

Pat Steel

School of Dance



AUTUMN TERM 2024

Welcome to the Autumn Term newsletter!

We hope you've had a wonderful summer holiday and managed to find some sunshine at some point. Welcome to all the new families joining Pat Steel this term; we hope you and your children have a long and happy association with our dance school.

We were sad to say goodbye to our wonderful leavers at the end of term picnic at BCA for our students leaving us to go to college or university. We will miss them all, especially when some of us have taught them from their very 'First Steps in Ballet' classes through their development as dancers into young adults making their way out into the world. We wish them all the very best for the future and hope to see them all in Adult Ballet in three year's time!

Adult Ballet Class

It is proven that adults who take regular exercise will remain healthier and fitter than those who don't! So what are you waiting for?! We have beginner and advanced adult ballet classes every Saturday morning at BCA, and a fabulous adult class for dancers with some previous ballet training on Tuesday mornings at our Beaconsfield venue in Holtspur.

You will improve posture, balance, strength and flexibility, all of our Adult classes are taken by our Principal, Miss Candy.



Autumn Term Dates

Mondays: Braywick Leisure centre Maidenhead	Tuesdays: Holtspur Scout Hut, Beaconsfield	Thursdays: Holtspur Scout Hut, Beaconsfield	Thursdays: Braywick Leisure centre Maidenhead	Fridays: Holtspur Scout Hut, Beaconsfield	Saturdays: BCA, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead
Starts: Sep 16th No class on Oct 28th Ends: Dec 9th	Starts: Sep 24th No class on Oct 29th Ends: Dec 17th	Starts: Sep 19th No class on Oct 31st Ends: Dec 12th	Starts: Sep 19th No class on Oct 31st Ends: Dec 12th	Starts: Sep 20th No class on Nov 1st Ends: Dec 13th	Starts: Sep 14th No class on Oct 26th or Nov 2nd Ends: Dec 14th

Autumn Term Exams

Children selected to take examinations with the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD), Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) or National Association of Teachers of Dancing (NATD) will be informed by their teachers within the next few weeks. We ask that you support your child if they are selected by practising at home and attending as many classes as possible in the run up to the examination itself. We try to put ISTD and NATD exams at weekends but the RAD exams are usually on a weekday and the children will need to come out of school. Most Head teachers recognise that the Ofqual accreditation which leads to UCAS points is well worth coming out for.



What a spectacular weekend we had!

Thank you to all our amazing parent volunteers who selflessly gave up their time to chaperone, sell programmes, assist quick change, run craft areas - the list of jobs is endless. Our wonderful show could not happen without this amazing parent body so thank you to everyone who helped make it happen. The dancers themselves were a credit to you all – such well-mannered and enthusiastic Juniors, helpful and kind Inters in The Oak Room and our fabulous Senior dancers who performed like professionals all weekend. It was an emotional evening on the Sunday – 70 years is a momentous milestone and I know Pat Steel would have been extremely proud to see her school's legacy continuing to thrive. Our teachers and choreographers did an extraordinary job and all of us were so proud to have been a part of it, from our little cygnets in Swan Lake to the Beyoncé Tappers, from the Muppets to the Lord of the Dance, and from Disney princesses to Michael Jackson!

Iconic Show Video

Filmed in cinematic HD, once again we're producing a lavish recording of the incredible Iconic Show for you to cherish, all on a USB stick.

Pre-purchase today and we'll e-mail your order confirmation over to you. Use that to collect your show video from your branch at the end of September. We'll let you know as soon as it's ready.

Simpler than ever to buy: just scan the code today!

Simpler than ever to view: the USB stick plugs into computers, media players and compatible smart TVs

Still only £25!

Saturday Show



Scan the QR code above or

[Click Here](#)

Sunday Show



Scan the QR code above or

[Click Here](#)

Charity Collections

Thank you to everyone who donated to our chosen charities this year: The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), soon to be rebranded as Breakthrough T1D, and The Alzheimer's Society.

Your generous donations during the show weekend raised a fabulous £627.13 to split between the charities. Thank you so much for your kindness and for helping us raise funds for these 2 charities which are so close to the heart of both Pat Steel and Bucks Schools of Dance.

