



# Top Hat Chat

*All the latest news and views from Top Hat Theatre School*



## Message from the Principle

*"It's ShowTime.... Everyone's favourite time of year!*

*I know EVERYONE will be at rehearsals every Sunday starting 22<sup>nd</sup> June leading up to our show on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, as it's been in all your diaries since September!!!! Ha!*

**Rehearsal time will be 12 – 4pm** for all pupils except the **pre-primary** and **primary** classes (not Friday classes... you're big enough to stay now!).

**Primary classes will be 2 – 4pm Pre Primary 3 – 4pm.**

*Our dress rehearsal will take place at The Cripps on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 5pm – 10pm, late I know.... But I couldn't get any other Sunday so that we could be there at a more reasonable hour. I will make sure Primary kids are away by 8pm. They need their beauty sleep... the rest of us are ugly enough! (Ha! Ha!)*

*You should by now have received a show newsletter with full details on what will be needed and what costume each child will be wearing and what you need to provide. As usual... any problems... please see me!*

*All the tickets almost sold out so hurry up as I wouldn't want any parent, granny or Great Auntie Nora to miss out on seeing your child perform..... with a live band too!!!! For the very first time!"*

*Miss Julie xxx*

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## What's Happening this term?

<b>Term Starts:</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
<b>Show Rehearsal :</b>	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June
<b>Show Rehearsal:</b>	Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Dress Rehearsal at Cripps:</b>	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Final Show run-through:</b>	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>End of Year Show:</b>	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Summer Fete:</b>	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Term Ends:</b>	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> July

## Amendment!

Please note that the Dress Rehearsal for the summer show will take place at Cripps Theatre on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, not at St Albans as stated in last edition of *Top Hat Chat!*

## Fundraising News

### Shaky, spinney, twirly, twerky... it's Bingo Night!

Thank-you to everyone who came and supported our bingo night. Our caller, Tracey Clarke, was on form as usual and kept us all amused and fired up as we marked off our numbers – who knew there was so many ways to vocalise a barrel of spinning numbers!

Thanks also to everyone who provided refreshments for half time and prizes for the raffle! I am pleased to say that this event raised £298 to go towards costumes for our end of year show, and a number of happy students went home richer than they arrived! We are already looking forward to the next one!



### Summer Fete!

Not long now until our biggest fundraising event of the year! This year is going to see some exciting changes – most of all, to celebrate what the students have achieved over the year, we are holding a “graduation” style ceremony. This will show students how much they have improved over the year as well as what they need to do to take their work to the next level. There will also be a variety of stalls and a bouncy castle. There have also been whisperings of a return of the stocks.... Watch out Julie... its payback time!!

The proposed outline of the event is as follows, although some of the finer details may be subject to change!

- 12.00 noon: Fete opens at Spinney Hill Pub
- 1.00pm: Performances
- 3.00pm: Graduation ceremony
- 4.00pm: Performances
- 5.00pm: Fete closes

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

### Donations required

We are on the lookout for donations please ... Clean soft toys/ teddies, any clothes, bags, shoes , Tombola donations, toys, games, DVD's, CD's . Thank you for your continued support. Keep bringing in the donations to class; we have some fun events on for the Summer Fete!

### General Reminder

*As a school we try to keep our expenses as low as possible. We do this by fundraising events throughout the year, but also we regularly collect bags of unwanted clothing, bags shoes etc., so if you are having a clear out, please bag it up and bring it in, Thanks!*

## Festivals and Competitions

**The 27<sup>th</sup> Rugby Festival of Dance and Drama will be held over the weekends of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> September.**

If you wish your child to take part, then please make sure all fees are paid by the 5<sup>th</sup> July. Please provide entries and payment in an envelope with name of child, date of birth, section and age group. Please also provide a telephone number of parent. You should have all had a copy of the email with details of the festival, however, if you have any queries, please contact Caroline Karabin. Additionally, if your child needs a dance routine then please see Julie whereby she will organise a private lesson.

***This is a qualifying festival for All England!***



# Results and Successes

## Results from exams

*"I couldn't be more proud of every student who took part in exams this session... our best session yet with EVERY child passing with high merit or distinction... so very, very well done to all those who took part!*

*A very special well done to **Sophie Lane** who got the highest marks in the school for her tap, and **Summer Harte – Felce** for attaining the highest mark in Modern..... **Milly McNee** for scoring the highest mark in ballet.*

*Outstanding results all round. So happy.....Miss Julie xx"*



### Tap exams took place on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

#### Primary Tap:

Annie Ryan; Ciara Maheny; Ella Edwards; Hannah Mai McMahon; Jenny Harnett; Remaya Barnes; Willow Stevens; Madison Winyard; Sophia Lane.

