

OFFICE

Opening hours:
10.00 am - 1.00 pm
(weekdays only)

Personal callers by
appointment only

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**AUTUMN TERM CLASSES START
MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Pre-term the office will be open from 10 am until 1 pm
weekdays from 4th September**

**PLEASE NOTE, HOWEVER,
that classes at GREAT DUNMOW have a staggered start:
Miss Katie's classes start on 14th September;
Miss Swan's classes start on 21st September**

Dear Parents and Students,

We hope you have had a great summer break and are feeling relaxed and refreshed for the new term. We have been busy here in the office, putting new systems in place for what we hope will be a more streamlined and efficient service - only time will tell! We have made some tweaks to the timetable, too, and these are detailed later in this newsletter. Please be sure to check whether your classes are affected. The full timetable can be viewed on our website.

The upcoming academic year promises to be a busy one, not only with the usual exams but it's Show Year - so gird your loins. We are all looking forward to seeing you soon.

With kind regards,

*Elisabeth and Geoff
Principal and Partner*



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www.facebook.com/WestonSchoolOfDance

A Fond Farewell

The end of the summer term and start of the autumn term is always bitter-sweet with many of our senior students leaving for pastures new. Many have been with us for upwards of twelve years and we have so enjoyed seeing them grow from tiny tots into the confident, young people they have become. Thank you all for being such a welcome and important part of our school. We wish you every success and hope that you will come back and see us from time to time.



Thank You

to Miss Lauren for taking care of our Springfield ballet students for several years. Her singing career is taking up more and more of her time, especially on Fridays, and she has decided that she should step down from teaching at the Springfield Parish Centre. Chelmer Village students will be delighted to know that she will be continuing her Thursday classes with you.

Miss Katie has often stepped in at Springfield on Fridays, and she will take over Miss Lauren's classes there. The children will still be in safe hands, and we feel sure you will make Miss Katie feel very welcome.

Congratulations

on some great exam results (yes, it seems an age since exam week in July). The results can be viewed on the website (bit.ly/WestonExams) and your reports and certificates will be delivered to your classes.



Class Manager



We are still trying to drag ourselves into the 21st Century and to do more things on-line. We have therefore updated our database system to Class Manager, a comprehensive package which allows us to keep your details up to date. We are also working to give you greater access so that you can update your own account details, such as a new telephone number, view your child(ren)'s classes, send and receive messages to teachers, and so much more. You will have received an invitation to sign into the Class

Manager Portal and, if you haven't already done so, we urge you to download the app and get started. Any problems please let us know.

Autumn Term Invoices

With the cost of postage soaring, and the unreliability of the postal service, we are trying a different route so, with luck and a following wind, your invoice for the autumn term fees should arrive by email. Please keep an eye on your in-box from the beginning of September.





Cost of Living Increase

As with everything else, our costs have risen considerably over the past year. Despite this, the fees have remained the same throughout the year but, for this new academic year, we have affected an increase in fees of between 2½ and 3 per cent. We have also moved our invoicing process to the Portal, so that they can be emailed to you, and this has required a substantial overhaul of how the cost of classes has had to be calculated. We have done our absolute best to ensure that no-one pays more than £2 extra per week, calculated on last term's fees with the percentage uplift, and where appropriate, have allocated a Family Discount. We have also introduced various "packages" to try to minimize the impact and to encourage students to continue with multiple classes.

"Non-Core" Subjects

Where we have had to make a slightly higher increase is for our "non-core" subjects, such as Musical Theatre, Modern Movers etc, as these were being provided at quite a substantial loss to the school. However, should the increase have made a material impact on your fees, we will have provided a Family Discount.



Pay By Instalments

Did you know that you can spread your payments. Just divide your invoice by three and then pay that amount each month – a standing order is the simplest way to go. Please set the payments to reach our account no later than 25th of each month so that they can be accounted for, and zip us an email to let us know that this is what you are doing. You will still receive occasional statements to let you know where you are with your payments but, as you will have a payment plan in force, they are simply for information only.

All Too Confusing?

Once you have your invoice, if you have any queries whatsoever, please do get in touch. Any change can be mind-boggling, but we hope we understand it all sufficiently to be able to answer any questions! And, should you be financially challenged, please let us know (in confidence, of course) and we'll see if we can find a solution.



Uniform Sales

We're fully stocked and raring to go but please note that, as our online shop is moving to your on-line Class Manager Portal, it is currently closed. We expect it to re-open on 1st September and you will be able to gain access either via the website or the portal.

Autumn Term Timetable

You will be pleased to know that there are very few changes to this term's timetable. However, due to the movement of students following exams, a few adjustments have been made:

Ballet:

Intermediate Ballet on Mondays will now start at 5.30 pm and, together with pointe work, finish at 7.30 pm.

Advanced 1 Ballet and pointe work has been introduced to the Monday CYGAMS timetable, 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm.

Senior Certificate 1 will now be taught by Miss Ruth at Widford Village Hall, still on Mondays, but from 8.15 pm – 9.30 pm, and pointe work will be accommodated within the class.

Grade 2 Ballet has been introduced at Chelmer Village, Thursdays, from 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm. The times for Primary and Standard 2 have therefore changed to 4.15 pm and 5.00 pm respectively.

Modern & Tap:

Advanced 2 Modern has moved from Friday to Wednesday, 4.00 pm – 5.15 pm at CYGAMS.

Grade 5 Tap at the Farthing Hall on Saturdays has replaced the Grade 4 Tap class, 2.15 pm – 3.15 pm.

The full timetable can be viewed on our website.



NEXT YEAR IS SHOW YEAR!!

SAVE THE DATES

We are delighted to be presenting our next show at the Chelmsford Theatre on
Friday 18th and Saturday 19th July 2025
 Dress rehearsals will be held after school during the week commencing
 14th July with additional rehearsals on 12th & 13th July

PLEASE KEEP THESE DATES FREE

Could You Be A Chaperone?

We are looking for people over the age of 18 years who are willing to come to the theatre rehearsals and/or performances to look after the dancers, apply their make-up, help with hair, and a myriad of other tasks. All chaperons must be licensed through the Essex County Council so, if you already have a license, you're one step ahead; if not, we'll make an application for you. Please email the office if you would like to offer your services or need further information:

office@theweston.dance





Future Newsletters

You are receiving this newsletter by email, via the Class Manager portal. However, we would very much like to send these in future via MailChimp and should be most grateful, if you haven't already, if you would confirm the request you will have received of the MailChimp subscription. Don't be put off by the word "subscription" - it's completely free of charge!

Dates for the Academic Year 2024/2025

Autumn Term 2024

Office opens	Wednesday 4th September
Term commences	Monday 9th September
Half-term (no classes)	Monday 21st October to Saturday 3rd November inclusive
Term ends	Saturday 30th November

Spring Term 2025

Office opens	Wednesday 8th January
Term commences	Saturday 11th January
Half-term (no classes)	Saturday 15th to Saturday 22nd February
Term ends	Saturday 21st March

Summer Term 2025

Office opens	Wednesday 23rd April
Term commences	Saturday 26th April
Half-term (no classes)	Saturday 24th May to Saturday 30th May
Term ends	Monday 14th July

There will be no classes on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May

Temporary Class Alterations

Great Dunmow Primary School - Miss Swan's classes will not be held on 14th September, and Miss Katie's will not be held on 12th October. All classes will be held, instead, on 7th December. If you are unsure as to who teaches which classes, please refer to the timetable on our website or give us a call.

Wishing everyone a great autumn term!