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[www.excelperformingarts.co.uk](http://www.excelperformingarts.co.uk)

### **CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER**

#### **WINTER TERM DATES – WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

It has been another busy term for us all and I would like to say a huge thank you to parents for their support and encouragement and to the students for their commitment and hard work.

Excel Performing Arts is growing at a fast pace mainly through word of mouth which is the best type of publicity anyone can ask for. We nearly have 200 students now and many of the classes have waiting lists. A huge amount of time goes into the planning of each and every class so that they are always varied and lots of fun whether it is using props, such as wands, tiaras and scarves in the baby ballet classes, to learning intricate dance routines in the Street Dance. We want the students to learn through having lots of fun and to become fantastic performers!!

#### **IDTA Exams**

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November we held our first ever IDTA examination session. It was a huge milestone for us!!!

An external examiner from the IDTA visited the school and thirty seven students took an exam either in Ballet or Musical Theatre.

We had been preparing the students since September and as the day came, nerves were replaced with excitement because everyone knew exactly what they were doing. It was the parents that seemed to be more nervous!

Our Ballet students took their Preparatory and Primary Ballet grade exams and the Drama and Singing students took the Introductory Stage of the Musical Theatre Syllabus. It will be a few weeks until we have the results but we were extremely proud of all the students. We will be having a special presentation afternoon/evening for the exam students and as soon as the IDTA let us know when we will be receiving the certificates and medals we can arrange when this will be.

#### **New class times and changes for 2011**

Now that the Preparatory Ballet students from Monday's 4.05pm class have taken their exam, the whole class will now move up to the Primary grade. For this reason the class will now become a forty-five minute class from January 2011 onwards.

There are some more class changes for 2011 as for a little while now we have felt that some of the classes needed to be longer. We try to pack in so much into the forty-five minute Jazz & Musical Theatre Dance classes that it is impossible to always achieve all that we want to with the students. We are very keen to increase the amount of technique work that we do with the students. This is the important foundation core exercises such as knee bends, turn-out, strength work, stability, flexibility etc. We also obviously want to include all of the 'fun' stuff and so we concluded that the classes need to be an hour long. We also felt that as we will be working on the show dances next year, this would allow for some class work as well during the lesson.

This is also the case with the drama and singing classes as we often finish over time and struggle to fit everything into forty five minutes. These classes will therefore change to an hour long.

We will be reassessing the younger Street/Jazz classes in the New Year that are currently 30 minutes long but for now will remain the same although the start times might have altered slightly to fit in with the other class changes.

Please check the 2011 class timetable that is enclosed for the new times for all of the classes.

### **Guest Teachers**

We were extremely lucky to have had two guest teachers teach at Excel Performing Arts since the October half term.

West End leading lady – Jane Fowler guest taught the Jazz & Musical Theatre Dance classes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November and Sally Taylor guest taught the Street Dance and Tap classes on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Jane is a talented performer and has played the leading roles in many West End shows including the role of Roxie in 'Chicago'.

Sally is also a West End performer and has appeared in numerous West End shows such as Cats, Starlight Express and as a lead dancer in Wayne Sleep's Dance Company – Dash.

Both Sally and Jane were very impressed with the students and commented on the professionalism and talent!

### **Show Week**

My apologies for the mistake I made on the show week letter. The dates should read:

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Rehearsals

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Performances

If you haven't received a show week letter, please ask me for one.

Thank you to the parents who have expressed their offers of help with the show. We will need more but as we get nearer I will be sending out another SOS and hope more parents will come forward. It is vital that we have as much help as possible to allow your children this fantastic opportunity.

### **Welcome back Brogan!**

Our much loved Drama & Singing teacher – Brogan Meadwell, has returned to teach Wednesday's class. Brogan has recently been involved in performing at the O2 in the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Les Miserables. She has also been involved in performing at various concerts around the UK.

We are thrilled to have her back!!

### **Junior Tap**

We started a much requested Tap class on Mondays in September after Steven had returned from performing in the Tap musical – '42<sup>nd</sup> Street'.

The class is for complete beginners up to grade 2 standard (8-11yrs) and we will be offering IDTA grade exams in the future.

If you are interested in a place for your child please let me know.

## **Uniform**

Thank you to all of those that abide by our uniform rules. It really does help raise the standard of the school and looks professional. Students feel a sense of pride and belonging too.

All classes have a uniform. We always have uniform with us and always have plenty of stock to try on for sizes.

## **Lost Property**

We have an ever increasing lost property bag of items that we dutifully bring to each class in the hope that someone might collect their missing clothes. It contains school shoes, coats, clothes etc. During the last week of term we will be displaying the lost property on a table at the side of the hall. Please have a look in case any of it is yours. After the last week any items that have still not been collected, we will be getting rid of as we don't have the space to store them.

## **Car Park at Bowmansgreen**

Please park in the designated parking spaces in the car park. Avoid dropping your child off in the middle of the car park or directly in front of the entrance as this is a health & safety issue. Also please don't park in the disabled parking spaces unless you have a badge.

## **Next year.....**

Steven has some really exciting news to share with you next year!!! Unfortunately we can't officially let you know just yet but we will as soon as we can.

In January we have lots of new teachers coming on board. West End leading lady – Jane Fowler who guest taught earlier in November, will be joining us on a more regular basis as well as Sally Taylor.

Finally, we wish you and your families all a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2011 starting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Kindest regards,

Sam Payton

Principal – Excel Performing Arts