#### Grade 1 Tap:

Beth Pritchard, Lily Rose Welsh, Ruby Tweed, Molly Ryan, Holly Bennett

#### Grade 2 Tap:

Alessia Maxted, Caitlin Jilbert, Ellie Fathers, Jessica Winyard, Milly McNee, Molly Entwistle, Rachel Johnson, Summer Harte-Felce, Monica Nuttall, Oliver Finnegan.

#### Grade 3 Tap:

Rebekah Roberts, Ella Tweed



### Modern exams took place on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

#### Primary Modern:

Alice Burn, Amelia Purcell, Arya Litt, Hannah Bright, Honey Kaal, Layla Eady, Libby Burton, Mia Birch.

#### Grade 1:

Annie Ryan, Ciara Mahney, Ella Edwards, Hannah Mai, Jenny Harnett, Remaya Barnes, willow Stevens, Madison Winyard, Sophia Lane, Sophie Kornett

#### Grade 2:

Lily Rose Welsh, Ruby Tweed, Molly Ryan, Beth Pritchard

#### Grade 3:

Alessia Maxted, Ellie Fathers, Jessica Winyard, Milly McNee, Rachel Johnson, Alana Farmer, Julietta Sirmen

#### Grade 4:

Ella Tweed, Molly Entwistle, Neve Burton, Rebekah Roberts, Summer Harte-Felce



## Top Place to Top Hat at Northants Can Dance 2014!

On the 14<sup>th</sup> June, Top Hat danced their way to victory at the finals of Northampton Can Dance at the Deco Theatre Northampton! The event was described as "an exciting extravaganza of dance" where different dance schools from across the County competed for the prestigious Northampton Can Dance Trophy 2014. A varied mixture of dance styles were showcased across many different age groups, and the group had to get through rigorous auditions to earn their place in the finals. Another fantastic 1<sup>st</sup>! Well done girls: **Milly McNee, Alessia Maxted, Molly Entwistle, Summer Harte-Felce, Gabi Mcmorrow, Emily Halton, Alana Farmer and Megan Rowles**. Special mention also goes to **Alessia** for performing on her birthday, must have been the icing on the cake!! 😊

# End of Year Show

## End of Year Show Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July

The date is nearly here... what we have been working towards all year.....

**The annual showcase of Top Hat's talent!**

A reminder of the rehearsal dates:

Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	12:00 to 4:00 pm	at St Albans Church Hall
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	12:00 to 4:00pm	at St Albans Church Hall
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	5:00pm to 10:00pm	at Cripps Theatre ( <i>Primary until 8:00pm</i> )
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	5:00pm to 8:00pm	at St Albans Church Hall

*(This is the dress rehearsal so please can all students come with hair and make-up as directed. Also all parent helpers should be present so they know their duties for the show.)*

**All students in the show MUST attend all the rehearsals and both shows!**

By now you should all have your tickets, however, there are still a limited number available, please see Lyn Firman or Julie if you still need to purchase your tickets.

**Show** takes place on the 12<sup>th</sup> July at the Cripps Theatre, Northampton, NN1 5RT

**Matinee** performance starts at 2:00pm. Doors open at 1.15pm so you are able to find your seat, purchase programmes and raffle tickets in good time for the show starting.

**Evening** performance starts at 7:00pm, doors open at 6.15pm.



**Charity nominations:** Thank you to everyone who put forward nominations for this year's charity. It is such a difficult job to choose just one from all those put forwards as they are all deserving! The charity will be chosen shortly and you will be able to find out more information on what the money goes towards in the show programme.

**Costume reminder:** These are not to be taken home at the end of the show. No eating in the costume, and please look after them with respect. Thanks!

**Personal Stuff:** Please ensure that all personal belongings are named! This includes shoes, clothing etc. Also we ask that the younger students do not bring technology backstage, there is too much risk of these costly items becoming lost or damaged. For the older students, we expect them to be used with discretion and care.

