



September Newsletter 2024

A warm welcome back. We hope you all have had a lovely summer break.

Reminder Dates

- Classes resume Saturday 7th September, Liphook Junior School.
- All term dates are now available on our website www.liphookacademyofdance.co.uk
- Please note that there will be **no lessons Thursday 5th and Saturday 7th June.** Extra exam lessons will be available on Sunday 8th June instead so please keep that date available.
- Also please be aware that there will be **no tap or musical theatre classes on Saturday 28th September.**
- The 2025 show will be in January / February date TBC.
- Ballet exams 2025 will be on Sunday 29th June at Amesbury School, Hindhead.

Anne's Dance Shop

- Will be open on Saturday 7th and 14th September.
- If you are unable to make these dates please email arr@lemur.co.uk to organise a mutually agreeable appointment.
- A 10% discount on all second-hand items, uniform currently in stock and gifts/other selected items is available throughout September.

Show 2025

- 2025 will be the Liphook Academy of Dance's 30th anniversary. All students are invited to participate in a dance spectacular with routines being taught in lessons from September. More details to follow.

ISTD Ballet Exams

- ISTD exams are an exciting experience. Students are selected for ISTD ballet exams at the recommendation of Rebecca. While we encourage students to take the opportunity, please note that exams are NOT compulsory.
- They give the children a goal and something to work towards, helping maintain focus and the feeling of progression; something that we find important when working so hard at something on a weekly basis.
- When are they ready? As a school we assess when each child is ready to participate in an exam. Although the children enter in small groups they have to be ready to go into the exam room without the supervision of a teacher and perform exercises individually. This can be overwhelming if they are under prepared so this is not a decision we take lightly.
- How much time will an exam take? I'm sure that you can all imagine that it requires a lot of time and effort to get each child to the point that they are ready to take an exam. We are given guidelines to follow by the ISTD which recommend

Rebecca Paris ISTD &
Anne Raison LAD admin



Liphook Academy of Dance

a minimum of how long children should be training for before being entered. This varies from at least 60 hours for our youngest learners at Primary & Grade 1, going up to a massive 150 hours one Intermediate and Advanced ½ levels are reached. This is the main reason we stress the importance of regular attendance and why we often schedule extra coaching lessons for the term leading up to the exams.

- If your child is invited to take an exam but it is too large a time commitment for your family, they will most likely still be able to move up a grade with the other children in their class. Although we are keen to encourage our students to take exams, we understand that exams are not for everyone so would never let a child be left behind purely because they cannot commit to the extra time or financial obligations.
- Because these examinations are of a high standard the ISTD has raised the exam age entry level to some of the exams.
- ISTD Grade 4/5 exams are the equivalent to a GCSE and Grade 6 and above the equivalent to an A-level.
- The new Grade 2 and 3 children will take Standard 2 and 3 in 2025 with the view of taking Grade 2 and 3 in 2026.



Imperial Society of
Teachers of Dancing

- ISTD exam work will be taught and practiced alongside show work.

All fees are now due, please check your emails for invoices and if you have not received one prior to the start of the term please let Anne know. Payment is due on receipt of invoice.

As usual any queries please email either Rebecca or Anne.

Exam, performance or lesson queries: dance@liphookacademyofdance.co.uk

Uniform, invoice or admin queries: arr@lemur.co.uk