

Garrowhill School of Dance

Information Pack

Session 2009/2010

Principal : Amanda Letarte

Fellow and Examiner for the Scottish Dance Teachers' Alliance
In
Ballet, Theatre(tap and modern), Street, Baton and Cheerleading
F.S.D.T.A. (Ballet)
F.S.D.T.A. (Theatre)
F.S.D.T.A. (Street)
M.S.D.T.A. (Cheer)
M.S.D.T.A (Baton)
M.B.A.T.D. (Stage)
A.S.D.T.A. (Line Dancing)
N.F.H.S. Safety Certification
W.C.A. Cheerleading Coaches Certification
Qualified Aerobics and Step Reebok Instructor

Assistant Teachers :

Sheena McLellan (M.S.D.T.A)
Wendy Lawrence (A.S.D.T.A)
Leigh Moore (A.S.D.T.A)
Debbie Martin (A.S.D.T.A)

For More Information Contact Miss Letarte :
Mobile : 07751 848190
E-Mail : dancegarrowhill@btinternet.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ENROLMENT

Every dancer is required to complete an enrolment form at the beginning of each session whether a new or returning pupil. There is a £10 enrolling fee for new pupils. This will be refunded on payment of the full term's fees. The enrolment fee has been introduced to discourage time-wasters. Once you have enrolled please let Miss Letarte know of any changes to class options as soon as possible so that your fees can be adjusted. Fees are still payable if you fail to do this.

DO NOT BRING NEW PUPILS OR FRIENDS ALONG TO CLASSES AS THEY WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO WATCH.

New pupils, who have not enrolled on the given enrolment day, must first contact Miss Letarte as there may not be places available in their chosen class. If there are spaces they will be welcome at the next available class. The appropriate fees will apply.

ATTENDANCE

If you are unwell or for some other reason will not be attending your class you must phone or text Miss Letarte before your class. Regular absenteeism will result in dancers not being permitted to sit exams, compete in competitions or take part in the show. In order for dancers to reach the required standard necessary for exams and competitions they must endeavour to attend all their classes. Dancers' must arrive early and be ready to start their class on time. Persistent lateness will not be tolerated. Young dancers must be collected from inside class venues. If parents/guardians are held up please phone Miss Letarte (07751 848190) so that dancers' can be supervised until they arrive. Otherwise no responsibility will be taken for dancers outwith their class time.

BEHAVIOUR

Dancers' should address all teachers respectfully by their title and not their first name. If dancers' are being disrespectful to any of their teachers, assistants or any other class member or are misbehaving during class time or in the changing areas or toilets prior to or after their class parents will be notified immediately. If this behaviour persists then they will be asked to leave and under no circumstances be allowed back into their classes. Those who step out of line spoil the enjoyment and hold back the progression of others in the class and this will not be tolerated.

Changing areas, toilets and other areas inside dancing venues must be kept clean and tidy and all rubbish placed in the bins provided. **Dancers' are permitted to bring a drink of water with them into class. No other drinks or food are permitted unless dancers have a medical condition which requires special arrangements. These must be discussed with Miss Letarte prior to dancers starting. Saturday dancers who attend more than one class will be permitted a small healthy snack with them.**

INJURIES

If dancers are injured and still wish to take part in their classes, parents/guardians must inform Miss Letarte of the nature of the injury and what medical advice has been given regarding taking part in a dance class. Dancers' will only be permitted to take part if permission has been given by a medical expert or their parent/guardian.

EXAMS

Exams are not compulsory, but it is preferable for dancers' to do the work in order that their technique does not fall behind other class members. This is important if dancers' wish to take part in the show. If you do not wish your son/daughter to take part in exams you must inform Miss Letarte at the beginning of the session. Parents/Guardians should appreciate that the teaching staff know the standard required to pass an exam and dancers' will be given the opportunity to sit an exam if it is felt they have reached the required standard. Many pupils will in fact exceed this standard, however, no dancer will be entered for an exam if the standard required to pass has not been reached by him/her. This does not mean they will never be able to sit an exam. The main reasons for not being able to sit an exam are usually that the dancer is a new member of the class or has had a number of absences. However, lack of effort and inattentiveness during class is also a major factor. Parents/ Guardians will be informed if it is felt dancers' are wasting time in class.

