

Top Hat Chat

Celebrating our successes, cementing our friendships

Message from the Principal

Another school term has passed so quickly.... So much achieved, and so much to look forward to next term.....

Our upcoming Top Hat's got Talent on 5th of March. Get thinking of your wonderful talent spot for the night. We have an outside adjudicator come along and adjudicate in 3 categories: 6 years old and under, 7 – 11 years (no senior school kids), 11+ (senior school kids) and the ever favourite Adult section! Trophies, medals, certificates all to be won in this ever successful fund raiser for our show.

We also have our Musical Theatre Review at Moulton Theatre on the 18th and 19th of March. Another exciting opportunity to watch our children perform.

Things are still going well for our fund raising for Disney. The next Disney event is an evening with Dolly Parton on the 13TH of March. Details to follow..... but get it in your diary!

Our exam session is provisionally booked for the 16th and 17th of April. I am awaiting confirmation. But fingers crossed that shouldn't be a problem.

Dates dates dates..... organisation is the key!!!!

Have a lovely half term off, and if we don't see you at the festival.... See you week commencing 22nd Feb, when our primary classes on a Saturday move to Thomas Becket Dance Studio. Please don't forget! X

Miss Julie xxx



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What's Happening?

Term 3 starts	<i>Monday 4th January</i>
Baton Area Competition	<i>Saturday 6th February</i>
Drama Night	<i>Saturday 13th February</i>
Festival Presentation	<i>Saturday 13th February</i>
Term 3 Ends:	<i>Saturday 13th February</i>

MK Dance festival	<i>15th – 20th February</i>
MK Drama festival	<i>20th – 21st February</i>
Steps Dance festival	<i>Sunday 21st February</i>

Term 4 Starts:	<i>Monday 22nd February</i>
MK Music festival	<i>27th – 28th February</i>
Steps Dance festival	<i>Sunday 28th February</i>
Top Hat's Got Talent	<i>Saturday 5th March</i>
Luton dance festival	<i>5th – 6th March</i>
Bedfordshire festival	<i>5th – 12th March</i>
Steps Dance festival	<i>Sunday 6th March</i>
Luton dance festival	<i>12th – 13th March</i>
Banbury Festival of Dance	<i>12th – 13th March</i>
A Night with Dolly	<i>Sunday 13th March</i>
Steps Dance festival	<i>Sunday 13th March</i>
Musical Theatre Presentation	<i>18th – 19th March</i>
MK Dance festival	<i>19th – 20th March</i>
Luton dance festival	<i>19th – 20th March</i>
Term 4 ends	<i>Saturday 26th March</i>

Big Sleepover	Friday 1st April March
Baton National Championships	<i>25th to 27th March</i>
Baton International selections	<i>Monday 28th March</i>
Bristol Dance festival	<i>2nd – 8th April</i>
Northampton Dance festival	<i>4th – 9th April</i>

Term 5 Starts	<i>Monday 11th April</i>
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Next Issue out March 2016

Please can you message me with any news you would like included in Issue 12 of Top Hat Chat!

Note from editor:

Apologies for the lateness in getting this out again! It has been one hectic term. Also please remember to let me know if there is anything you would like to be included in this newsletter – if I don't know about it, I can't include it! Thanks! Deborah.jilbert@hotmail.co.uk. ☺

Keep in touch with us!



Like us on Facebook
/ththeatreschool

And make sure you are in our closed group for fast information as and when you need

it. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/320895261279021/>



Check out our new Website too with links to our youtube account and Instagram!

www.tophattheatreschool.co.uk



Make sure we can contact you too!

Please ensure that we have up to date contact details for you including email address.

We are now also using Whats App to keep parents informed as well as Facebook and email in order to make sure that messages have the best chance of reaching everyone! Add Top Hat Admin to your contacts along with your name so you can be added to the group list. 07495 124991

News

Changes to Wednesday Lessons effective from 24th February

Main Hall (St Albans) with Miss Em

4.15-5 - Grade 3 Tap

5-5.45 - Grade 4 Tap

Jubilee Hall (St Albans)

4 - 5 - Grade 4 Ballet/Pointe (Miss Emma)

5-5.45 - Grade 2 Ballet (Miss Emma)

5.45-6.30 - Grade 4 Modern (Miss Julie)

6.30-7.15 - Grade 5 Modern (Miss Julie)

Abington Community Centre with Miss Em

6.15-7 Grade 6 Tap

7-7.45 - Intermediate Modern

7.45-8.30 - Advanced 2 Tap



Festival Presentation Night



THIS COMING SATURDAY.... 13th February

Your chance to come and watch our festival presentation, to be held at Caroline Chisholm School, from 3pm for a 3.30 start, finish time approximately 5.30pm!

