



# Newsletter January 2008

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Happy New Year and all the best for 2008 from myself, Jackie and Irina. We hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and look forward to the exciting year ahead.

Firstly, I have some sad news. My Dad has just been diagnosed with cancer and is currently undergoing treatment. I have therefore decided to postpone the show as I would like to spend as much time with him as I can. I will let you know as soon as possible the new date, once this has been confirmed with the Octagon Theatre and I apologise for the disappointment you will no doubt feel. But rest assured, the show will take place this year and we start the hard work now! And don't forget, we still have our next exam session in July to work on.

I would like to thank you all for all your support in 2007 – a great year for us all with excellent exam results and performances. As usual, we have much to look forward to and a few changes within the school. So on that note, let's get going!

- Samantha

## Referral Scheme

I would like to thank all of you who recommend the Samantha Bell School of Dance to other people. To show our appreciation, we are introducing a referral scheme whereby for every new pupil who commits to a full term of lessons, the person who referred them will receive a lesson for free (deducted in the

## New Classes

The school is now offering the following adult classes:

### **Balletix**

A fusion of ballet, pilates and yoga specially designed to strengthen, lengthen and tone the body through gentle yet effective exercise to music.

### **Beginners Tap**

Follow in the footsteps of Fred & Ginger with this easy to follow introductory course in tap dancing.

### **Dance**

No fancy names, just great fun! Learn fantastic routines to a variety of pop music with warm-up and stretching sections throughout.

### **Salsa**

Ideal for beginners and no partners required!

### **Pilates**

Pilates strengthens the muscles that support the spine (the neck, shoulders, abs, hips and thighs) to bring balance into the body. Most body aches and pains are due to muscular imbalance. Pilates helps to realign the spine in order to decrease tension, increase flexibility, and strengthen the body from the inside out.

As a special offer to you, we are offering the first lesson free for existing customers. Please see the attached timetable for further information.

## Web Site

The school's new website is currently under construction. Special features will include the ability to order uniform online, pay your fees online, a forum

for pupils to chat to each other about all things dance related! This will be especially useful as we near each exam session. There will also be a secure area where you will be able to download documents, newsletters, step sheets etc.

### **Gentle Reminder**

Please remember that you when you are in a dance lesson, you should always wear your uniform (unless excused) and your hair should be tied away from your face, preferably in a bun. This is not only so that you look neat and tidy, but is also for your health and safety. Jewellery, food and toys are not permitted.

### **Move It! 2008**

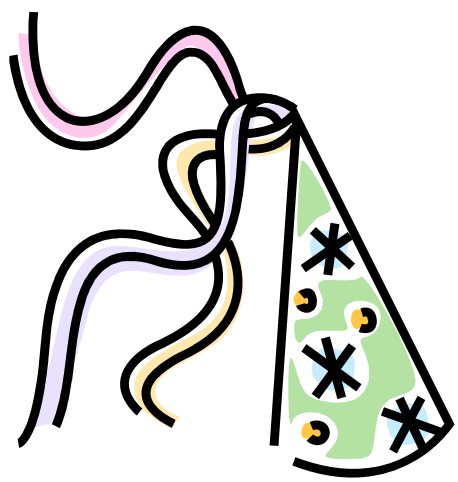
We are planning a school trip to this year's Move It! Dance Exhibition at The Olympia, London. This is a great chance to see hundreds of exhibitors including dance colleges and there are many dance classes and seminars to be attended. If you would like further information on this trip, please speak to your teacher to register your interest.

### **Dance Wear**

You may have noticed the new logo – we hope you like it! We will shortly be offering T.Shirts, hoodies, bags and caps featuring the new logo. Watch this space for more details!

### **Pixie Parties**

Are you stuck for party ideas this year for your child? Why not speak to Samantha about a themed party? We can do fairies, princesses, ballerinas, High School Musical and other films. In fact, we can cater for just about anything! Feel free to call for an informal chat on 01935 422178 to discuss your ideas and requirements.



### **Rubbish**

Can you all please ensure that you take your rubbish with you! We have had quite a few complaints from

various venues, particularly Wyke Primary School and The Park School which reflects very badly on everyone within the school. Please do not spoil things for everyone else.

### **Fees**

Fee payment is required within the first 2 weeks of term. There are 3 reasons that we ask for payment in advance. Firstly, many of the classes are very popular so the only way we can guarantee to keep a space for your child is by asking for half-termly payment.

Secondly, weekly payment takes up valuable class time, time that you have paid for your child to be having a lesson.

Finally learning to dance should be viewed as a commitment, no-one can progress or realise their full potential by attending infrequently and pupils whose attendance is sporadic not only hold themselves back but could have a negative impact on the whole group's progress.

It is required that if you are paying cash for classes that you put it in an envelope with your child's name on it to avoid any mistakes. If paying by cheque then can you please write your child's name on the back of the cheque, again to avoid any confusion. I have also had several returned cheques over the last term and I will now be charging £4 for every cheque returned. If you have any problems with the fees, please speak to me as soon as possible.

### **A Plea to Parents**

It has been brought to my attention that parents are arriving earlier and earlier with their children and disrupting the first class being taught. Children in the earlier classes are very young with very short attention spans. The arrival of parents and children for the next class is too much of a distraction and disruption and the children are missing out on much of their lesson. I therefore kindly ask that you wait for the first class to finish before entering the room.

### **Exam Results**

By the time this reaches you, I will have received the results of the December exam session. The certificates and awards will be handed out in the relevant lesson. The results of this exam session will also be included in our next Presentation Evening. A big well done to everyone who took part and a huge thank you to Jackie and Claire for their amazing efforts!