



PROSPECTIVE PARENTS / STUDENTS' VISITS TO LOWER SCHOOL

These morning visits are designed to give an insight into life at White Lodge so that families can make an informed decision about whether to proceed with the audition process. The schedule includes:

- An informal opportunity to meet other families in a similar position over coffee etc
- A chance to obtain key literature
- An opportunity to speak to staff informally ie the admin staff at refreshment time and the house staff during the tour
- An introduction to key Senior Managers and members of the House Staff team
- A tour of the main parts of the school
- The opportunity to watch one of the daily classical ballet classes
- A summary of the student day with particular detail associated with dance
- An overview of the academic programme for yrs 7 – 11
- The opportunity to ask questions about the dance training, academics and pastoral care and organization

These are the key points covered in the welcome session

THE STUDENT DAY AND BALLET / DANCE TRAINING

Training - The Royal Ballet School System of Training
[5 yrs at the Lower School / 3 years at the Upper School]

Year 7s coming into the School can expect the following course:

- A daily 2-hour Classical Ballet class including,
- Daily Pilates-based Body Conditioning programme
- A further 2-hour session including other subjects:
- Character dance
- Gymnastics
- Repertoire [learning to work as a corps de ballet]
- Coaching for Boys
- Pointe work for Girls
- Choreographic Studies: culminating in a Choreographic Competition
- History of Ballet

A typical day for Year 7 is as follows:

- 2-hour Classical Ballet class in the morning
- Followed by 2-hour academic studies
- Lunch
- 2-hour academics
- 2-hour Ballet – comprising sessions to cover the curriculum above.

Year 7s do not work on Saturdays during the first term [unless they are performing with the Royal Ballet when they will be called for rehearsals during the first term as required].

Years 8 - 11

Students entering White Lodge at other levels [Yr 8-11] can expect 4 hours of Ballet training and 4 hours of Academics per day – and to work until 1pm on Saturdays. The curriculum as above broadens to include tuition in other forms of Character dance, Irish, Scottish and Morris dance. History of Ballet and Choreographic Studies continue and at the senior levels, Solo variations and Contemporary dance is added.

Student care: students are cared for by the Physiotherapist and Nurse should there be growth-related or other injuries and all students have education in Nutrition provided by the School's Nutritionist.

Performance: The School is exposed to visitors, in-house and out-door public performances and various projects creating performance opportunities for our students.

We perform with the Royal Ballet in productions such as 'Nutcracker', 'Swan Lake', 'La Sylphide' and 'Peter and the Wolf'. Students often work through their holiday breaks. The annual performances run for a week at the Linbury Studio Theatre and the School's matinée performance is on the main stage with orchestra at the Royal Opera House.

Outings: Our students attend several pre-general rehearsals of the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House – where they are exposed to the orchestra and work at a professional level, as part of their education.

Evaluation and Offer of Training: Assessment is on-going, and feed-back to students happens via one-to-one tutorials with the Ballet Teacher, goal-setting, reporting and Parent/Teacher meetings. Offer of Training is for one year at a time. Annual Appraisals in the spring term determine further training/or not. The RBS has a support system which assists parents to place students in other schools should they not be offered further training.

Auditions: Lower School students need to audition for entry into the Upper School.

PASTORAL CARE

- We have a team of 7 House Parents led by the Head of Boarding
- There is a school nurse on site during day time hours
- Students may go home each weekend after their dance commitments
- We arrange transport to Richmond on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings so that the older students may go home using public transport
- In the winter months when the park gates close at dusk we provide transport from Sheen Gate to school on a Sunday evening
- Students may return to school on a Monday morning if they are well within time for registration / assembly at 8.20am
- For those remaining in school there is a varied programme of weekend activities from the shopping trips on Saturday afternoon to evening theatre trips, Sunday activities led by the academic staff and in-house events and competitions
- Students bring their own bedding and can customize their dorm notice boards and shelves
- Day students are given lockers in the common rooms and a place to change

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

- There is no academic test for entry to the school – there is an academic task at the final auditions to provide information about academic ability / potential to assist us with provision
- Students entering the school sit MidYIS tests. These help us to assess ability and calculate value added
- Classes are small – approximately 12 in each class
- We set in maths and french
- We provide support in lessons for our SEN students plus we have a specialist teacher from Dyslexia Action
- We have a specialist EAL (english as an additional language) teacher
- We reward those identified in specific subjects as being ‘Gifted and Talented’
- GCSE core subjects are english, maths, double science and expressive arts
- Students choose 3 other GCSEs from the following art, english literature, history, geography, French, music, triple science
- Most students also take an AS level in dance studies
- In 2010 our GCSE results were 94% A*-C plus 3 students took an early GCSE

We hope that you enjoyed the visit and that you were able to experience the family feel that we encourage and that you gained more information about the ballet / dance, academics and pastoral care that we offer.

Pippa Hogg-Andrews – Head of Lower School
Diane van Schoor – Ballet Principal
Simon Bushnell – Deputy Head and Head of Boarding