A fantastic day of dance was had in Portsmouth on Sunday. They were huge sections of 40 in each!!!

#### Age 7-9 years

Ballet – 1<sup>st</sup> Florence 2<sup>nd</sup> Annalise & 4<sup>th</sup> Pippa.  
Jazz – 2<sup>nd</sup> Florence, 4<sup>th</sup> Annalise, 5<sup>th</sup> Imogen & Willow.  
Tap – 5<sup>th</sup> Imogen.

#### Age 10 & 12

Ballet – 3<sup>rd</sup> Ruby, 4<sup>th</sup> Bella & Aaliyah & 5<sup>th</sup> Holly.  
Jazz – 1<sup>st</sup> Ruby & 5<sup>th</sup> Bella

#### Age 13 – 14

Ballet – 1<sup>st</sup> Alexis & 2<sup>nd</sup> Chloe.

#### Age 15 – 18

Ballet – 3<sup>rd</sup> Megan & 4<sup>th</sup> Saphyre.  
Jazz – 2<sup>nd</sup> Megan & 4<sup>th</sup> Saphyre.

### Overall awards

#### Age 7 – 9 years

Ballet Award – Florence  
Performance Award – Willow

#### Age 10 – 12 years

Jazz Award – Ruby  
Performance Award – Arrabella

#### Age 13 & 14

Ballet Award – Alexis

And to top the day off . . . Alexis & Florence were awarded a scholarship for a course at Tring Park School!

## Exams, Exams, Exams!!!!!!!

We are currently preparing for 6 days of exams this term alone and the summer term will be filled with more RAD Ballet exams and Acrobatic Arts exams! Please follow closing dates closely and ensure payments are made by the closing dates. Unfortunately, We cannot enter any dancer unless the exam fee has been paid.

### Current Examination closing Dates

RAD Ballet exams – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February  
 ISTD Modern & Tap exams – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February  
 Acrobatic Arts exams – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Communication has been sent to all of the above by email at the beginning of January 2023.

Summer term examinations will be communicated by the end of March.

## Practice, practice, practice!

**RAD Ballet** - If you are hoping to take an exam can we please ask that you encourage your dancers to avoid missing classes and to practice regularly with the YouTube videos. All videos are 'unlisted' which means you'll need the below links to view the videos. *Please do NOT share these links.*

*VIDEOS ARE FLIPPED SO THAT DANCERS CAN COPY DIRECT FROM THE DEVICE!*

### Pre-Primary Ballet

<https://youtu.be/QYnSpzp0jFc>

### Primary Ballet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEY7oUC8Vj0&t=15s>

### Grade 1 Ballet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6v0slbzqPBg>

### Grade 2 Ballet

<https://youtu.be/Z0dimhB5Z0w>

### Grade 3 Ballet

<https://youtu.be/jT9FTL8ZywA>

### Grade 4 Ballet

<https://youtu.be/CjLNMYhrOrU>

### Grade 5 Ballet

<https://youtu.be/Hwz21Rtq0Z0>

### Grade 6 Ballet

[https://youtu.be/P1NqR\\_wl6wg](https://youtu.be/P1NqR_wl6wg)

**ISTD Modern & Tap** – Miss Katelyn has produced some practice videos and these can be found on our private Facebook group 'TRAD Private Group'.

## Class Award vs Exams

This is a question that we do appear to be getting more frequently and we would like to reassure you that our policies have not changed for over 30 years, however, children appear to be attending so many extra curriculum activities, poor attendance to class and educational pressures that sometimes we feel that the class award would be better for their personal sense of achievement than the exam. Every child is different and progresses differently and we feel that we know what would be best for your dancer.

We are not sure if we can blame Covid Lockdowns, but so many children are getting very anxious about doing an exam and to us it is so very important for the whole experience to be a positive and happy one.

The Class Award is still examined and they receive a report, medal and certificate the same as an exam with the only difference being the criteria is not as intense as an exam and they do not have to perform anything on their own.