**Raffle prizes:** Thanks to everyone who has provided raffle prizes.

**\*\*There will be a professional DVD being filmed at the show for you to order\*\***

**Please note that this information is deemed correct at the time of going to print, however is subject to change.**

**Please keep an eye out on your emails and on facebook for any changes that may be made.**

## Branching Out



For those of you who have not yet managed to catch Oliver Finnegan performing as Charlie in “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”, you have another chance to see him at Trafalgar Square in London on 21<sup>st</sup> June at 1:10pm!

*“This is a free event presented by Westminster City Council and the Society of London Theatre in association with Mastercard. It is an event which showcases the quality and diversity of entertainment on offer in the heart of London, promoting West End as an exciting venue for all the family – all live, all for free in the iconic setting of Trafalgar Square.”*

When: **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> (11-6pm) and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> (12-6pm) June**

Where: **Trafalgar Square, London**

Cost: **FREE ENTRY – this event is NOT (golden) ticketed!**

Nearest tube: **Charing Cross/Embankment/Leicester Square**

For more information see: [www.westendlive.co.uk](http://www.westendlive.co.uk)



### Britain's got Talent

We all know that students at Top Hat Theatre School have talent, but did you know that Ella Tweed was in the choir that performed the backing vocals for Welsh favourites in the finals, cheeky duo Bars and Melody? Another fantastic achievement!



### The World Baton Championships, Nottingham

Now in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year, the annual world championships are coming to the UK for the first time!

Athletes from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Puerto Rico, Russia, Scotland, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

and USA will be competing in this prestigious event.

Tickets are still available from <http://www.worldbaton2014.com>

*Don't miss your chance to see the best twirlers in the world competing in our country!!*

# Features Section

## Star Pupil



## Rebekah Roberts

Rebekah joined us only a year ago and has progressed like a woman on a mission! The difference in just one year is outstanding. Once a shy, unassuming young dancer... yet she has turned into such a determined young lady.... It's the quiet ones you have to watch!!!

She got great results in her Tap – Distinction, and Modern - a very high Merit. She keeps her head down in class, and works so very hard.... So very well done for your achievements this year Rebekah.... Very Well Done. Xxx

## Spotlight on.....

## Ballet



Honey and Jess performing  
Swan Lake.

Ballet is a type of performance dance that originated in the Italian Renaissance courts of the 15th century. It is considered to be the foundation of all dance forms and as such one of the most important to learn. It takes years of training to learn and master, and a lot of practice to keep up.

Ballet is a wonderful basis for any form of dance, but Ballet also teaches correct posture and poise which is beneficial in everyday life.

Many students go on to take their exams in ballet, which is accredited through the ISDT and also gives you credits towards university.

*Extra lessons may be required in preparation for exams.*

**Pointe:** Many students are keen to go 'en pointe' which is a major step in a ballerina's life, however, proper technique is essential to be able to properly rise on the toes without risk of injury. This class is aimed at the more advanced ballet students (usually around grade 5 and at teacher's discretion)

### Classes are held on:

Tuesday -	Pointe	8:30 to 9:00
Wednesday	Grade 5	4:00 to 4:45
	Grade 2	4:45 to 5:30
	Grade 3	7:00 to 7:45
Thursday	Grade 6	7:15 to 8:00
Friday	Primary	5:30 to 6:00
Saturday	Grade 1	10:30 to 11:15

### Benefits from doing ballet include:

- Correct posture and poise
- Knowledge of some random French words
- Builds a foundation for learning other types of dance.

### Tips for Success in Ballet

- Practice, practice, practice!
- Learn your terminology... it will make following the instructions so much easier (and it will impress Miss Julie!)

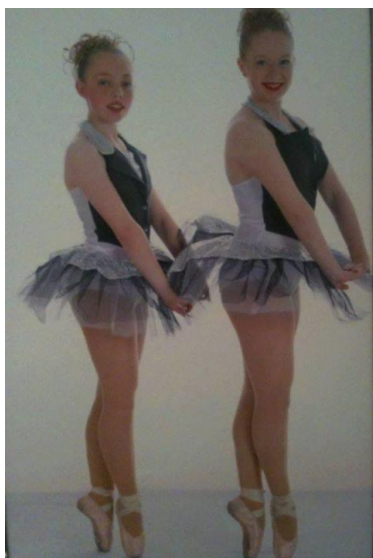
### What our Students Say:

*"I love ballet as I find it really relaxing."*

**Joley**

*"I have found that it has really improved the way I think about dance, which has improved my performance in baton twirling. Also it has affected my stance as I'm always standing in third position now!!"*

**Caitlin**



Jess and Honey performing  
"Typewriter" en Pointe.