**THANK
YOU**

English Youth Ballet

Miss Candy & Miss Karen (plus almost all of the schools' ballet teachers) spent a wonderful Saturday evening in August watching the English Youth Ballet's version of Sleeping Beauty at the Wycombe Swan. Abi Sykes (Grade 5) and Serena Hennah (Grade 6) had both successfully auditioned to be part of the company. We were so proud of these talented young dancers, who both had a wonderful experience in the rehearsal period and on the performances themselves. Thank you girls for making us so proud – you really did shine onstage., and both danced with such poise and grace. Congratulations!



Why is Uniform Important?

You may wonder why it is important to be wearing a uniform at class each week. Not only is a uniform an indicator of unity, but it also offers a variety of other benefits for both students and teachers in class.

1. Teamwork. Having a standard dress code encourages students to work as a team. More cohesiveness and a greater bond between students can be achieved when they look the same and all adhere to the dress code of the studio. There is a sense of belonging and no distractions looking at what others are wearing

2. Practicality. Wearing a uniform ensures dancers are dressed correctly to enable teachers to see the alignment of their bodies while dancing. Wearing the uniform also ensures their clothing is safe and practical for dancing, as well as putting them in the right mindset for dancing. Wearing loose clothes or items with heavy zippers can be unsafe and inhibit the ability to properly participate in class.

3. Respect. Wearing the uniform and having hair neatly tied up is a sign of respect. Being tidily presented, with clean, neat uniform and well fitting shoes, shows you are serious and you care!

All our uniform is stocked at Dancia International in Caversham and Crowthorne, as well as Dancers Boutique in Amersham. You can click through to our uniform shop via our website too.

Second Hand Stalls at BCA

Aby Mitchell and her team do a brilliant job running the second hand uniform stall for parents in the café.

The stall will be running this term on the following dates:

**September:
14th & 28th**

**October:
12th**

**November:
9th & 23rd**

The stall also has a selection of new ballet leotards and tights. Cash only please. This is Aby's last year with Pat Steel having watched her children dance with us for the past 16 and a half years! Thank you Aby for all your support in running this really valuable resource for us.

We are looking to recruit a new volunteer to take over Aby's role with a handover from the Spring Term 2025 - please let Miss Candy know if you are willing to take on the role. (You will need to have storage space for the boxed items at home in a garage or similar space.)



We were saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs Crosbie, who passed away peacefully at her home aged 90, during the summer holidays. Eileen taught for the Pat Steel School from 1985 – 2016 and retired aged 82 from BCA. In her early career she danced with now legendary names Gene Kelly, Elizabeth Taylor, Stewart Granger and Orson Welles.

Eileen loved choreographing for the school shows and was known for her complicated and challenging pieces which she invariably changed every week until she was happy! The dancers were treated as professionals regardless of their age or ability and she expected everyone to work at least as hard as she did.

Her speciality in the later years of her career was teaching her beloved adult classes. She had a wonderful rapport with her students and inspired them to achieve their absolute best. None of us will forget her saying, 'just one more time' so you would dance the required piece completely flat out until you had no more energy left, only to hear her say, 'and again...'

She was strict and a true disciplinarian, but always commanded respect and was a wonderful inspiration to many of us. Truly the end of an era.

Miss Victoria's Baby

No news to report yet I'm afraid! We will let you know as soon as we hear from the Dance family and of course we have Baby Girl Dance already on the waiting list for First Steps in Ballet in 3 years time.

A Final Word

Thank you to all our dance school families for supporting us and your children through their dance journey. It can be difficult to chat at class time so please do always feel that you can e-mail me in the office if you wish to discuss anything regarding your child and their progression. Steph, our office manager is part time but will get back to you as soon as she can if you have a query regarding billing/invoicing.

Miss Candy: candy@patsteelschoolofdance.co.uk
Stephanie: admin@patsteelschoolofdance.co.uk

Have an enjoyable term ahead,

Best wishes,

Candy Cox

Principal: Pat Steel School of Dance
Life member, Royal Academy of Dance; Associate ISTD;
Associate NATD; BA (Hons) Performing Arts, certified Pilates
Instructor.