The RAD syllabus is the best Ballet training in the world, however, extremely difficult and taking longer to perfect. We want for the children to progress at what we feel is a reasonable rate without getting bored and able to achieve their very best.

Exam or class award, we still make the day as special as possible for all of our dancers.

### Examination information

All RAD & ISTD examinations are accredited on the Qualifications framework and classed as formal qualifications.

Graded and Vocational Examinations in Dance at Level 3 have now been allocated points on the UCAS Tariff. This means that candidates who have achieved a Pass or higher in a Level 3 qualification (Grades 6, 7, 8, Intermediate and Advanced Foundation) can use their RAD & ISTD examination result towards their points tariff when applying to University or a Higher Education institution in the UK.

***“To achieve the kind of success you dream about, you need to work. There are no shortcuts, you can't cheat, just get to work and don't stop until you reach your highest potential”***

## Dance World Cup 2023

We are delighted to announce that we have qualified 12 dances and will be taking a team of 23 dancers to Portugal in June to compete at Dance World Cup finals!

### TEAM ENGLAND

Mini Ballet solo – Rosie (1<sup>st</sup> place 98%)

Mini Ballet solo – Olivia (2<sup>nd</sup> place 97%)

Child Ballet solo – Ruby

Rosie, Flo & Olivia - Mini Ballet Trio

Annalise, Pippa & Evelyn - Mini Ballet Trio

Rosie, Flo, Olivia & Pippa - Mini Ballet Quartet

Ruby & Lexi - Children's Ballet Duet

Childrens Large Ballet Group

Mini Large Ballet Group

Mini Small Ballet Group

Mini Large Jazz Group

Childrens Small Ballet Group

Amazing work dancers and we are so incredibly proud of you all and so excited to represent Team England!

## Something in the water?

We couldn't be more excited for both Miss Megan and Miss Lucy on your exciting news!

Miss Megan will be taking the summer term off and returning in September and Miss Lucy hopes to continue to the end of the summer term (fingers crossed) and also return in September.

We are currently seeking maternity cover, however, Miss Heidi will be stepping in as much as possible in between teaching and Nonna duties! Further information will be communicated.



It was so lovely to meet Miss Sophie's Baby 'Brodie' on his first visit to the studio!

Welcome to The Rhodes Academy of Dance Brodie!

## New classes – Arrange a FREE trial class now!

### Stretch & Conditioning

All genres of dance require strength and flexibility, especially to get those lovely arabesque lines and high kicks in Modern! We currently have places on a Thursday afternoon and timings are dependent on age.

### Progressing Ballet Technique PBT

A valuable addition to any dance class, working on posture, activation of turnout muscles and how to understand neutral pelvis. The classes are suitable from age 7 years + and are currently on a Monday afternoon/evening dependent on age.

### Teddy Tappers & Mini Modern

Saturday mornings from 10:30 – 11:00 suitable from age 4 years.

### Adult Tap

Did you know that we had an Adult Tap class on a Monday evening from 7:15 – 8:00 at the studio? From beginners to those wanting to dust off their tap shoes!

Please email [heidirhodes@btinternet.com](mailto:heidirhodes@btinternet.com) to arrange a free trial class in any of the above classes.

## Child safeguarding

### Kerith warehouse (Studio next door)

As the church is becoming busier in the evenings and at weekends, can we please ask that you do not wait in the building for your classes or in between classes (Remain in the studio until 5 minutes before). Please take all of your belongings into the actual dance room and do not leave in the church reception area.

## Tuck shop

Could you please remind your dancers that any items taken from the Tuck Shop have to be paid for and when paying please pay the price it says on the price lists. Unfortunately, the last couple of weeks we are seeing a loss in takings with stock going! If we continue to run at a loss we will have to stop running the Tuck Shop which would be a real shame. Thank you in advance for your support.

