



# Information Pack

**Leanne Edwards, LISTD – Principal**

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**07773121884**

**Helen Fletcher – General Administration**

**Vicky Barclay – Modern & Tap & Competition Teacher**

**Tiffany Chipling – Modern & Tap Teacher**

**Isabelle Sansone – Ballet Teacher**

**Francesca Galea – Singing Teacher**

**Ellie Slater – Drama Teacher**



# Welcome to LESTA

Established in 2005, the Leanne Edwards School of Theatre Arts is based in Bisley and offers a friendly, family oriented environment for children aged 2 ½ to 8 years to learn dance and musical theatre. The children are taught important skills to become a great performer and they learn that through hard work and determination so they can achieve their best. Commitment, Communication, Skills, Passion, Perseverance and the ability to take and respond to constructive criticism are just a few of the life skills learnt at LESTA. Whether a child is looking to perform as a hobby or to pursue a career it is hoped that LESTA will be able to offer them the best possible training and experience to teach them valuable lessons that they can apply to their future paths.

## Classes Offered

**Ballet 2 ½ yrs +**

**Modern 4yrs +**

**Tap 4yrs +**

**Contemporary 10yrs +**

**Jazz 7yrs +**

**Acrobatic Arts 4yrs +**

**Musical Theatre (Drama & Singing) 4yrs +**

**Limbering/Conditioning 7yrs +**

**Competition work (by selection only) 6yrs +**

**Exams in ISTD Ballet, Modern & Tap**



## Faculty

### Principal

**Leanne Edwards, LISTD**



Leanne started dancing at the tender age of seven. In the 25 years since, she has progressed through the ISTD curriculum attaining her teacher qualifications with FDI and DDE in Ballet, Tap and Modern.

She has gained her Licentiate in Tap and Modern and hopes to become an ISTD examiner in the future. Leanne is also an approved tutor of the Linda Sweetzer Teacher Training College, coaching the DDI & DDE qualifications on a part time basis.

Leanne has performed in many locally based theatre shows, including lead roles in Hello Dolly, Sound of Music, Oliver!, 42nd Street, Annie and Calamity Jane and has performed in two professional pantomimes.

She has also danced at the 2000 Olympics in Australia, performed in a charity gala on the stage of the London Palladium (twice) and Her Majesty's Theatre.

Leanne choreographed two professional musicals that ran at Edinburgh and Brighton Fringe Festivals, and toured the South East. She choreographed Janus Theatre Company's "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" which received critical acclaim from a renowned West End producer following its production at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford.

Leanne has been principal of LESTA since 2005 and has thoroughly enjoyed working with all of the children and older pupils in that time. She is proud to have such talented pupils and teachers and is hoping to develop the school over the coming years.

## Teachers



Vicky Barclay

Tiffany Chipling

Francesca Galea

Ellie Slater

## Code of Conduct

**At LESTA we pride ourselves on having a fun and friendly school. We provide a safe, welcoming and healthy environment so the pupils get the most out of their classes. To enable this LESTA has a strict code of conduct and a level of behaviour that is expected from all the pupils. Bad behaviour and Bullying is not tolerated.**

## How to Enrol

**We generally take enrolments throughout the year unless it is an exam or show term. In this case an alternative class may be made available to you whilst you wait for the desired class. To enrol onto a class please contact Leanne Edwards [contact@lesta.org.uk](mailto:contact@lesta.org.uk) to discuss what options are available. Please make it clear what the child's age is, subjects wishing to take and also any previous experience. Miss Leanne can then recommend some suitable classes. It will be best to come in and try some classes to see if the level is appropriate before proceeding with the term. You must fill out an enrolment form before coming to any classes.**

## Once you're Enrolled

**At LESTA we offer our places on an ongoing basis, which means your place will be saved in all the relevant classes each term unless the required leaving**