## Features article



## Summer School.

**Don't be bored during the summer holidays..... well students at Julie McKenna's Theatre Summer School won't be!!**

*Why sit at home when you can be doing something far more interesting instead? This year, the summer School is taking on a whole new different meaning!*

Book now and reserve your place to learn a host of new skills such as:

- street dance,
- circus skills
- dance skills
- singing
- limbering
- Acro
- roller skating
- and learn some fantastic tips on hair make up and costuming

These classes offer a unique opportunity never before available.

Places are not limited to Top Hat Students, so invite a friend and share the experience with them.

It promised to be a fun packed week full of performances, new skills and new friendships. Don't miss your chance!

**When:** 28<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> of August

**Where:** St Albans Church Hall. 10am – 3.30pm.

**Who:** Children aged 5 upwards.

**How Much:** £100

*Levels will be decided upon accordingly as to whom we have coming.*

At £20 per day, can you afford not to? Don't miss this incredible opportunity to learn new skills, not an offer you get all the time!

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### What previous student have said:

*"This is a thoroughly enjoyable week, where you get to do all sorts of things you would very rarely get the chance to do elsewhere."*

*"I made loads of new friends that I otherwise would not have met in the classes that I did!"*

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**So.... What are you doing this holiday?**

## Other Stuff!!

### “Dear Top Hat Chat”

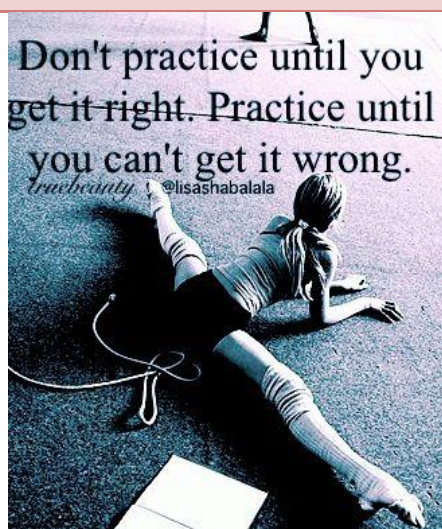
You may have noticed the odd looking book that has appeared outside lessons! This is our new method of keeping in touch with both parents and students. The idea is that it is available for anyone involved in Top Hat to write down any thoughts, ideas, suggestions, quotes etc to do with the newsletter. Anything written in the journal will be used either in future editions of **Top Hat Chat**, or to help inform the future direction of your newsletter. Use it wisely!



### Contact us

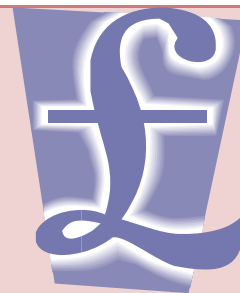
#### Top Hat Committee

Principle:	Julie McKenna
Chairperson:	Tracey Clarke
Treasurer:	Lyn Firman
Secretary:	Faye Burton
Members:	Tracy McMorrow
	Leanne Naylor
	Kirsty McNeen
	Hayley Rowles
	Caroline Karabin
	Katie Wright
	Deb Jilbert
	Lesley Crouch
	Emma Mumford
	Hayley Hendrickson



### Stuff for Sale

This is the section where you can sell your old stuff, be it dance shoes that you have grown out of or costumes, in fact anything dance related that you no longer need and you think someone else in the club can benefit from. Please, put your information in the Top Hat Diary or email the editor(details in the box below.) Please include a decent picture, details, size, condition, contact details, etc.



### Coming Next issue: Due out: 12 Sept 2014 (ish!)

Spotlight on: **Baton Twirling**

Feature Article: **Top Hat People: Anthony Foreman**

### Get involved with your Newsletter

For any inclusions into next term's newsletter, please contact Deb Jilbert on [deborah.jilbert@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deborah.jilbert@hotmail.co.uk) before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, or use the Dear Top Hat Journal.

*This newsletter is only possible with your input...  
if there is anything you want included, please let me know. Thanks! ☺*

**This is Your Newsletter! If you have any suggestions for features or other inclusions, please contact me on the above details. Many thanks. And hope you have an exciting term!**