



Christmas Newsletter 2023

Welcome to the Christmas newsletter!

We hope you have all had a wonderful time at your dance classes this term. I know I speak for all the teachers and myself when I say it's been a pretty intense term but we have had some incredible exam results along the way and can truly count this as one of our most successful terms ever! We look forward to showing you just how hard the pupils have been working at the end of term watch week, when you are all welcome to come and observe the children in action.

Watch Week!

The teachers are excited to show you everything the children have been learning this term. Please come along to the 'watch week' at your branch to appreciate and support the young dancers. We ask that you turn phones off and enjoy engaging in the session. Senior students are notorious at telling you not to come, but we want you ALL to feel welcome!

End of term watch weeks are on:

Weds 6th December at Holtspur
Thursday 7th December at Braywick
Friday 8th December at Holtspur
Saturday 9th December at BCA
Monday 11th December at Braywick
Wednesday 13th December for PG at Bourne End

Pupils can wear their usual class uniform with Santa hats, antlers, tinsel, Christmas jumpers etc!

Spring Term Dates!

Mondays: Braywick Leisure Centre, Maidenhead Starts: Jan 8th No classes on Feb 12th Ends: Mar 25th	Tuesdays: Holtspur Scout Hut, Beaconsfield Starts: Jan 9th No classes on Feb 13th Ends: Mar 26th	Wednesdays: Holtspur Scout Hut, Beaconsfield Starts: Jan 10th No classes on Feb 14th Ends: Mar 27th	Thursdays: Braywick Leisure Centre, Maidenhead Starts: Jan 11th No classes on Feb 15th Ends: Mar 28th	Fridays: Holtspur Scout Hut, Beaconsfield Starts: Jan 5th No classes on Feb 16th Ends: Mar 22nd	Saturdays: BCA , Burchetts Green, Maidenhead Starts: Jan 6th No classes on Feb 17th Ends: Mar 23rd
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Winter Exams

My goodness we've been busy! 5 full days of exams between now and Christmas! Thanks to all the parents making sure your children are practising at home and to all the teachers who give up so many weekends to be on hand at exam sessions.

Please check your exam venue and make sure you know your exam time!

ISTD Tap/Modern exams: Sunday November 26th Cox Green Scout Hut SL6 3ED

RAD Ballet exams: Saturday December 2nd The Loft BCA SL6 6QR

ISTD Tap/Modern exams: Sunday December 3rd Cox Green Scout Hut SL6 3ED

NATD Ballet/Tap exams: Sunday December 10th St Edmund Campion School, Altwood Rd SL6 4PX

ISTD Tap/Modern exams: Sunday December 17th Cox Green Scout Hut SL6 3ED

For ISTD exams please contact Miss Karen: karen@bucksschoolofdance.co.uk

For RAD & NATD exams please contact Miss Candy: candy@patsteelschoolofdance.co.uk

The Iconic Show

Hopefully you will all know about the exciting summer show currently being prepared and choreographed behind closed doors but did you know that it is also the 70th Platinum Anniversary of the Pat Steel School of Dance too?!

Some of our senior students will have danced at the 60th Diamond Anniversary show, 'Reflections', back in 2015 and may still have the T shirt to prove it! We have had an incredible history of teaching dance from the founding days in the 1950's when Pat Steel began teaching in her parents' living room in River Road , Maidenhead to where we are now in 2023. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the school's journey – it has been an honour and a pleasure to continue Pat Steel's legacy and I know she would be so proud of all that the school has achieved.

New Appointment

We are delighted to welcome Victoria Dance to a management position within Pat Steel School of Dance. This term, we have appointed Miss Victoria as our new Head of Tap. Miss Karen will remain as Head of Modern and Miss Candy remains as Head of Ballet.

We know that Miss Victoria is a passionate and committed tap teacher and it felt right that she should take on this role promoting and guiding all the tap teachers and pupils throughout the school. Her love of dance and particularly tap, is apparent to all who know her and we are so thrilled that she will take on the challenge of developing tap further at our school. Please congratulate Miss Victoria when you pass her!



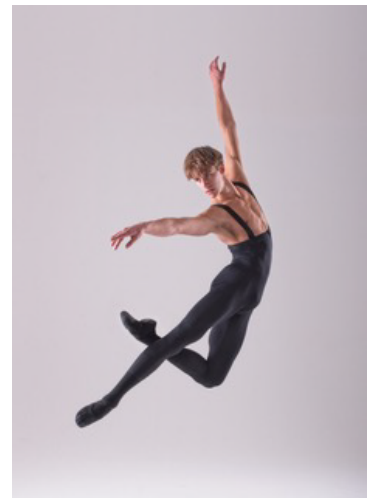
Alumni News

We are delighted to announce that one of our former pupils (and Miss Jeanette's son) Oscar Ainscough has taken up a new contract/job at the Royal Danish Ballet this summer, as a member of the Corps de Ballet. This is in his fourth year as a professional dancer. Oscar was taught by Pat Steel, Miss Jeanette Miss Karen and Miss Candy before going to full time training at Arts Educational School in Tring, and then onto the European Ballet School in Amsterdam.

So far this season he has danced in 'Scotch Symphony', a Balanchine ballet inspired by 'La Sylphide', and was the lead Russian soldier in Act II of 'Swan Lake'.

Most recently he danced soloist roles in 'The Dante Project'. This neo classical ballet was choreographed by British choreographer Wayne McGregor for London's Royal Ballet Company; it was restaged for the Danish company at their Copenhagen home, The Royal Theatre. The London production is currently being performed at the Opera House and is well worth seeing, even without Oscar in it!

Going forward Oscar will dance in 'Nutcracker' this Christmas, then 'Cinderella' and 'Raymonda' up to the end of their season in June 2024. So if you're heading to Copenhagen, may be worth a visit?!



[Royal Danish Ballet Website](#)

Second-Hand Stall

Please come along to the final end-of-year sale in the BCA Cafe on December 9th. Time to get stocked up on new uniform and to sell on your outgrown items! Many thanks to Aby Mitchell and her team of volunteers for providing this service to us all.



New Classes

New Beginners Tap/Modern Class at BCA:

From January, we have a brand-new class aimed at young dancers aged 5 or above in Class Exam or Preliminary Ballet. The 45 min class will combine tap and modern and be taken by Miss Candy from 10.45-11.30am on Saturday mornings at BCA. Free trial class on January 6th. No tap shoes will be required at the first class.

New Beginners Adult Ballet Class at BCA:

Miss Heather runs our Adult programme on Saturdays at BCA. We have added a new beginner's ballet class to the morning from 11.15-12pm for Adults who would like to try ballet who have had no or little previous experience. If you've been inspired by Angela Rippon on Strictly, maybe this could be one of your New Year resolutions - come and trial a class on our first Saturday of term - we'd love you to come along and all are welcome!

Contact the office to reserve a place:
admin@patsteelschoolofdance.co.uk

A Final Word

I hope I get to see you all at the watch weeks at end of term, but if I don't see you in person, thank you for making our dance school the special place we love so much. I hope you all have a wonderful festive break full of good cheer as well an opportunity to take a break and relax. Looking forward to an exciting year ahead as we enter our 70th anniversary year plus The Iconic Show at the Wycombe Swan.

Stay healthy and happy and, of course, keep dancing!

Miss Candy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candy".

Principal: Pat Steel School of Dance

Life member, Royal Academy of Dance; Associate ISTD; Associate NATD; BA (Hons) Performing Arts, certified Pilates Instructor.

All enquiries to:

admin@patsteelschoolofdance.co.uk

Further information, including terms and conditions, can be found at:
patsteelschoolofdance.co.uk