## Outstanding fees

Can we please ask that the end of this current half term pay all outstanding fees. We currently have over 40% of families with outstanding fees and with the increase in both rent and utility bills; we cannot afford to have outstanding fees. As this problem is getting worse, we have implemented a new rule that anyone with outstanding fees will not be entered for exams, competitions or special events within the school. We believe in giving every child a chance to dance, therefore, please contact us if you wish to set up a payment plan.

## Terms & Conditions

Can we please remind you of the 'Terms & Conditions' that are signed when joining the school and in particular to the notice period upon leaving.

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

A full terms invoice will be issued before the start of each term and fees must be paid by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the new term.

Fees will not be refunded in cases of absence.

**A half term written notice is required when leaving the school.** Pupils can still attend during their notice period and undertake any examinations etc that might be due.

If you have more than one child attending the school or a child that attends multiple lessons, then we are happy to receive 2 payments.

A £10 administration fee will be charged for late payment.

Unless you state otherwise, you give full permission for photos/videos to be taken at events and can then be used for all media associated with The Rhodes Academy of Dance.

## Hair & Uniform

As we return to a new Dancing year, can we please ask that all dancers wear the regulation uniform to class and all younger dancers do not wear Ballet dressing up outfits? Hair should be in an immaculate Bun for all classes. As a school we have always had pride in our dancers appearance and it is so important for the discipline of dance.

## Schools Regulation uniform

Can be ordered direct from our website – <https://www.rhodesacademyofdance.co.uk/uniform-shops/> follow the link 'Online shop'.

## Branded Dancewear

Squad Dancewear are our suppliers for Competition Team and Acrobatic Arts. All items can be ordered direct from 'Squad dancewear' and details are below on how to order! Crop tops/shorts/Leotard will be Acro. (they have a choice of what they would rather wear). We have also introduced sweatshirts, cropped sweatshirts, hoodies, body warmers & backpacks! All uniform ordered will have the 'Rhodes Academy of Dance' logo.

- 1 – Visit <https://squaddancewear.com/heidi-rhodes-school-of-dance/>
- 2 – Click "login or register" at the bottom of the page
- 3 – Enter your email address in the "Register" box (you'll receive an email with your username and password for future reference)
- 4 – **Open another tab or window in your web browser** and again visit <https://squaddancewear.com/heidi-rhodes-school-of-dance/> (this time you will automatically be logged in, and will see all of the Heidi Rhodes School of Dance products available for order and can shop online as normal)

*Ballet shoes . . . are designed to support a dancers young foot, therefore, please do not buy shoes from Amazon, Wish, H&M or any other supplier that is not a professional dance shop.*

### **General Requests**

Below are the usual beneficial points that I include in newsletters; however, I feel that there are still a handful of parents that do not follow the rules in our school. If it is a 'Daddy' day and Dad is unable to put your daughters hair in a bun, please bring the pins and bun net and we will do the bun for you. If your daughter arrives to class in 'non' uniform accessories they will be asked to remove them.

**Dance shoes** - Can you please NOT allow your children to wear any dance shoes outside! This ruins the sole of ballet and character shoes and scratches the taps on tap shoes, which will ruin the very expensive purpose flooring in the studios! If they are seen doing this, they will be asked to remove their shoes for class.

Ascot House Studios – ONLY Park in the correct allocated spaces. Please park in spaces marked **The Heidi Rhodes School of Dancing ONLY! This includes WEEKENDS as our neighbour's work at weekends too!**

**All Locations of the school** - Can I please ask that you continue to watch your children and do not allow them to run around and climb on furniture and window ledges! For those of you that have been with us for a long time, you will know how much we have fought for all of our premises and I would like to keep them pristine, clean and above all else - safe! ***Can I please ask that you are sensitive to other users of halls/churches when changing your children in and out of dancewear?*** Please clear up dropped food/drinks as children step in this and ruin their Ballet shoes.

### **School Communication**



**The Rhodes Academy of Dance** (facebook page)



**TRAD Private Group** (Private facebook Group)



**TRAD Leotard & Uniform Sale** (Private facebook Group)



**Follow us on instagram – therhodesacademyofdance**