

OFFICE

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10.00 am - 1.00 pm
(weekdays only)

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SPRING TERM STARTS MONDAY 13TH JANUARY

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new year and a new term at The Weston although, just where the Christmas holiday has gone, goodness only knows. Thank you for your patience while we delayed the start of term by a week in order to get ourselves completely organised. It's all systems go from here on.

Last term finished with the usual pressure of examinations, the results for which we are still waiting. Then it was on to rehearsals for the Bocking Arts Centre Pantomime. Ten girls were selected to take part and they worked incredibly hard to get five dances together in just two weeks—well done everyone.

We are sad to report that both Miss Jess and Miss Penny have left the school. Miss Jess is taking up a full-time post as a children's nanny, and Miss Penny is expecting her first child. We send with them our very best wishes. On a happier note, we are delighted to welcome four new teachers to the faculty, two of whom undertook their original training with this school before moving on to vocational colleges/university. It is always lovely to have Old-Westonians returning to the fold (Miss Swan and Miss Ruth also trained at The Weston). We know you will make all the new teachers feel welcome and help them get into our routine.

As a result of staff changes, and the movement of children to new classes following exams, there have been some timetable changes so please do read your Class Allocation Notice and remember to get in touch if we've allocated an inconvenient class.

Finally, a big THANK YOU to everyone from all the teachers for such lovely Christmas gifts. I personally had a great time opening these on Christmas Day whilst Geoff looked on with envy!!

Wishing you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Elisabeth Swan
Principal*



Please "Like us" on Facebook and "Share" with your friends. Recommendations very welcome



www.facebook.com/WestonSchoolOfDance

Welcome

To our four new teachers:

Natasha Brinn comes to us from Italia Conti Theatre School, via Tiffany Theatre College and holds a triple Distinction BTEC from South East College where she studied drama. She has achieved advanced examinations in ISTD Modern, Tap and Ballet as well as completing all LAMDA exams up to gold level. She is a classically trained singer and works as a drama and singing club teacher, as well as at the Pauline Quirk Academy. Natasha will be at CYGAMS HQ on Thursdays, and on Fridays at Springfield.

Susan Clarke undertook her early training with this school before moving on to Middlesex University where she gained a BA Hons in Dance. She then went to the Broadway Dance Centre in New York to further

her studies before returning to the UK where she has danced in hotels, fashion shows, wedding shows and pantomimes. Currently a Learning Support Assistant in the Performing Arts department of a Secondary School, Susan is working towards her Cecchetti Classical Ballet teaching qualification. Susan will be teaching Miss Penny's classes at Springfield.

Marie Francis (formerly Rawlinson) trained for thirteen years at The Weston before moving onto a 3-year Performing Arts course at London Studio Centre. Since graduating in 2006 Marie has worked consistently worldwide as a dancer and choreographer for such as Bryan Ferry, Roxi Music, Gucci, and at the International Dubai Film Festival. Her work in films and television includes *A Little*

Chaos, directed by Alan Rickman, *Maleficent*, directed by Robert Stromberg and *Horrible Histories*, directed by Dominic Brigstocke for the BBC. Throughout her whole career, Marie has taught Musical Theatre and Dance workshops which included two years as the Director of Bedazzle Oxford Performing Arts UK. We are delighted to welcome her back to the school to teach at our Great Dunmow location.

Joanne Libby, who has brilliantly covered Miss Penny's classes in the past, will be with us on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Joanne has been training with the school for many years and has recently gained the DDI Practical Unit which is part of her dance teaching qualification and which compliments her experience as a vocal coach.

New Arrivals

Congratulations to Joanne Libby who gave birth to Bailey during the autumn term. This is Joanne's second child and everyone is doing well.

Also to Heidi King who gave birth to a daughter on Thursday 7th November at 8.19 am, weighing in at 8lb 7oz. Heidi and partner, John, have named the baby Anwyn Rose.

Children In Need

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Mufti Week, raising more than £430 for this worthy cause. Congratulations to the following who received a Blush Bear for their original costumes: Jessica Beales (Clown), Alice Blake (Princess), Imogen French (Chinese girl), Sarah Harris (Mr Bump), Eve Hessey (Cheer Leader), Keira Jones (Cinderella), Marion Pettet (Lady Dracula) and Millie Westcott (Hermione from Harry Potter).

