

*Newsletter: Autumn Term 2020 & COVID-19 Update*

Dear Parents & Students,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer and things are starting to get back to normal for you all.

It will be fantastic to see you all again soon, I'm very excited to be getting back to face to face classes! There are of course some new ways of doing things so please have a read through this newsletter and get in touch if you have any questions.

### Class Timetable & information

To follow government guidelines the students have now been put into 'bubbles' to minimise the risk of infection. There have been duplicates of some classes added to the timetable to ensure I do not go over the maximum number or to avoid crossing bubbles. Where duplicates are added I will clarify which class (A/B/C) you will be in on your invoice. If you cannot make that class please let me know, as I may be able to move you to another bubble.

Although there are now restrictions on group sizes there are still some classes with availability so If you are looking to try anything new please let me know and I can arrange a free trial! Remember from 8yrs+ students can try Jazz, contemporary and commercial!

I have tried to keep the timetable as close to normal as possible. However, to do things as safely as possible and to comply with government guidelines I have had to include duplicate lessons, stagger drop off and collection times, allow cleaning after bubbles and where possible avoid students' classes crossing over several days to keep a bubble together. This isn't always the case, but I have tried my best where I can.

From Grade 4 Ballet+ students are expected to take 2 ballet lessons a week; I have decided to remove the Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> ballet class whilst we work in bubbles to avoid mixing, and have extended their class to one longer lesson. When we are able to resume with two weekly classes I will let you know, and this will go back to normal.

We have temporarily lost the use of Lodge Farm School and The Vineyard Barns as they are unable to open in September, these will both be reassessed by the half term.

These classes will temporarily be moved to The Roaring Meg Arts Pavilion (Next to Costa) or Oaklands Primary School WGC.

The Roaring Meg have given us exclusive use of their centre during this term which is great news as it will just be our students in there and as you know is a great location on the retail park with parking and coffee shops!

When the Vineyards opens the Wednesday and Friday classes will move back over immediately, this includes the Friday classes that I have had to put on a Saturday morning. Saturday classes will therefore move back to between 10-4pm. I anticipate this will be after half term.

On the timetable you will see notes for each venue's drop off and collection points. We can no longer have parents in any of the building due to both the venues requirements and also to keep to my guided group sizes in the building. Please can I ask everyone is mindful of social distancing when waiting outside the buildings.

Pay as you go classes have now been added to your invoice. As I have had to duplicate all of these to meet the required group size the lesson needs to be viable to run ensuring all places are used. This also avoids the handling of cash whilst trying to social distance. This does also mean any students receiving multiclass discounts will receive this off their pay as you go class too! Adult classes will be billed in half term blocks for the same reasons above.

### Student expectations

The first week back will give the students an insight into how we will enter and leave the building, how we will distance in the class etc. With schools implementing many of the same guidelines it shouldn't seem too different and I will be doing my best to make it not seem strange at all and a place we can all enjoy and get back to what we love! I know how exciting it's going to be to see each other, I can't wait either! But I will of course expect the students to follow the new rules for everyone's safety so please have a read of our student's behaviour policy on our website information page which I will be going through with the classes when we return. I can't imagine any of our lovely students would break the rules but of course we have to outline and follow these for everyone's safety. If you have any concerns and want any reassurance on these points please do give me a call.

Students will be now required to wear dance shoes for all bare foot subjects for the time being, these can be ballet shoes or jazz shoes.

### Uniform

I still have my box of tap and ballet shoes which you are welcome to borrow and keep hold off until they no longer fit as I will not be able to lend them weekly. Let me know if you are after a size and I will let you know if I have them, also remember we have the NCH selling page on Facebook where you can ask for uniform or sell on any of your own!

Junior students- if they have a change of shoes during lesson and are unable to do their own laces, please can you replace their laces with elastic so they can slip them on, if you are unsure on how to do this let me know and I can help.

An updated uniform document has been added to the website with our uniform requirements, these can be sourced from Let's Dance in Welwyn Garden City. Students can stay in their current uniform until it needs replacing, you will find most of the uniform is the same anyway!

As the we approach winter you may want to check out our NCH onesies which are super cosy for travelling to and from dancing and also make great gifts!

