

# JANE FARRELL BALLET SCHOOL

## Newsletter 2019 - 2020

The past year again has been packed with all sorts of exciting events.

Our own annual show *A Time to Dance 2019* took place at Pavilion Dance on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May with two performances, afternoon and early evening. Every class had their own dance and we also performed *The Nutcracker and the Kingdom of Sweets* which had first been produced as part of the Western Association of Ballet School's (WABS) performance in November 2018. It was very much in the Classical tradition, and a great success.

Several pupils created and danced their own pieces. This has become a much anticipated part of the show. There were several pas de deux: Amy & Alexandra, Lottie & Hollie, Daisy & Melissa plus solos by Sienna, and by Poppy. The Senior class, Melissa, Annabel, Ellen & Kathryn also choreographed a contemporary group dance to *Arsonist's Lullaby*.

Sadly it was the last show for some senior pupils who were about to take their A-levels and go on to the next stage in life. They had been with me for many years, some from Pre-school days! However, during the summer holidays several contacted me to say they had decided to take a gap year so could they come back to ballet please! I was delighted to say "Yes!"

In July we held an exam session with the Association of Russian Ballet & Theatre Arts (ARBTA) whose exams are based on the Vaganova syllabus. There was a 100% pass rate and some pupils gained outstanding marks.

In particular Ellen, achieved Highly Commended for her Intermediate exam. She had worked very hard towards this. As well as her regular classes with the school, she had auditioned for, and been accepted onto Rambert Ballet School's Pre-Vocational course, which involved travelling to London every Saturday for intensive training. She has now taken up a place at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance on their BA (Hons) Contemporary Dance course.

Later in July some pupils danced at the annual WABS show at The Layard Theatre at Canford School. They 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 and enjoy the sunny afternoon.

Again I was also proud to be asked by several pupils to be an assessor for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. It is very pleasing that Classical Ballet is considered a serious activity and can be used for their physical and/or skills sections.

In September as pupils moved up to Senior schools and needed a later time for their class, we had a major revision of the ballet class timetables. This opened up a slot, so there was a new intake for the "First Steps" class for children aged 3+. This proved very popular with some families new to the school, but also some younger brothers and sisters of existing pupils. It is a pleasure and privilege being able to watch the

development of children as they grow. Many of the current Seniors started in pre-school ballet with me.

In November 2019 we again danced in Western Association of Ballet School's (WABS) performance. The overall theme of the show, *Lights, Camera Action* was celebrating BAFTA winners. We danced a tribute Murray Gold who won the best composer award for his music for *Dr. Who*. Roles included three Doctors in different regenerations, River Song, the Doctor's wife and the evil Missy. Other scary creatures and aliens were Daleks, Empty Children, Peg Dolls, Spiders and the Weeping Angels. Also there was a fabulous TARDIS, danced by four girls, with the "panels" made by some of the Seniors.

We will perform Dr. Who again in our May show, *A Time to Dance 2020*, together with new dances for each class.

**Save the Date - Saturday 16th May 2020.**