Pantomime at Bocking Arts Theatre

Ten dancers took part in The Wizard of Oz leading up to Christmas and they were a credit to the School. So, thank you, to Hannah Beales, Hollie Escott, Liberty Escott, Amelia Hawes, Jessica Higgins, Isabel James, Niamh O'Hanlon, Maddie Spriggs, Ellen Steel and Francesca Wright. A huge thank you to Miss Ruth, not only for her choreography and rehearsal, but her chaperon duties, too; and to Ruth's mum, Mary Farrin, for "running up" some skirts in no time at all - what a team!

Financial Matters

Payment of Invoices

Invoices are due for payment within 21 days and we are grateful to the vast majority who settle within these terms. You are welcome to pay by cheque, credit or debit card by completing and returning your remittance advice, or to telephone the office to pay over the phone.

Do you pay by Standing Order?

If you do, and you have set this up on-line, please be so kind as to ensure that the reference stated is your account reference. This is the only way we can quickly track your payment. Your surname, or “ballet” for example, really doesn’t help us! The same applies if you choose to pay by BACS. Thank you to all of you who do include your account reference.

We still have one or two people who pay into our old Barclays account and we respectfully remind you that this has now changed. Our account details, for direct payments and standing orders, are:

Sort Code - 08-92-50
Account No - 68543198

This is a Co-operative account in the name of The Weston School of Dance & Performing Arts

STRICTLY WESTON!

Such is our reputation that we have been invited to take part in an *Evening with the Stars of Strictly Come Dancing*, a spectacular show which is coming to Chelmsford’s Riverside Leisure Centre on Easter Sunday, 20th April. We are therefore looking for about 50 enthusiastic students, age 8½ years and upwards, who would like to take part.

AUDITIONS will be held at Widford Village Hall, Chelmsford, on Sunday 26th January between 12.00 noon and 6.00 pm - you will be allocated a time slot. Students will need to be available for some rehearsals during the half-term week (16th to 23rd February), and also between 7th and 17th April. There will be two routines and these can be of any dance / musical theatre style we like so, whichever classes you do, you would be most welcome to apply.



Application forms will be available on the website (members’ section) from Friday 10th January, or you can obtain one from the office or your class teacher. Alternatively, you can register your interest by emailing strictly@theweston.co.uk. Whichever route you take, we must hear from you by Saturday 18th January - so time is of the essence. Should you be interested, but have a problem with any of the dates mentioned, please let us know as we may still be able to use you.

Costumes will be provided at cost and you should expect to pay no more than £25 per student. All students will be required to provide their own shoes - details to be confirmed.

Dates for the Academic Year 2013-2014

Spring term 2014

Office opened	Thursday 2nd January
Term commences	Monday 13th January
Half term (no classes)	Monday 17th February to Saturday 22nd February inclusive
Term ends	Saturday 29th March

Summer term 2014

Office opens	Wednesday 23rd April
Term commences	Monday 28th April
Half term (no classes)	Monday 26th May to Saturday 31st May
Term ends	Monday 14th July 2014

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no classes on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2014

Timetable Changes

Enclosed in this pack is a copy of the timetable for the spring term. We always try to keep changes to an absolute minimum but, inevitably, with the movement of children following exams, plus the change of teaching faculty, some changes have been necessary. Please note the times of classes you have been allocated on your Class Allocation Notice and, if you would prefer to change, please do not hesitate to discuss alternatives with us.

Changing Facilities

We regret that not all of our halls have changing facilities and so you are advised to change at home or school and pop a track suit over the top. Parents of children at Springfield Parish Centre are particularly requested not to change the children in public areas, especially the café, as these are covered by CCTV and it would not be appropriate to record them on camera.

Uniform Sales

The sale of Ballet, Modern and Tap uniform will take place as follows:

Springfield Parish Centre	Friday 17th January	4.15 pm—6.15 pm
Widford Village Hall	Saturday 18th January	10.15 am—12.15 pm
Chelmer Village Hall	Thursday 23rd January	4.15 pm—6.15 pm
Great Dunmow Primary School	Saturday 25th January	9.15 am—12.15 pm

Uniform may also be ordered and paid for on-line at www.westonschools.co.uk

Uniform Enquiries and Supply

The School holds a considerable amount of uniform in stock. If you are unable to attend any of the scheduled sale sessions, and do not wish to order on-line, please obtain an order form from your class teacher, complete it and send it to the office with your payment. Where possible, goods will be sent to the student's first class after the weekend.