### Other information

Sadly, this term we will be saying goodbye to our lovely Musical Theatre teacher Ellie, due to the current situation she will no longer be able to commute on Saturdays. She is looking forward to coming back when she can to help prepare for the show! We do however have the wonderful Emily Dunn taking over Ellies classes and teaching some adult ones too! Emily has recently come out of the West End and is really excited to be doing some teaching at NCH! Both teachers are still offering singing lessons, Ellies will be done via Zoom so please let me know if you would like more details.

Our Adult class teacher Jemma had her baby over the summer, a beautiful baby girl Órla! Emily will be taking the classes in place of Jemma on Wednesday's. Once things have settled, I'm sure Jemma would love to pop in and see how you are all getting on!

### Terms & Conditions Update

\*Behaviour policy available on information tab of the website

\*Privacy Policy -I will be adding Test and Trace to our Privacy Policy's third parties as in the case we have a student testing positive for Covid-19 I will need to share this data.

\*In the event that we are faced with another lockdown I will have no choice but to move classes back to zoom, these classes will not be refundable. The timetable will adjust slightly to combine some of the separated groups but will roughly be the same.

\*As usual there is a half terms notice when leaving a subject, you will be billed for this half term. This is more important than ever due to the class sizes being limited and having to organise bubbles. I'm sure you can appreciate as with all other businesses at the moment there are additional expenses to the school to operate in this new way with duplicated classes and cleaning time however I will not be increasing term fees, I think we have all had a tough year and want everyone to be able to get back to some normality. I do therefore ask you just keep me updated if you wish to drop a subject so I can plan the most efficient and viable timetable.

### **Dates for the Diary 2020:**

#### **Autumn Term 2020 (Subject to change)**

7<sup>th</sup> September - 28<sup>th</sup> November (10 weeks)

**Half term:** 19<sup>th</sup> October- 31<sup>st</sup> October (2 weeks)

#### **Exam dates (subject to change as not yet open for bookings)**

5/6<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> December

### **Show Dates**

The Gordon Craig has now cancelled our October show date and is still unconfirmed on the November date. I feel that November will be unlikely but will find out as soon as possible. I am aware you are all holding onto these dates. The show is most likely going to take place in May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021.

This also hopefully gives my NCH graduates of 2020 the opportunity to return for the show as I can work with them over the Easter break to prepare.

### **Panto**

I know our students will be excited about auditioning for the Stevenage Panto Aladdin, this is for all NCH pupils aged 8 years+. I have spoken with Jordon Productions and the Gordon Craig and unfortunately it is still uncertain if the show will go ahead. As soon as I have information on this an email will be sent out. Regarding auditions.

## Timetable Autumn Term 2020

This timetable has been made with the guidance I have as of the 10<sup>th</sup> of August. If anything changes before September, you will be notified.

Monday		Roaring Meg Community Arts centre SG1 1NX
<b>4.00-4.30</b>	Baby Ballet	Parking: free parking for 3hrs on the retail park  <u>Entry</u> Please wait outside on the Costa side of the pavilion, socially distanced, there will be markers to help you keep spaced out. Please do not enter the building, I will collect each group. Students will need to be left at the door as parents/guardians are not to enter the building.  <u>Exit</u> Please wait on the right side of the pavilion furthest from Costa. Students will be walked round from the back door of the building for collection. Again, please do not come into the centre.
<b>4.40-5.10</b>	Primary Ballet	
<b>5.10-5.40</b>	Primary Tap	
<b>5.50-6.20</b>	Grade 1 Tap	
<b>6.20-6.50</b>	Grade 1 Ballet	
<b>6.50-7.20</b>	Grade 2 Modern	
<b>7.20-7.50</b>	Grade 2 Ballet	
<b>8.00-9.00</b>	Grade 5 Ballet	
<b>9.00-9.30</b>	Grade 6 Modern	

Tuesday		Roaring Meg Community Arts centre SG1 1NX
<b>4.10-4.40</b>	Grade 2 Ballet	Parking: free parking for 3hrs on the retail park  <u>Entry</u> Please wait outside on the Costa side of the pavilion, socially distanced, there will be markers to help you keep spaced out. Please do not enter the building, I will collect each group. Students will need to be left at the door as parents/guardians are not to enter the building.  <u>Exit</u> Please wait on the right side of the pavilion furthest from Costa. Students will be walked round from the back door of the building for collection. Again, please do not come into the centre.
<b>4.40-5.10</b>	Grade 3 Modern	
<b>5.10-5.40</b>	Grade 2 Tap	
<b>5.50-6.35</b>	Grade 3 Ballet	
<b>6.35-7.05</b>	Grade 4 Modern	
<b>7.05-7.35</b>	Grade 3 Tap	
<b>7.45-8.30</b>	Grade 4 Ballet	
<b>8.30-9.00</b>	Grade 5 Modern	
<b>9.00-9.30</b>	Grade 4 Tap	

