

Samantha Bell School of Dance

Newsletter September 2007

Dear Parents and Pupils,

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer and that the rain did not interfere too much with your plans! I have been busy decorating my new house so not much fun for me!

You may have noticed the change in name from Dance Time to Samantha Bell School of Dance. Rest assured, the change is purely for administrative purposes and does not affect your classes in any way. In addition, the school has expanded over the summer holidays as I have taken on the Blackmore Vale School of Dance based in Gillingham and Sturminster Newton, so you may see a few new faces around!

I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to all of you who supported the Presentation Evening. I thoroughly enjoyed the night and it was lovely to see all the pupils up on stage. Look out for our picture in the Western Gazette!

So we have a busy year ahead of us with exam sessions and a school show, but I am sure it will be an enjoyable one!

Samantha

THE AUTUMN TERM TIMETABLE

Please mark the term dates on your calendar.

This term is a 12 week term with 2 weeks off for half term.

Mondays

10th September – 15th October 2007 inclusive
5th November – 10th December 2007 inclusive

Long Sutton Village Hall

3.45pm – 4.15pm	Pre-Preliminary Ballet
4.15pm – 5.00pm	Preliminary Ballet
5.00pm – 5.30pm	Junior Tap
5.30pm – 6.30pm	Street Jazz/Modern

Huish Episcopi Sports Centre, Langport -

Contact the Sports Centre direct on 01458 251055 to register and for fee information.

7.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. Adult Tap

Wednesdays

12th September – 17th October 2007 inclusive
7th November – 12th December 2007 inclusive

The Park School (Junior Department), Yeovil

4.00pm - 4.30pm	Pre-Preliminary Ballet
4.30pm - 5.00pm	Preliminary Ballet
<i>(Parents are kindly excused)</i>	
5.00pm – 5.45pm	Grade 2 Ballet
5.45pm – 6.45pm	Grade 4 Ballet

Fridays

7th September – 19th October 2007 Inclusive
9th November – 7th December 2007 inclusive

The Parish Rooms, Somerton

4.00pm – 4.30pm	Twinkle Toes
4.30pm – 5.00pm	Preliminary Ballet
5.00pm – 5.30pm	Preparatory Musical Theatre
5.30pm – 6.00pm	Grade 1 Ballet
6.00pm – 6.30pm	Junior Musical Theatre
6.30pm – 7.15pm	Street Dance (non-syllabus)

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Exams

We shall be having another examination session this year on Saturday 1st December with one examination rehearsal on Saturday 24th November. We shall mainly be focusing on our performance technique with pupils being invited to take Medals and Rainbows. Please read the enclosed information and let me know as soon as possible if you wish to take part.

Congratulations...

To everyone who took their exams in July. You all worked every hard and should be proud of your achievement. Everybody passed, and this year's top scorers were Phoebe Livingstone in Class Exam, Chloe Healey in Grade 1 and Esme Cowling in Grade 3. Chloe Healey attained the highest mark overall with an outstanding 90! Keep up the good work girls!

School Show

On Thursday 21st February 2008 we will be having a school show to be held at The Octagon Theatre. This will be in aid of the NSPCC with collections for The Jennifer Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy. There will be a rehearsal at the theatre in the morning followed by the actual performance in the evening. Please read the enclosed details for further information. This is a very exciting opportunity for students to perform and show off their skills as dancers.

Inventive Dance Competition

Get your thinking caps on – it's time to show off your skills with our first Inventive Dance competition! This can be any style of dance and may include singing if you wish. It can be a solo, duet, trio or group work. Music should be up to 2 minutes long – and don't worry about getting all the time right – I can edit music for you to be the correct length. Judging of the dances will take place in lessons the week commencing 5th November and the winner from each class will be offered the chance to perform in the School Show.

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. At The Park School, you can use the other entrance and wait in the corridor. Long Sutton and Somerton have separate waiting areas. Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

New Classes

We now have some new classes on Friday afternoons in Somerton. Anyone is welcome to come and join in – it is always a good idea to try other dance forms to help your overall performance as a dancer. Classes are as follows:

Twinkle Toes – An Introduction to Dance and Drama

For children aged 2 ½ +. Children take their first steps in ballet and tap with music and stories which teach the positions of the feet whilst co-ordination and balance are encouraged. Children will love the imaginative games used to develop independence, deportment and confidence. A fun and friendly atmosphere where parents are welcome to stay and watch. Rainbow awards may be taken if desired; these are a simple introduction to the examination structure.

Musical Theatre Preparatory Classes are structured for children aged 5+ learning drama, mime, singing and a range of dance styles including jazz, modern and stage tap. Rainbow awards may be taken if desired; these are a simple introduction to the examination structure. Examinations may be taken when students are ready.

Musical Theatre Junior Classes are structured for children aged 8+ learning drama, mime, singing, stage presence, poise, speech and a range of dance styles including jazz, modern and stage tap. Examinations may be taken when students are ready.

Street Dance classes are energetic and fun-filled, suitable for beginners and those with some dance experience alike. This class aims to build strength, flexibility and rhythm. Students are actively encouraged to build on their own choreographic skills and styles, building confidence and performance technique. Students will need a tracksuit and trainers to participate as some floor work is involved. Children should also bring a bottle of water.

Dates For Your Diary

7 th September	Autumn Term Begins
22 nd October	Half Term Holidays
5 th November	Autumn Term Continues
	Inventive Dance Competition
	Judged This Week
24 th November	Exam Rehearsal
1 st December	Exam Day
17 th December	Christmas Holidays
7 th January	Spring Term Begins
21 st February	School Show

So lots of things to look forward to in the year ahead. Work hard, try your best, but most of all, enjoy your dancing!

Samantha Bell

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