

## Spring Term Newsletter 2013

Dear Parents and Friends,

The year opened with such great sadness for our school. Our beloved Wendy, dear friend to us all and our costume maker for over 30 years, lost her battle with cancer on New Year's Day. There are simply no words to convey how heartbroken we are all feeling. Her eldest daughter, our Miss Clair, gave the eulogy at Wendy's funeral with such dignity and grace. Our sincere condolences and sympathy are sent to the entire Thomas family. As a school we are impoverished. Wendy's wonderful work will thankfully be on show for many years to come. Plans are in hand for a huge memorial concert to which present and past students will be invited and at which we are hoping to raise a large amount of money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

At the recent Woking Festival her wonderful costumes were much in evidence and our students all did their very best to do them credit. There was much appreciation for them from the Adjudicators. As a school we are very proud to say we won every ballet section, the Junior and Senior Ballet and Character Awards and the Classical Ballet Senior Group Award. It is very pleasing that our successes demonstrate the strength of our training right across the age groups from our very youngest dancers 9 and under to our most senior girls in the Under 21 sections. My sincere thanks to all my teachers and all of "team Byfleet".

In December Zoe Donaldson, Alice Pople, Christina Spanellis and Toby Wood travelled to Elmhurst School in Birmingham to film the Character work for the new Grade 1. Jemima Burfield, Alexander Lewis, Amelia Silk and Aiste Stankeviciute were also filmed in Birmingham for the new Grade 2 Character work and Olivia Jones, Erin King, Sarah Trinder and Robert Wood for the Grade 3 work.

In January eighteen of our dancers took part in the annual Byfleet pantomime, this year Jack and the Beanstalk, adding grace and colour to the performances. They were much appreciated by all.

Excitement is afoot as we have had a visit from a representative of the Bolshoi Ballet to look for young dancers to appear in their proposed visit to the Royal Opera House this summer. Details have yet to be finalised but watch this space!

On February 25<sup>th</sup> Miss Cathy is taking a group of our pupils to the Royal Academy of Dance Headquarters to demonstrate the new Grade 4 and 5 work to the Artistic Committee. Jemima Burfield, Olivia Jones, Erin King, Daisy Mortlock, Amelia Silk and Aiste Stankeviciute will demonstrate Grade 4 and Jade Cawthraw, Emma Lewis, Hannah McMillan, Tara Millard, Henrietta Owen, Niamh Robinson, Sarah Trinder and Bethany and Lucy Wood will demonstrate Grade 5. In July Jemima, Olivia, Erin, Amelia and Aiste will be filmed for the new Grade 4 work and Emma, Niamh, Sarah, Bethany and Lucy for Grade 5.

### **FEES**

With ever increasing costs including bank charges it is with much regret that I need to increase the cost of classes. I am very aware of the hardships of the current economic climate for all and have given this grave consideration. From next term (Summer) the cost of the first class a pupil takes with us will be £75. Any additional classes will be at the

existing rate of £70 a term. (Nursery Ballet will be £70 and Primary Tap and Modern £55 each, £105 if both are taken). This represents a 50p a week increase on current fees. These prices are for the term paid in advance of the start of term. There will be a £10 per class late payment fee. In cases of hardship please do contact us to discuss possibilities.

### **Royal Academy of Dance Examination Results.**

#### **Vocational**

Advanced 1: Distinction - Rebecca Mabin and Nadia Slater. Merit - Beth Connellan

Intermediate: Distinction - Wami Amos, Amy Charlton, Breezy Haywood and Clemmie Moore,

Intermediate Foundation: Merit – Eleanor Dugdale

44 pupils took Grade examinations, 33 passing with Distinction and 11 with Merit.

12 pupils took the Primary in Dance examination 9 being awarded Distinction and a gold medal and 3 Merit and a silver medal.

The 90 club were: - Primary – Charlotte Deegan 95 and Sophie King 92

Grade 2 – Christina Spanellis 93 and Zoe Donaldson 91

Grade 3 – Aiste Stankiciute 97 and Daisy Mortlock 94

Grade 4 – Olivia Jones 93 and Katya Slater 91

Intermediate - Wami Amos 90

Particular congratulations go to Jemima Burfield and Niamh Robinson who topped the 90 club by achieving 100 for Grade 3 and 7 respectively.

Well done to all our candidates for a wonderful set of results.

### **Term Dates Summer Term 2013**

Term starts Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April

No class Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Half term Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June inclusive

(last class before half term Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May ,

return to class Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June).

End of term Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July except Monday classes Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July

RAD exam dates 18<sup>th</sup> , 19<sup>th</sup> , 20<sup>th</sup> July

If you know of anyone who does not receive this newsletter by email please email Avril [sradmin@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sradmin@tiscali.co.uk)

School web site [www.srballet.com](http://www.srballet.com) is a useful source of information Miss Sue