

## Autumn Term Newsletter



### 2024-2025

Welcome to another busy year at VJSD, this year will be even bigger and busier than the last, with lots for the children to enjoy. I am not sure how we will fit it all in!

Please read all details below, especially our Dates for the Diary section!

### LAST YEAR

Thank you for a fantastic year! We had our first Choreographic Competition, which was a huge hit, a great end of year Christmas Party and two successful shows at The Mansfield Palace Theatre. Thank you to everybody for their cards, gifts and messages after the performance and thank you for your continued support with VJSD.

### RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER

NO CLASS Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> or Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September  
CLASSES RETURN from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September

### 2024 DATES FOR THE DIARY

Summer School	Various Dates, there is still time to join
October Half Term School	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October
October Exam Boosters	To be confirmed
Choreographic Competition	1 <sup>st</sup> December
ISTD Tap Exams	14 <sup>th</sup> December (to be confirmed with ISTD)
End of Year Christmas Party	22 <sup>nd</sup> December
ISTD Ballet Exams	2 <sup>nd</sup> / 9 <sup>th</sup> February (to be confirmed with ISTD)
VJSD Fundraising Event	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Show Rehearsal	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 (ALL INVOLVED)
Show Dress Rehearsal and Photos	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
Dance Show	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> & Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
VJSD Picnic	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2025

### SUMMER SCHOOL 24

There is still time to join on to some of our Summer School fun! The days are really enjoyable, with lots to take part in. The children have a great time when attending a VJSD day. Please get in touch if you wish to learn more/book your child.

### **STREAMING AND SHOW DVD**

All pupils will receive a free link to stream Myths, Legends and Fairy Tale Creatures. DVDs are also available to purchase. Please complete the link sent to you via email ASAP. Both the streaming and DVDs will be with us towards the end of August.

### **TIMETABLE & MOVING UP**

There will be an updated timetable for September with slight changes on a few days. This will be sent once halls have confirmed the changes.

Saturday classes will see a big change, with the splitting of our large ballet and street class, this will mean moving some of our classes later into the day. There will be an email detailing the new times and who is moving into which class.

A separate email will go out to those we are moving up. Sometimes our classes grow with age rather than moving up/later etc. Sometimes our later sessions have older children, different needs etc. There is always a reason for our decisions, I am happy to discuss these with you at any time.

### **NEW CLASSES**

We will be introducing Jazz to Underwood on a Wednesday afternoon; this is for ages 5+. The time will be 5:15-5:45, this will be on the Timetable once it has been sent out. Jazz will be on a promotion, £1 extra if the child takes part in Musical Theatre and £2 if they take up this new class. Please turn up/stay on the first session back.

We are still looking at options for singing at Underwood. I also hear whispers for adult tap, I am looking into this too.

### **STREET DANCE EXAMINATIONS**

We are excited to announce that VJSD will be holding a session of Street exams this year. I will be working on my own examination alongside preparing the pupils for their first street dance exam. ALL pupils that take part in street classes have the opportunity to take exams, even under 5s! These are really easy, super fun, relaxed examinations and only last 10 minutes. There will be lots more information to come but we are so excited for this!!

### **EXAMINATIONS**

There are many reasons why a child might not be picked for ballet/tap examinations, most of the time this is due to age or how ready they are for the examination and the process. The ISTD hold a very high standard and a child must meet this before they are examined. There is no rush to take examinations and I will never hold a child back; I have been entering children for over 15 years, please trust my judgement.

## **UNIFORM & HAIR**

Good grooming in dance is essential, this is from a health and safety prospective and from a presentation aspect. In dance examinations children get marked on their presentation, therefore it is good practise for the girls and boys to do the same in lessons. If children are at the age to dress themselves and do their own hair, please encourage them to come appropriate for dance, hair up and off faces, **BALLET BUNS FOR GRADE 1+ IS A MUST**, uniform where required. I understand that this is not always easy and parents live busy lives. I am more than happy to help with hair before sessions.

Jewellery is creeping in, unfortunately it will ask it to be removed. We all have sentimental items, but VJSD does not want to be responsible if they snap, break or get caught whilst dancing/practising a street move etc.

Uniform lists for each class and their prices can be found on a separate document.

If you require any items of clothing for the start of term, please fill out our online form in the email this will be with you for the first day of term.

Our black leotards were new last year and are for pupils once they reach Grade 2. These are to be accompanied by ballet tights and ballet shoes (**no leggings or shorts**). Skirts are no longer required at this level.

NEW for 2024, Vest tops! As the girls get older and more aware of their bodies, it is often hard to encourage them to take off t-shirts, jumpers etc. We as teachers, must be able to see their stance and posture for certain disciplines, this means they must be removed. Therefore, we have decided to look into vest tops, these will be worn over the top of the leotard but acts as a barrier and an extra layer. This has been added to the order form, costs are to be decided but these should not be more than £15.

## **HOODIES**

A new hoodie order will be processed at the start of term. Please fill out our online form for one of these.

## **FEES**

There will be a fee increase from January 2025. We will be looking into a capped price for those that attend lots of sessions.

## **FEE REMINDERS**

Just a gentle reminder about fees. Fees are due monthly at the start of the month, where possible. Weekly payment can still be made but must be on time/prompt. Please see Term Dates for monthly amounts.

FEES ARE ONLY MOVED OVER IF PRIOR NOTICE IS GIVEN. NO COMMUNICATION, NO MOVEMENT OF PAYMENT. Thank you!

### **KEEPING UP TO DATE**

All news and updates are posted on VJSD's Facebook page, please make sure you have given us a like! Important information is sent out via email but small updates, reminders etc are posted online.

As always, I would be grateful if you could share, like, comment on Facebook posts and mention us to anybody looking for a local dance school. If you could give us a review on Google this will also help us.

Word of mouth is the best advertisement for new students and I need your help with this.

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

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or via FB Messenger

Vanessa x