**notice is given. When training in Dance and Performing Arts, improvement comes with repetitive training, at LESTA we encourage pupils to commit to their training. If a pupil is missing classes each week or changing classes regularly they will not see the desired results and improvements.**

## **Leaving Notice**

**At LESTA all enrolled pupils must give half a terms written notice prior to the end of term should they wish to withdraw from any subjects, this is something we take very seriously and is there purely to protect the school and to ensure that we have enough pupils to run our classes, pay for our hall and teachers. Knowing in advance how many pupils we have in a class allows us to timetable accordingly and also gives other pupils the opportunity to take the place should one be coming up. At LESTA we promise that each term we will have a space saved for each of our pupils in their required classes so in return we request that if you no longer wish to take a saved space that you let us know with a minimum of half a terms notice. If notice is not given you will be charged for half a terms fees.**

## **Etiquette**

**It is expected throughout the school that a high standard of dress is maintained at all times. Correct uniform is to be worn to all classes and in dance classes hair must always be in a neat bun. All other classes hair must be tied back off the face.**

**Feeling prepared and ready in the correct outfit greatly enhances the student's attitude in class and pride in appearance is all part of the disciplined training of dance.**



## **Pupil & Parent Rules of LESTA**

- **Correct uniform must be worn to every class. See uniform list below. No jewellery to be worn except stud earrings.**
- **Hair must be neat and tidy at all times.**
- **Good attendance is expected for all classes. Commitment and dedication will help you achieve levels that will exceed your expectations. It is also important to remember that you are part of a team.**



- **Pupils & Parents must respect the staff of LESTA at all times.**
- **Corrections will be given to all pupils to help improve their technique and skill, it's important that these are taken without argument and dispute. The teachers at LESTA have the pupil's best interests at heart and**

**have great passion to make each pupil the best they can be so corrections should not be taken personally.**

- **Arriving late to class is not acceptable unless for good reason. Being late is not only disrespectful and disruptive to the teacher and class, it is also dangerous for the pupil concerned as they are prone to injury if they miss out on the warm-up. If anything pupils should be early and warmed up ready to start their class on time.**
- **No mobile phones in class, any videos required for home practice will be put on Movitae (please see below)**
- **General respect is expected for the hall. Feet on the walls/chairs sitting on kitchen surfaces and making mess is not tolerated. All rubbish must be put in the bins provided.**

## **Uniform List**

### **Where to Buy Uniform?**

**All our class uniform is supplied by Maria Pearce of Cabaret Dance, who runs her shop from the hall kitchen most Saturdays. You can contact her on 01932 843656 or 07976613445 to discuss requirements and when she will be available. All logoed dance wear will be available from Rock the Dragon shortly [www.rockthedragon.co.uk](http://www.rockthedragon.co.uk)**



### **Ballet Uniform**

#### **Melody Movement to Grade 1 Ballet**

**Mulberry leotard**

**Mulberry full circular chiffon skirt with elasticated waist**

**Mulberry crossover cardigan (optional for cold weather)**

**Pink ballet socks or tights (socks for exams)**

**Pink satin ballet shoes with elastic**

#### **Grade 2 to Snr levels**

**Black leotard (any style but not fussy for exams)**

**Pink ballet socks or tights (reversible)**

**Pink canvas/satin ballet shoes with elastic (pointe shoes ribbons for exams)**

## **Boys**

**White leotard**

**Black dance leggings**

**White ballet socks**

**Black ballet shoes with elastics**

**Dance belt (depending on age)**

### **Modern Uniform**

#### **Currently from Primary to Grade 1**

**Navy unitard**

#### **Grade 2 to Snr levels**

**Black leotard**

**Black stirrup tights**

**From September 2018 ant black leotard and black stirrup tights for all levels**

## **Boys**

**White Leotard or black unitard**

**Black dance leggings (only with white leotard)**

### **Tap Uniform**

#### **Currently from Primary to Grade 1**

**Navy unitard**

**Black socks (underneath unitard)**

**Black tap shoes with heel taps**

#### **Grade 2 to Snr Levels**

**Black leotard**

**Black dance trousers (optional in class, compulsory in exams)**

**Black socks**

**Black bloc tap shoes with leather sole (not plastic)**

**From September 2018 any black leotard, Black stirrup tights or Black trousers from Grade 2 upwards, Black socks, black tap shoes**

