

# Weston News

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## OFFICE

Opening hours: 10.00 am -  
1.00 pm (weekdays only)

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*Dear Parent,*

*With everything hotting up for Christmas this is probably the last thing you need right now. However, it does give us the chance to send you greetings of the season and to wish you a happy and healthy Olympic year. Please do try to find a moment to put your feet up and have a read through this brief missive and, if your child is old enough, pass it on for their information, too.*

*Take a note that in the coming term some of the classes have changed times, some only slightly, and that Widford Village Hall classes start back on 7th January.*

*There are some observations regarding where children should and should not change. We mean no offence to anyone but one of our halls in particular is concerned that some children are being too exposed. Your help in alleviating this situation would be very much appreciated.*

*As I am sure you can imagine, trying to keep everyone happy is a fine balancing act. We do our very best but hope that you will feed back to us anything you think we could be doing better rather than allowing a small aggravation to fester until it becomes a much bigger issue.*

*From our point of view, we should be grateful if you would kindly settle your account within the allotted time as the need to remind people to pay often causes offence. Remember, you can pay by cash or cheque, debit or credit card, or by monthly standing order. Please don't hesitate to contact the office for further information. Settling your account on time means that we can pay our suppliers on time - and everybody's happy!*

*Please also let us know, before the term starts, if your child does not intend to return to classes and, if you're willing, give us the reason why not so that we can take any issues on board. Whilst we will be disappointed I promise we won't send the Mitchells round and it will mean that you won't be liable for the term's fees.*

*Finally, I encourage you to look at the possibility of your children taking additional classes. As an existing student, provided that they are already training in either Ballet, Modern or Tap, it only costs an additional £3.17 (junior) or £3.50 (senior) per week to study Musical Theatre or Hip-Hop. To add a core subject is only slightly more, with the first term at half-price, so please phone the office to discuss the possibilities.*

*Have a great holiday. We look forward to seeing you again next year!*

*Elisabeth Swan*

*Principal*

## Honour for Principal



We are delighted to report that our Principal, Miss Elisabeth Swan, has been announced as the 2011 recipient of the ISTD's highly prestigious Theatre Faculty **Imperial Award**. This Award, which is given for outstanding services

to the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, will be presented to her at the ISTD's Dinner Dance at the Marriott Grosvenor Square Hotel on Sunday 18th March 2012.

Miss Swan has been an examiner for the ISTD for over sixteen years, examining children and vocational students both in the UK and

Internationally, and has been a Faculty Committee member since 1996. She is currently Chair of the Cecchetti Society Classical Ballet Faculty, a position she has held since 2005, as well as a member of the ISTD Theatre Faculties Board and Benevolent Fund, and she sits on the Council of Trustees.

In July of this year Miss Swan was instrumental in mounting an International Classical Ballet Competition at The Lowry Centre, Salford Quays. The competition ran over three days and drew forty-six dancers not only from the UK and Europe, but also Australia, Canada, Japan and the USA. This was held alongside two summer schools and *Cecchetti Day*, the Society's flagship event, over which she also had ultimate responsibility.

## Dressing for Class

We have been asked to request that children do not change in a public area, even if you are with them. Ideally children would arrive ready for class and merely have to take off a jogging suit (or similar) and, perhaps, put on a skirt or waist elastic. Even this needs to be out of sight of other parents and/or CCTV cameras. It may be preferable, should your child attend straight from school, to get them ready at their school which may have better, more private changing facilities, before they leave.

We regret that in general it is not possible to hire a separate room as a changing area as the cost would be prohibitive. Most of our halls

have clean and spacious personal facilities and it would be appreciated that, if children cannot arrive ready-dressed, they perhaps use these areas.

Whilst on the subject of child safety, it would be much appreciated if your child could pop on a pair of trousers or similar after class as it is not really appropriate for them to be walking out of a building to your car with bare legs or just wearing tights. We truly have your children's welfare at heart and it is simply not possible for us to police all the areas your children walk once they have left the building.

