

JANE FARRELL BALLET SCHOOL

Newsletter 2016 - 2017

Autumn term 2016

As usual the highlight of the term was the Western Association of Ballet School's (WABS) show in November in the main Pavilion Theatre, Bournemouth. The overall theme was *Letters to Santa* where children write to Santa to ask for a present. We danced *Through the Telescope* - Clara, the oldest of three sisters was given a telescope as her present. The younger sisters wanted to look too but she sent them to bed but she then fell asleep and dreamt of planets, stars, and aliens, while she and her sisters explored the Universe! This allowed for lots of imaginative scenes and we were able to mix both classical and contemporary dance techniques. The whole production was a great success.

Spring term 2017

WABS AGM was held on Friday 3th March, and the reports from Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer show that the Association is in fine shape and will be able to continue providing the wonderful opportunities to its member schools.

Association of Russian Ballet and Theatre Arts (ARBTA) seminars and AGM were held on Sunday 5th March. In the morning, Guest Teacher Natalie Krapf gave a demonstration of how to prepare students for Pointework. Then in the afternoon there was a Ballet Masterclass with Guest Teacher Yury Demakov, ex Bolshoi dancer and now head of Bristol Russian Ballet School. After this, Olga Semenova, ex Vaganova Academy & Mariinsky company, revised Character work. It is always a pleasure to attend such events for Continuous Professional Development – as well as catching up with old friends.

Red Shoes workshop. On 18th March 2017, we were delighted to welcome Heather Habens and Cindy Ciunfrini to deliver an official Matthew Bourne workshop exclusively for our school at Canford Cliffs Village Hall. There were two sessions, divided by age, to avoid over-crowding. Everyone enjoyed the day, and there are videos in the gallery section of our school's website. Some pupils then went to see the Red Shoes performances at the Mayflower Theatre, Southampton the following week. In 2018 Matthew Bourne's company will be touring his version of Cinderella, so we will aim to do another workshop then.

Summer term 2017

Our annual show *A Time to Dance 2017* took place at Pavilion Dance on Saturday 6th May with two performances. Every class had their own dance and we also performed *Through the Telescope*. Again this year, some older pupils created and danced their own choreography. Pas de Deux were devised and performed by Amy & Landra, Millie & Katie, and Melissa & Lucy. Solos were performed by both Ellen and Daisy. It was wonderful to see how much effort they had put into producing such a high standard of work

Event Horizons filmed the show using multiple cameras and they also film the WABS shows. Their DVDs are really professional and make wonderful souvenirs of the performances.

Dates at Pavilion Dance get booked up very quickly so next year is already reserved for our show *A Time to Dance 2018* on Saturday 28th April 2018.

ARBTA Ballet Exams based on the Vaganova syllabus were held in July, and the marks were excellent once again! Congratulations to all the candidates for their hard work. In particular thank you to Vicki Kane our pianist. She plays regularly for classes throughout the year and works hardest of anyone on exam day, finding beautiful pieces of music for each exercise and some imaginative work for the younger candidates' improvisation sections.

July also brought the annual WABS show at The Layard Theatre at Canford School where we performed some of the dances from our own show in May. It is a beautiful place, with the dancers able to relax and picnic in the grounds between shows.

I was also proud to be asked by Amy and Annabel to act as an assessor for their Duke of Edinburgh Silver awards, with ballet as their physical and/or skills sections.

September 2017