**Jazz/limbering & conditioning/acro/contemporary/technique classes Uniform**

#### **All levels**

**Any coloured leotard**



**Black stirrup tights or Black hot pants**

**Boys**

**White T shirt/Leotard**

**Black Dance Trousers (for exams) or dance school joggers**

**Black socks**

**Black bloch tap shoes with leather sole (not plastic)**

### **Drama & Singing (Musical Theatre) Uniform**

**Black leggings or dance school joggers**

**Dance School T Shirt**

### **Recreational Dance**

**Many of the pupils at LESTA dance as a hobby and love to come to class for the fitness, chance to express themselves and be a part of a family that all share common interests. We understand that not all pupils want to be at the hall as much as we do and we are delighted to offer those wishing to take 1 or 2 classes a week options on a more relaxed level but still in a safe disciplined environment**

### **Competitive Dancing**

**We have pupils at LESTA that dance competitively and spend a considerable number of hours training each week. With such a great range of classes and levels on our timetable we are able to offer the highest standard of training so that pupils can train to an elite level if they wish. Dancing to a competitive level requires a great deal of determination and commitment. To become a member of our Competition Team “LESTA Performers”, a dancer must possess a positive attitude, great dedication, and an exceptional understanding of dance technique. This is measured by a dancer’s performance throughout the previous dance term/and or audition. Being invited to join the team is an outstanding privilege as not every dancer at LESTA has the same opportunity.**

**If pupils are hoping to pursue a career in the arts, they should be training a minimum of 4-6 hours a week.**



## Benefits of Competitive Dancing

**Not only do the dancers gain self-confidence but competitive dancing also instils a sense of discipline and motivation that will carry throughout the rest of their life. Dancers will learn how to be humble winners and more importantly they'll learn to be respectful losers. Everyone must be able to accept defeat and learn from it.....always be happy of the outcome. Competitive dancing is such a great experience that losing is never an issue! Every competing experience is a good one and should be treated as such.**

### **CLASS REQUIREMENTS OF LESTA PERFORMERS**

**To be considered for the LESTA Performers, pupils must be dancing at least 6 different dance classes a week, with classical ballet being the core subject and foundation to other dance styles, it is also essential for them to take limbering/conditioning class to prevent injuries.**

## Fees and Payments

**At LESTA our fee structure is set up to run over the three school terms. Fees are per term. Payment will be expected in full within 14 days of the start of term unless prior arrangement has been made with Leanne. No adjustments, credits or refunds will be given for absence.**

**For those taking part in 4 or more classes or those with siblings taking multiple classes there are Class packages available. These have been introduced to offer affordable discounted classes to those pupils wanting to dance multiple times a week. Please see the timetable for more information.**

MOVITAE



**Movitae is an online sharing and learning hub that LESTA offers to keep parents and pupils informed on school/class notices and also what the children have been up to in class. Movitae allows every single pupil (excludes adult classes) to set up their own personal profile and join the appropriate class groups, all safely monitored by LESTA and the parents. Regular tutorials are also posted to help inspire pupils and broaden their knowledge. Movitae subscription is incorporated into your fees as we encourage all our pupils to use this fantastic program.**



## Exams

At LESTA we offer opportunities to do ISTD Ballet, Modern & Tap exams and Trinity London Singing exams (for those that take private singing classes) Pupils that show great commitment, dedication and hard work in their classes will be asked to take part in an exam. The exams are not compulsory, but because they work towards these in their classes, we do strongly encourage it. Exam candidates are required to attend extra lessons and should also practice at home to achieve the highest mark they possibly can. Pupils can express their interest in taking an exam to their teacher, however the teacher has the final say on whether or not the pupil is ready, based on their suitability and readiness for the level. The decision not to enter a pupil may be based on several factors – age, maturity, knowledge of the work, performing at the level required to pass or attendance.