## Cecchetti Classical Ballet Awards

Well done to the children who were chosen to take part in the Cecchetti Classical Ballet Awards competition which took place on 19th November at the Lilian Baylis Studio Theatre, Sadler's Wells in

London. **Amy Butler** and **Harriet Punt** were entered into the Children's Awards category, and **Sarah Benson, Hannah Cotgrove, Michael Preston** and **Emily Walter** competed in the Junior

Mabel Ryan Award - and they all danced beautifully. Many congratulations to **Michael Preston** who was chosen as runner-up.

## Timetable Changes

Due to the movement of children following the examinations at the end of last term it has been necessary to make some timetable alterations. Great Dunmow students are particularly affected, but everyone should

refer closely to their Class Allocation Notice to check on their class times. For those who have changed class, due to exams or class alterations, we have had to make some assumptions. However, should we have placed

your child into a class which is not convenient, please be so kind as to contact the office so that we can discuss alternatives. A full copy of the timetable may be viewed on our website.

## Class Cancellations

In today's tightening economic climate we have had to take a long hard look at the viability of all classes and, for this reason, there have had to be some cancellations, as follows:

**Farthing Centre, Mondays** - Adult Tap and Jazz (the Tuesday Adult classes are not affected), with apologies to the few loyal ladies who attended. It is interesting to

note that we need a minimum of six students per class just to break even on PAYG classes. The moral of this story is to bring a friend!! Our sincere thanks to **Jeni Murrell** who has been teaching these classes. We wish her every happiness in the future "down under".

**CYGAMS, Tuesdays** - Pilates.  
*Thank you to Tracy Fritschy for*

her patience and expertise, and to those who supported this class. All aspiring dancers should consider Pilates classes and we hope that we may be able to return this subject to the timetable in the near future.

**Farthing Centre, Saturdays** - Grade 2 Modern

## New Classes

Due to demand there is a new **Primary Ballet** class on Saturday mornings at the Farthing Centre, from 9.30 am until 10.15 am with Miss Penny. **IF ANYONE CAN CHANGE TO THIS CLASS FROM THE WIDFORD PRIMARY BALLET CLASS WHICH IS OVERSUBSCRIBED PLEASE DO LET THE OFFICE KNOW.**

An additional **Grade 5 Ballet** class has been introduced on Wednesdays at CYGAMS HQ from 4.45 pm until 6.00 pm. Due to the high technical skill required at this level ALL Grade 5 Ballet students should consider taking this additional class.

**Advanced 1 Modern** has been returned to the timetable on Thursdays at the Farthing Centre, from 8.30 pm until 9.45 pm.

### DATES FOR THE SPRING AND SUMMER TERMS 2012

Office reopens Tuesday 3rd January  
Spring Term commences Monday 9th January  
Half Term (2 weeks) from Monday 13th to Saturday 25th February inclusive  
Spring Term ends Saturday 31st March

Office reopens Wednesday 11th April  
Summer Term commences Friday 20th April  
Half Term (1 week) from Monday 4th until Saturday 9th June inclusive  
Summer Term ends Thursday 5th July

There will be no classes on Bank Holiday Monday 7th May but they will be held instead on Monday 9th July

### TEMPORARY CLASS CHANGES

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the following changes have been made for the spring term only:

**Widford Village Hall:** There will be no classes at this venue on Saturdays 11th February or 10th March but they will be held instead, prior to the commencement of term, on Saturday 7th January, and at the end of our half-term, on Saturday 24th March

### UNIFORM SALES

Chelmer Village - Thursday 19th January - 4.15 pm to 6.15 pm  
Springfield - Friday 20th January - 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm  
Great Dunmow - Saturday 21st January - 9.45 am to 12.00 pm  
Farthing Centre - Saturday 28th January - 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL THE UNIFORM (BALLET, MODERN and TAP) IS TAKEN TO EACH OF THESE VENUES**

### UNIFORM ENQUIRY AND SUPPLY

The School holds a considerable amount of uniform in stock. If you are unable to attend any of the above sessions please obtain an order form from your class teacher and either post or send in via the class. The items will be sent to your child's class.

### UNIFORM AVAILABLE ONLINE!!

As from Tuesday 3rd January you will be able to order and pay for your uniform online by visiting the Shop section of the School website. The items will be sent to your child's class in the usual way.