Tickets £5 on the door. Children under 16 £3. This will literally just cover the hire of the venue. (If we are lucky!!)

Everyone welcome.

Dinky Dancers, Baby MT & Little Stars

Starting on Saturday 27th Feb), your classes will be held at Thomas Becket School, Becket Way, NN3 6HT.

You may remember that we used this venue last year once or twice, and it has a beautiful little studio, just perfect for these classes. Lovely clean floor, wall mounted dance mirrors, lots of space for parents to wait, and ample car parking space.

As you should all have heard by now too, Miss Emma Banham will be taking over the teaching of these classes.

We are confident that these changes will make your Saturday mornings much more pleasurable.

Moving forward there are a few little things that you can all do to help everything run smoothly...

Please ensure the children are ready to start their class on time, have been to the toilet before the lesson and have had enough to drink to see them through the whole lesson.

We look forward to these classes in their new home!

REMINDER THAT SATURDAY 13TH FEB, CLASSES ARE AT ABINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE WITH MISS EMMA.



A Musical Theatre Showcase!

Auditions were held on the last two weeks of term, to fill slots for an evening of Musical Theatre. As well as solo pieces there will be two group pieces so that all who want to be involved can be.

The presentation will be held on the evenings of the 18th and 19th March at Moulton Theatre, where our students will perform in a professional theatre with a live audience. It is a wonderful opportunity for students to be a part of a professional company!



It's your time to shine!

Summer Show

If your child is taking part in the Top Hat End of year Show in July, parents are expected to make a contribution of £30 to go towards the purchase of costumes. This will be sent out with the invoice next term. Please advise Miss Julie if your child will NOT be taking part. Many Thanks.

FOTHS

Friends of Top Hat Support Group



Message from FOTHS Chairman.

Hi,

Lots of exciting events coming up for fundraising- The *festival evening* on the 13th of February, *Top Hats Got Talent* on the 5th of March, along with a *fashion show* (which was very successful last year!) at the end of April!

We also have the *Northampton Carnival* on the 11th of June 2016! Put the date in your diary!

Our 2016 Disney team are still fundraising!- They have the *BIG sleepover* coming up on the 1st of April at Berserk!! (Speak to Clare Fletcher-Brown about tickets!) A quiz night & switching night more details coming soon. Some of the team took to Pitsford Reservoir in the rain to do a sponsored walk! Well done guys!

Lots to look forward to! Please contact us if you would like to be involved in any of the events!

Many thanks for all of your support

Kelly, Hayley, Cassie & Lyn

FOTHS

A Night with Dolly!



On the March 13th the Disney team are holding a Dolly Parton tribute night by the UK's leading Dolly Parton Tribute, Kelly O'Brien! Tickets are £10 (sorry, over 16's only.) and the event will be held at Kingsley Park WMC.



Tickets available in class, and from Moira McDonnell (Oliver's Mum) and Augusta Ryan (Molly and Annie's Mum). Strictly limited tickets..... Don't miss what will be a very entertaining evening!

Coming Soon.....

Top Hat's Got Talent: 5th March
A night with Dolly: 13th March
Big Sleepover: 1st April
Fashion Show: 30th April TBC
Northampton Carnival: 11th June
Quiz night: TBC
Switching Night: TBC



Keep an eye out on Facebook and Top Hat Chat!

**Next Meeting: Thursday 25th February at 7.30pm in the Spinney Hill Pub.
Hope to see you there!**

Pictures from last terms fundraisers!

Halloween Party



Christmas Carol Concert



Christmas Party



Festivals and Competitions

Dance, Drama and Singing Festivals

Top Hat Theatre School like to take part in a number of local competitions each year students that wish to enter can compete against other schools within singing, drama and dance. These disciplines can be solo, duos, trios or groups.

Festival sections are grouped into age range and the piece they are performing, they are marked by an independent adjudicator that grades and gives written feedback on your child's performance. They will then be presented first second, third and sometimes there may be a fourth place.

Festivals help your child to build their confidence, especially in performing. To allow them to show their personality within dance, drama and singing and to show the skills they have learnt in their chosen piece.

Twirling Competitions

Top Hat Twirlers regularly compete at various competitions throughout the country, and especially with their background in dance have shown themselves to be very successful! Athletes are grouped into age and ability sections and compete in a range of disciplines from solo, duo and group. Successful athletes are often awarded trophies for podium places (1st – 3rd) medals for 4th to 7th place and certificates for 8th to 10th.

