

Ballet Graded exam amended rehearsal dates.

The graded exams are on Sunday February 26th. The sets and times are already posted on the notice board in studio A, please make sure you pop in and take a picture of the schedule or take notes.

There will be 4 extra rehearsals in the exam format. Dates will be Sundays Jan 15th, 22nd, Feb 5th, 19th.

Grade 1 - 10am

Grade 2 - 11am until noon

Grades 4 – 12.30 pm until 2 pm

Grade 5 – 2 pm until 3.30 pm

The Royal Academy of Dance is the world's largest dance institution and to be a RAD teacher and enter children into exams you must be fully accredited and a paid up member of the Royal Academy. Their exam standards are set internationally and their examiners are highly trained and qualified. The examiners often come from far away countries; we have had examiners from England, Brazil, Mexico, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Australia to name but a few. Their and my expectations are the same, the student must meet minimum standard to pass the exam, that minimum is VERY HIGH! So, students are expected to **practice their work regularly at home, using the app for the music and video**. Please note there are a couple of excersises that are teacher choreography so the students are expected to memorize these and practice at home too.

On the day of the exam, **students must arrive 45 minutes** before their exam. This gives us time to put the numbers on them, check their hair etc. and practice their entrance and any last minute details.

The students must arrive with their hair in a bun, no fuzzies or bangs are permitted. They must be wearing their regulation leotard, navy tank top style for grades 1 through 5. They **must wear the matching elastic around their waist**. All candidates are to have black character skirts with blue ribbons on the bottom and black character shoes with the grade appropriate heel on them. **Please iron and hang the character skirt** the night before, and if it's needing to be cleaned, do so ahead of the time, as some skirts need to be starched after washing. All candidates are to wear NEW pink tights and have a spare pair with them just in case! No jewellery is permitted at all, even if the candidate has "just" pierced her ears (which would be a silly thing to do close to exams and recital anyway!)

***Upon arrival at the studio students will enter through the studio B door, which will be closed but unlocked. I expect everyone to be quiet, talk softly, while in the studio as exams will be underway from 9 am onwards. I want all students to bring in a **pair of socks to put over their shoes and tights so that they do not get dirty before the exam**. A pair of **non pilling pants** (unlike sweatpants that leave little "pills" on your tights) must be worn over the tights too, until close to the exam. **Sweatpants may be worn inside out to avoid pilling onto tights.**

The evening before the exam, I would like everyone to have an early night. Moms of the early sets please ensure you get the students up early enough that they can have a good breakfast and get to the studio without rushing, which is very stressful for you and the child! Do a check the night before that you have the leotard, all shoes, tights, elastic, hair pins and nets, character skirt pressed, everything done, so the day of the exam is a positive experience for all.

Finally, we have collectively worked toward this day, let's all remember that ultimately, while doing the exam sets goals for the students and ensure high standards in teacher and child; it's about love of dance! ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY! Take time to go out and celebrate afterwards. It is way more work than the parents realize, for the child as well as for the teacher. There is a lot of pressure when everyone is rising to meet an internationally set standard and wants to do well in that, so enjoy the end of that pressure. Afterwards we will be moving into the most fun part of the season, the recital! **Good luck everyone.**