Wednesday		Roaring Meg Community Arts centre SG1 1NX
3.55-4.25	Junior Street	Parking: free parking for 3hrs on the retail park  <u>Entry</u> Please wait outside on the Costa side of the pavilion, socially distanced, There will be markers to help you keep spaced out. Please do not enter the building, I will collect each group. Students will need to be left at the door as parents/guardians are not to enter the building.  <u>Exit</u> Please wait on the right side of the pavilion furthest from Costa. Students will be walked round from the back door of the building for collection. Again, please do not come into the centre.
4.35-5.05	Grade 3 Tap	
5.05-5.35	Grade 4 Modern	
5.35-6.05	Grade 3 Ballet	
6.15-7.00	Grade 4 Ballet	
7.00-7.30	Grade 5 Modern	
7.30-8.00	Grade 4 Tap	
8.00-9.00	Grade 5 Ballet	
9.00-9.30	Grade 6 Modern	

Wednesday		Oaklands Primary School AI6 OPX
6.15-7.00	Senior Musical Theatre	Parking: free parking in the school car park  <u>Entry</u> Please wait outside the building to the left side when looking at the door. You will be collected for your class please do not enter the building. Dancers to enter only as there is no waiting area.  <u>Exit</u> Children will be brought out to the front of the building on the right side when looking at the door. Adult dancers can leave via the front entrance as normal.
7.15-8.00	Adult Tap	
8.00-8.45	Adult Ballet	
8.45-9.30	Adult Jazz	

Thursday		Marriotts Sports Centre Telford Avenue SG2 0AN
4.00-4.30	Bronze Jazz	Parking: free parking in the school car park  <u>Entry- We will not be using the main entrance</u> From the car park please walk straight past the main entrance towards the courts. On the right after the ramp you will find a 2 <sup>nd</sup> entrance to the building which will be just for our students. Please wait outside to be collected. There is no waiting area.  <u>Exit</u> Children will be brought out to the same entrance as drop off, please collect from outside. All waiting to be socially distanced please. Students 16+ are allowed to leave themselves without a parent picking up, if your child is younger but you are happy for them to leave alone please send me a message to add this to their records.
4.30-5.00	Silver Jazz	
5.00-5.45	Senior CC A	
5.45-6.15	Gold Jazz	
6.15-6.45	Grade 5 Tap A	
6.45-7.15	Pointe A	
7.25-7.55	Advanced Jazz B	
7.55-8.25	Pointe B	
8.35-9.05	Advanced Jazz C	
9.05-9.35	Pointe C	

Friday			Oaklands Primary School AI6 0PX
6.15-6.45	Grade 2 Tap	Grade 1 Ballet	Parking: free parking in the school car park  <u>Entry</u> Please wait outside the building to the left side when looking at the door. Please do not enter the building, you will be collected for your class. Dancers to enter only as there is no waiting area.  <u>Exit</u> Children will be brought out to the front of the building, please wait on the right side when looking at the door.
6.45-7.15	Grade 2 Modern	Grade 3 Tap	
7.15-7.45	Grade 2 Ballet		
7.45-8.15	Grade 3 Modern		

Saturday		Oaklands Primary School AI6 0PX
9.00-9.30	Baby Ballet	Parking: free parking in the school car park  <u>Entry</u> Please wait outside the building to the left side when looking at the door. Please do not enter the building, you will be collected for your class. Dancers to enter only as there is no waiting area.  <u>Exit</u> Children will be brought out to the front of the building, please wait on the right side when looking at the door.
9.40-10.10	Grade 1 Tap	
10.10-10.40	Primary Ballet	
10.40-11.10	Grade 1 Modern	
11.10-11.40	Grade 1 Ballet	
11.45-12.30	Junior CC	
12.40-1.25	Advanced 1 Modern	
1.25-2.10	Intermediate Tap   Adv 2 Tap	
2.10-2.55	Snr CC B	
2.55-3.55	Intermediate Ballet	
3.55-4.40	Intermediate Modern	
4.40-5.10	Grade 5 Tap B	
5.10-5.55	Snr CC C	