Results from last term

Top Hat Twirlers brought home the metal at Area Competition!

Nineteen of our Twirlers travelled to Norfolk to take part in the competition which was a qualifier for the National Championships in Crawley at Easter. Everyone performed fantastically and the entire troupe came away with a total of 52 trophies, 18 medals and 5 certificates between them, with everyone qualifying for the championships!



Special Mentions need to go to **Darcie Maxted**, **Megan Rowles** and **Caitlin Jilbert** who won every section that they entered! Well done!

Also well done to Maisie Munnely, Millie Woosey and Stacey Arrowsmith who were competing for the first time.

Full Results:

Duo

Juvenile 1:	1st Remeya Barnes and Hannah-Mai McMahon , 2 nd Libby Burton and Polly Howard
Junior 1:	4 th Eadie-Rose Clarke and Codie Mitchell
Senior:	5 th Jessica Crouch and Rheanne Firman



Two Baton

Junior 1 Beginner:	2 nd Codie Mitchell, 3 rd Milly McNee
Senior 1 Novice:	4 th Rheanne Firman
Senior 1 Int/Adv:	1st Caitlin Jilbert

Solo Twirl

Tiny Tots:	1st Darcie Maxted , 2 nd Maisie Munnelly
Juvenile 1 Beginner:	2 nd Hannah Mai McMahon, 5 th Libby Burton, 6 th Polly Howard, 8 th Remeya Barnes
Juvenile 2 Beginner:	3 rd Ruby Tweed
Junior 1 Beginner:	3 rd Abigail Bates, 5 th Millie Woosey, 6 th Eadie-Rose Clarke, 10 th Codie Mitchell and Qualifying Alessia Maxted.
Junior 1 Novice:	1st Milly McNee
Junior 2 Int:	1st Megan Rowles
Senior 1 Int:	1st Caitlin Jilbert , 3 rd Rheanne Firman
Senior Plus Int:	1st Jessica Crouch

Dance Twirl

Tiny Tots	1st Darcie Maxted , 2 nd Scarlett Fontana, 3 rd Maisie Munnelly
Juvenile 1 Beginner:	2 nd Remaya Barnes, 3 rd Libby Burton, 5 th Polly Howard, 6 th Hannah Mai McMahon
Junior 1 beginner:	1st Alessia Maxted , 3 rd Eadie-Rose Clarke, 4 th Abigail Bates, 6 th Codie Mitchell, 8 th Millie Woosey
Juvenile 2 Novice:	1st Ruby Tweed
Junior 1 Novice:	1st Milly McNee
Junior 2 Int:	1st Megan Rowles
Senior 1 Int:	1st Caitlin Jilbert , 3 rd Rheanne Firman
Senior Plus Int:	2 nd Jessica Crouch

Fancy Strut

Juvenile 1 Beginner:	2 nd Hannah Mai McMahon, 4 th Libby Burton, 5 th Polly Howard, 6 th Remaya Barnes
Juvenile 2 Beginner:	1st Ruby Tweed
Junior 1 Beginner:	1st Alessia Maxted , 2 nd Abigail Bates, 3 rd Eadie-Rose Clarke, 5 th Codie Mitchell, 10 th Millie Woosey
Junior 1 Novice:	1st Milly McNee
Junior 2 Int:	1st Megan Rowles
Senior 1 Int:	1st Caitlin Jilbert , 2 nd Rheanne Firman
Senior Plus Int	1st Jessica Crouch



Poise and Personality

Tiny Tots:	1st Darcie Maxted , 3 rd Scarlett Fontana, 5 th Maisie Munnelly
Juvenile 1:	2 nd Hannah Mai McMahon, 3 rd Polly Howard, 4 th Libby Burton, 5 th Remaya Barnes
Juvenile 2:	2 nd Ruby Tweed
Junior 1:	1st Alessia Maxted , 2 nd Milly McNee, 3 rd Millie Woosey, 5 th Eadie-Rose Clarke, 6 th Abigail Bates, 7 th Codie Mitchell
Junior 2:	1st Megan Rowles
Senior 1:	1st Caitlin Jilbert , 2 nd Rheanne Firman, 4 th Stacey Arrowsmith
Senior Plus:	2 nd Jessica Crouch

Well done to everyone qualifying for nationals! I look forward to reporting the results later in the year!