Exam sessions are held throughout the year in the Masonic Hall (occasionally exams are taken in the S.D.T.A. headquarters in Glasgow) and children are examined by an examiner appointed by the S.D.T.A. Exam fees vary and must be paid before candidates enter the exam. Fees are still payable if you fail to turn up for an exam. All information regarding exams e.g. dates, times and uniform will be posted on the double doors as you enter the Masonic Hall. Information will also be available at the Community Hall and Lochend Secondary. Individual notes will not be issued. Correct uniform and footwear must be worn.

UNIFORM

Each class has a set uniform which must be worn. Dancers' will not be permitted to take part in their class if they do not have the correct clothing or footwear. Exceptions will only be made for new pupils for the first few weeks after which they too will be

expected to have the correct uniform. New pupils should ask Miss Letarte what a suitable alternative would be for their first few weeks. All leotards must be ordered through Miss Letarte to ensure correct colour and style. Shoes, etc can also be ordered from Miss Letarte or otherwise bought from a good dancewear supplier.

Dancers' cannot be taught properly if they are not wearing the correct clothing and footwear and will have to sit and watch their class if they do not turn up for their class with their uniform, as detailed below, their hair tied back and their jewellery removed. Older dancers' will be sent home if they turn up without their correct uniform. Anyone who has newly had their ears pierced will be permitted to keep stud earrings in only if covered with a plaster or micropore tape.

At the discretion of the teacher, dancers' may be permitted to wear a Garrowhill School of Dance sweatshirt, polo shirt or t-shirt over their leotard at the beginning of the class if it is cold.

Parents/guardians will be notified if pupils frequently "forget" their uniform.

Class uniforms are as follows :-

Beginners and Preschool

Flo pink skirted leotard, pink ballet socks and pink ballet shoes.

Preschool class also need white tap shoes

Primary Foundation, Primary and Grade 1/2 Classes (Saturday)

Turquoise leo, skirt and leggings, pink ballet shoes and socks, white/black tap shoes depending on stage

Grade 2 (Thursday)

Green Leotard and black leggings. Pink ballet shoes, Black tap and jazz shoes. Thin black ankle socks.

Girls will be required to wear ballet tights nearer exam time and for all ballet exams from Grade 2 upwards.

Grade 3 Ballet upwards

Black ballet leotard, pink ballet tights and pink ballet shoes with tapes.

Pointe shoes for Grade 4 (or when advised) upwards also

Grade 3 Tap and Modern upwards

Purple velvet leotard, black lycra leggings, black tap and jazz shoes. Thin black ankle socks

If taking a ballet classes followed immediately by a tap and modern class or vice versa, dancers' will be allowed a few minutes to change between classes.

Boys

Boys black unitard or boys black leotard and black shorts or fitted black t-shirt and shorts or boys jazz trousers. Black tap and jazz shoes or black ballet shoes for younger boys. (if unsure please ask) **No jeans or tracksuits.**

Highland and Majorettes Duet Classes

As Primary Foundation class, except highland shoes and white jazz shoes required

A majorette baton required immediately, highland swords when advised

Highland/Majorettes Classes

As Grade 3 modern class (black cycling shorts also acceptable), except highland shoes (highland) and black jazz shoes (majorettes) required

Majorettes require their own baton and highland pupils their own swords

Cheerleading

Black cheerleading shorts, black cotton cycling shorts or black jazz pants, green xplosion t-shirt or tight fitting plain black t-shirt or vest top. Black (youths, upwards) or white (peewees) jazz shoes. (please ask if you are unsure what colour to buy)

Street Dance

We now have "Street" t-shirts, hoodies and trainers which are available to order from Miss Letarte. Black combats or other loose fitting black trousers should be worn. **No jeans.**

HAIR MUST BE TIED BACK FOR ALL CLASSES AND NO JEWELLERY IS TO BE WORN AT ANY TIME

BUYING A UNIFORM

All leotards, skirts and leggings must be bought from Miss Letarte to ensure the correct colour and style. Shoes may or not be bought from Miss Letarte. If not buying then from Miss Letarte please ensure you go to a good dancewear supplier and that shoes fit correctly as dancing shoes should. If not buying your baton from Miss Letarte, please ensure the baton is the correct length, that is from under the arm to the end of the middle finger. If you do not measure an exact size it is better that the baton is slightly longer than shorter. Pointe shoes must be bought from a good dancewear supplier. Please ensure the supplier is correctly trained to fit pointe shoes as it is of great importance that pointe shoes are fitted correctly