## Shows

Every other year LESTA puts on a big full school variety show “Fantasia”. All pupils are invited and encouraged to be a part of this fantastic event as it’s an incredible performing experience for all pupils involved. Having the opportunity to perform in costume and make up on stage with professional lighting is the ultimate reward to training so hard in class. It’s a hugely satisfying experience and we want all our pupils to be part of this fantastic opportunity. Every year in between the variety show we hold a Musical, where we hold “open” audition for parts and attend intensive rehearsals, usually during the first week of the summer holidays and some Sundays leading up to the show.



## LESTA Terms & conditions

You must adhere to and sign our Terms and Conditions by completing an Enrolment form, to take part in classes at LESTA. To read and complete out enrolment form please follow the link

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12prqKyA71TJ6IWjrRXgE3twiB2TBozFkqP5\\_Q\\_QuOMI/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12prqKyA71TJ6IWjrRXgE3twiB2TBozFkqP5_Q_QuOMI/edit)

## Frequently asked questions

“When will I be invoiced?”

Invoices for all current pupils are sent 2-3 weeks prior to the new term commencing. The due date for these will be 14 days after term has commenced. New pupils will be invoiced after they have tried a class, confirmed they would like to proceed and completed an enrolment form.

**“Where can I find the bank details?”**

**The LESTA bank details will be clearly displayed on the bottom of your invoice. Please don't try to pay your fees until an invoice has been received.**

**“What should I wear to my first class?”**

**For new pupils or pupils doing a trial we suggest they wear existing dance wear if they have it, or comfortable exercise wear.**

**“Will my child be in a class with children of the same age and with their friends?”**

**Though we try to accommodate your age and friend requests, we feel that having a child in the right class appropriate to their ability is our paramount consideration. We always want your child to be in the level where he or she will have the best learning experience.**

**“Can I come in and watch my child take class?”**

**Parents are not able to watch their children during class time (some exceptions are given for Melody Movement but this is restricted to two classes) This results in many distractions not only to the new pupil but also the current pupils. We schedule in Parents Watch Weeks at the end of each term so parents can observe their child's growth and progress.**



**“Why do I have to pay for a class if my child is absent?”**

**Our classes are run on a termly basis and we will hold that place whether they choose to attend or not. Our teachers are paid to be present for all the required classes. If a child is absent due to sickness or injury for more than 3 weeks or more then a credit may be applicable if a doctor's note is provided.**

**“Can my child move up a class?”**

**Pupils will be moved up a class when the teacher sees fit. Please trust the teacher's judgement when it comes to deciding when your child is ready to move forward. We always have your child's training as our best interest and we take a lot of things into consideration when deciding to move children up a level.**

**“Why is Ballet so important?”**

**At LESTA we encourage all pupils to take Ballet as their first subject. Ballet provides a strong foundation for all other forms of dance. Not only does it aid, and enhance performance ability but the muscles targeted by Classical Ballet technique are unique to ballet, and not developed by other forms of physical activity.**

**“My child wants to compete. How do I make this happen?”**

**Only dancers who audition or are selected into the LESTA Performers are permitted to compete. We hold yearly auditions for our teams, which are open to all LESTA pupils, however every pupil must meet the high standard and criteria needed for competitive dance. Please talk to Miss Leanne about ways you can help your child prepare for this opportunity.**



**Thank you for taking the time to read all about our school.**

### **Contact Us**

**Leanne Edwards**

**07773121884**

**[contact@lesta.org.uk](mailto:contact@lesta.org.uk)**

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