What's happening this term: January & February

Milton Keynes Dance Festival 2016

Monday 15th to Saturday 20th February

Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th March at:

The Venue MK Walton High, Fyfield Barrow, Walnut Tree, Milton Keynes, MK7 7WH

Sections include: tap, modern, ballet, song and dance, lyrical, character, contemporary and modern ballet

Milton Keynes Music Speech and Drama Festival 2016

This will be held at The Venue Walton High, Fyfield Barrow, Walnut Tree, Milton Keynes, MK7 7WH

Drama: Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st February,

Music: Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th February.

Steps Dance Studio Festival, Tamworth

This will take place on four consecutive Sundays: 21st and 28th February; and 6th and 13th March 2016

Wilnecote High School, Tinkers Green Road, Tamworth

Sections include: Ballet, Tap, Modern, Acro, S&D, Lyrical, Character and Greek

Good Luck to all those who are taking part in the competitions! Shine like the stars you are!

Advance Notice: events in March and April

Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama 2016

This is to be held over the week of 5th to 12th March 2016

The Corn Exchange, Bedford.

Sections include: solo and duet singing, speech and drama, verse speaking – duets,

Entries now closed.

Luton Dance Festival

This will be held over three consecutive weekends: 5-6th, 12-13th, and 19-20th March 2016

Lealands High School, Sundon Park Road, Luton, Bedfordshire

Entries now closed

Banbury Festival of Dance

This will be held on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th March (and Sunday 20th March if needed)

Venue: North Oxfordshire Academy Theatre, Drayton Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 0UD

Entries now closed.

Baton Twirling National Competition - Crawley

Individuals and Teams will be held over three days 25th – 27th March 2016.

Events include: Solo twirl, Two Baton, Poise and Personality, Dance Twirl and Fancy Strut

Selections for international competitions will follow immediately after on Monday 28th.

Entries must be in by Friday 12th February.

Please ensure you have booked your hotel.

Bristol Dance Festival

The Eisteddfod will take place from 2nd to 8th April 2016

The Theatre, Backwell School, Backwell, Bristol, BS48 3BX.

Entries now closed

Northampton Dance Festival

4th -9th April 2014

Cripps hall, Northampton

Entries now closed

Guildford Festival of Dance

This will take place over the two consecutive weekends: 16-17th and 23- 24th April 2016

Guildford County School, Franham Road, Guildford Surrey

All England Qualifying Competition

Sections include: ballet, contemporary, Greek, character, lyrical, tap, modern, song and dance, musical theatre, improvisation

Entries now closed.

More Dates for your Diary!

Please double check the festival dates you wish to enter as some may clash!

Baton Twirling British Open Competition

28 – 29th May bank holiday weekend,

Preston

Nottingham Dance Festival

13-18th August 2016

More details to follow!

Regional Baton Competition,

September 17th

Lowestoft

Events include: Team, Freestyle and Artistic Twirl

For any queries regarding dance and drama festivals, please see competitions officer:

Caroline Karabin

For queries on Baton competitions, please see Tracey Clarke.

Exams and Grades

Congratulations to everyone who took their dance exams in December. I am happy to announce that all entrants passed, most with either a merit or a distinction! Well done to all!

7th December – Tap Exams

CEP	Mia Birch, Hannah Bright, Libby Burton, Evie Dark, Amelia Purcell, Alice Burn
Grade 1	Anna Herron, Sophie Kornet, Chloe White, Remaya Barnes, Isobelle Woodley, Willow Stevens, Elizabeth West, Emilia Hammond, Annie Ryan
Grade 2	Ruby Tweed, Beth Pritchard, Lily Rose Welsh, Molly Ryan, Eadie Rose Clarke, Olivia Rose, Rhianne Williams

19th December – Modern Exams

CEP	Alycia Goredema, Shareece Pfumojena, Maisie Munnelly, Reagan Munnelly, Sammy Grace Taylor, Leah Palmer-Trujillo, Jessica Whiting, Angel Fletcher-Brown
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Grade 1 Mia Birch, Hannah Bright, Amelia Purcell, Avie Dark, Libby Burton, Alice Burn
Grade 2 Hannah Mai McMahon, Anna Herron, Sophie Kornet, Chloe Whilte, Isobelle Woodley, Willow Stevens, Elizabeth West, Annie Ryan, Remaya Barnes

7th December – Modern Exam

Grade 3 Molly Ryan, Ruby Tweed, Beth Pritchard, Lily Rose Welsh, Georgina Stemp, Grace Hurrell, Eadie Rose Clarke, Olivia Rose

Ballet Exam

Primary Isabelle Woodley, Libby Burton, Annie Ryan
Grade 1 Joley Wright, Lucy Mumford, Olivia Rose
Grade 2 Emilia Hammond, Rhian Williams
Grade 3 Milly McNee, Alana Farmer, Alessia Maxted
Grade 6 Honey Evans

LAMDA exams

I am delighted to announce that all drama students passed with flying colours with 90% of students receiving distinction!