Approximately prices of items bought from Miss Letarte depending on size and style are :-

Leotards from £10 - £25

Skirts and Leggings from £10 - £15

Shoes from £8

Batons from £20 - £28

All other items - price on request

ANNUAL SHOW

We put on a show each year in which all pupils have the opportunity to take part. The show has a theme and costumes appropriate to the theme. Costumes are bought or hired and costs are kept to a minimum where possible while still dressing the dancers well. Help is always needed for the making of costumes to help keep the costs down and is very much appreciated. Help is also appreciated for the buying of costumes to keep everyone the same. If you are willing to help even in a very small way please let me know. You do not have to be able to sew or own a sewing machine to be able to help! Taking part in the show is not compulsory. You will however be asked to commit yourself to the show by paying a costume deposit of £10. This deposit is returned to you after the show when you return your costumes on time and in good order. **This year's show will take place in Greenfaulds High School, Cumbernauld on 19th and 20th June 2010. Details to follow.**

ADULT CLASSES

I am please to announce that the adult tap class returns on a Friday evening at 8.45pm. This is a mixed level class and new members are always welcome. Comfortable clothing should be worn and a drink of water is advisable. Patience and a good sense of humour are a must! Fees for the adult tap class are payable weekly.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

A list of dates which includes holidays, exams, competitions and the show is also available. Please pencil these into your diary. All dates are subject to change and many more may be added. Changes or additions will be posted on the double doors inside the Masonic Hall and will be available at the Community Hall and Lochend Secondary.

FEES

Fees are paid in blocks of ten weeks by cash, credit/debit card or by monthly direct debit from August - May. There is no difference to fee amounts depending on the payment method, however if fees are late there will be a £5 per day late fee penalty beginning on the second day of term or the day after direct debit payments are due. Please ensure fees are paid on time. **I am no longer accepting cheques as a method of payment.**

If paying by cash or credit/debit card, fees are due on the first day of each term. There will be four terms this year. The first three comprising of 10 weeks and a final term. The number of weeks in the final term will vary from day to day depending on holidays, availability of halls etc. For those paying by direct debit the reduction for the final term will be incorporated into your monthly payments. If there are any unforeseen class cancellations an alternative class will be put on later in the year.

Due dates for fees are as follows :-

Term 1 : Saturday 15th August

Term 2 : Saturday 31st October

Term 3 : Saturday 23rd January

Term 4 : Monday 19th April

Direct debit payments will be made in ten equal payments from August - May and are payable on the 16th of each month. Fees are payable even if you are absent for any reason. Anyone who has a sustained period of absence should contact Miss Letarte to discuss fee arrangements.

Fees per class are as follows :-

Class	Fee	Class	Fee
Beginners Ballet	£2.50	Highland and Majorette Duet (1 hour)	£4.50
Preschool Ballet and Tap	£3.50	Highland (1 hour)	£4.50
Ballet, Tap and Modern (1 hour)	£4.50	Highland Competition Class	£3.50
Ballet, Tap and Modern (1.25 hours)	£5.00	Cheerleading (1 hour)	£4.50
Ballet, Tap and Modern (1.5 hours)	£5.50	Street Dance (45 mins)	£3.50
Ballet (1 hour)	£4.50	Adult	£4.50
Tap and Modern (1 hour)	£4.50		

Discounts will be given to all pupils taking two or more classes and will increase as the number of classes increases ie cost of 2nd class £3.50, 3rd class £3.00

Fee envelopes will be issued the week before they are due to those paying by cash or credit/debit card. If paying by cash please ensure the correct cash amount is enclosed in your fee envelope. Please note fee due dates so that you do not incur the £5 per day late payment charges. **Fees are not payable weekly.**

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions please phone Miss Letarte or speak to her or one of the assistant teachers at the beginning of your daughter/son's class. Assistant teachers' may not be able to answer your questions but they will pass them on and Miss Letarte will contact you as soon as possible. **Any additional information that you may need throughout the year will be posted on the double doors inside the Masonic Hall so please make sure you check regularly!**

Thank you for taking the time to read all the information given and for your cooperation. Classes will run smoothly if rules and regulations are adhered to and will mean a much happier environment for dancers to learn in. It is important that dancers' have fun learning to dance and their improvement will depend on this.

Please remember to complete your medical forms and bring them to your first class.

I hope we can have another enjoyable and successful year.