

BENNETT SCHOOL OF BALLET & JAZZ

AUGUST 2021



ALERT LEVEL 3 & 4 – ZOOM CLASSES

While Dunedin is at Alert Level 3 or Alert Level 4, dance classes will take place online via Zoom.

We launched into Zoom online classes on the first day of the current lockdown (Wednesday 18 August) and I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge “Thank You” to:

- All the students who are coming along to their Zoom classes, participating the best they can in the environment they have available to them at home and working hard at keeping up with their dancing.
- All the parents/caregivers who are supporting their kids to take part in the Zoom dance classes.
- All the amazing BSBJ teachers who once again immediately jumped into online teaching quickly and efficiently and are ensuring that our students can continue to dance and “be together” with their classmates despite being in lockdown.

We know that online dance classes are not the same as classes in the studios, but there are a lot of reasons why they’re a really good alternative at the moment:

- **Social Connections** – it’s really important for people to maintain their relationships with one another when they’re spending most/all of their time at home, including connections with their dance school friends and classmates. The students form a real bond with those in their dance classes and really enjoy the opportunity to connect with one another via their Zoom dance classes.
- **Well-being** – staying in touch with dance friends and their dance teacher and participating in dance class at their regular time/day contributes to students’ physical, emotional and mental well-being. Our kids have had to give up so much at the moment that it’s wonderful for them to still have access to their dance class(es) – albeit in a different way. And, of course, physical exercise is beneficial particularly when kids are at home/inside.
- **Dance Progress** – by attending online classes, students ensure they don’t lose the progress they’ve made in their dance training and they will easily and seamlessly be able to resume classes at the studios once we’re able to return there.
- **Learning New Skills** – in addition to improving their dance skills, online classes are also teaching the students important life lessons such as adapting to new situations, resilience, problem-solving, how to make the best of things, etc.
- **Fun** – we all need some of this, particularly given the fact that we’re currently in lockdown.

As soon as Dunedin moves to Alert Level 2 dance classes will resume at the studios but with extra health and safety precautions in place (as we’ve done in the past). More information about this will be sent out prior to the move to Alert Level 2.

BALLET EXAMS 2021 – POSTPONED

This year the ballet exams were scheduled to be held on Friday 10 September, Saturday 11 September and Sunday 12 September. The exams will go ahead, but because of the current lockdown they have been postponed. Students and their families will be advised of the new dates for the ballet exams as soon as they’ve been finalised.

Due to the trans-Tasman bubble being closed, the ballet exams this year will be held at the dance studio via Zoom. The exams will run in exactly the same way, but the examiner will be on a screen instead of there in person. Once we’re back at Alert Level 2, a parent consent form will be sent home so you can give permission for your child to be examined via Zoom. We will not be using a pianist this year as it will make the audio via Zoom difficult for the examiner. The pianist fee has been credited to your account for next term.

JAZZ & TAP EXAMS

Congratulations to all who took part in the recent jazz and tap exams. There were some excellent results and Miss Emma, Miss Ana and I were very happy with the marks.

JAZZ & TAP EXAM PHOTOS

Jazz and tap exam photos can now be viewed on Photobucket – www.photobucket.com

User name: bennettballetandjazz Password: bennettballet

Stay safe and be kind to one another.

Shona Bennett

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