Special congratulation to **Amelie Lines** who received 96% in her exam resulting in her winning a free half hour private lesson! Also well done to our other high scorers: Joley Wright 94, Grace Hurrell 91, Rheanne Firman 91 and Lucy Mumford 90.

Well done Amelie and all pupils who passed. You really are an asset to Top Hat and your family all while gaining more UCAS points for that all important university entry when the time comes.

Please ensure that you collect your exam reports and certificates!

Congratulations everyone!!

Branching Out

Baton Twirling International Athletes

Congatualtions to two of our twirlers who have been chosen to represent England in international competitions this year.

Megan Rowles is performing with the England Group who will be competeing in the European Cup in France in June.

Caitlin Jilbert is a part of the England Team who will be competing in the World Championships in Sweden in August.

Both girls have been twirling with Top Hat for six years and competed at 24 competitions both locally and nationaly

This is a fantastic oportunity for the pair and Megan and Caitlin have worked incredibly hard to get to this point in their twirling careers. We wish them all the best in the competitions, and I look forward to keeping you posted on their progress.

Both the England Team and Group will be performing at Nationals in April and at the British Open in May.



Congratulations to all the Star Pupils!



Miss Julie's Star Pupil

Hannah Bright

Hannah recently took her tap and modern exams, Received Distinction for both, and has consequently moved to Saturday classes. The big girl classes!

She has picked up her new syllabus like a fish to water, and is already in the front line!!!

Well done Hannah... Keep up the hard work xxx

Codie Mitchell

Miss Tracey's Twirl Star Pupil

For never giving up on her two baton, persevering and ending up doing a good job at the Area competition! Well done!



Miss Emma's Star Pupil

Polly Howard

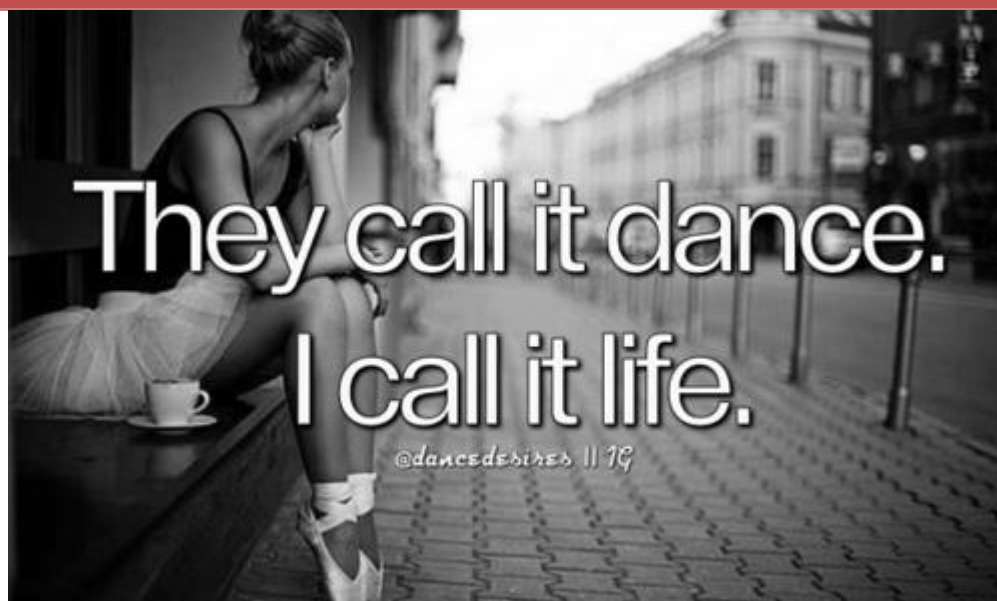


Polly has really been working hard these past 2 terms as she wanted to take her exams at Easter time. She has really excelled in class and I'm really proud of what she has achieved. Polly is definitely ready for the exams this time.

Molly Ryan

Miss Em's Star Pupil

She has made a fab start in her new tap and modern grades, always so well behaved and eager to learn! A pleasure to have in class.



Get involved with your Newsletter

For any inclusions into next term's newsletter, please contact Debbie Jilbert via facebook or on deborah.jilbert@hotmail.co.uk.

Please let me know if there is anything else you would like to see in the newsletter!