



## **Dreamers Dance Academy - IDTA Exam Session on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

We have had confirmation from the IDTA that our first exam session of the year can take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Not all students will take an exam on these dates as many classes will enter at the next exam session, pencilled in for November/December 2025. Please take the time to read this letter as it includes vital information before registering your child before 2<sup>nd</sup> March if they are participating in these exams.

### **Location**

DDA Studio

### **Who**

Not all children are being entered for certain exams as some of our classes are working at different levels depending on when they joined the class. If your child is not sure if they are being entered, please don't hesitate to ask for clarification. The following exams will take place for the students who are ready:

- Tippy Toes First Steps Ballet
- Tippy Toes First Steps Tap
- Mini Stars Musical Theatre (Tuesday group) ONLY
- Lower Junior Silver Team Musical Theatre
- Lower Junior Street Dance Medals
- Upper Junior Grade 2 Ballet (select group)
- Upper Junior Grade 2 Tap (select group)
- Upper Junior Grade 2 Theatre Craft/Jazz (select group)
- Upper Junior Silver Team Musical Theatre
- Upper Junior Street Medals
- Senior Team Musical Theatre
- Senior Street Medals
- Senior Grade 3 Tap (self selected students)
- Senior Grade 4 Ballet (self-selected students)

### **Time:**

An exam timetable will be issued nearer to the time of each exam session. Please keep an eye on your emails! If you already have other commitments on this date, and you require either an early exam time or a late one, please make me aware so that I can factor this into the timetable. I can't promise that I will be able to accommodate your request, but I will do my best.

### **Cost:**

Once the registration deadline has passed and I am aware of exactly who is entering their exams, I will process all exam payments through GoCardless which means you do not need to do anything. It is really important that you make me aware if your child is not doing their exams, or if they are selecting specific exams so that I don't incorrectly charge you. These are the individual charges for each exam:

- Tippy Toes First Steps Ballet- £20.50
- Tippy Toes First Steps Tap- £20.50
- Mini Stars Musical Theatre ONLY- £19.50 for One Dance OR £27.50 for Bronze (depending on grade)
- Lower Junior Silver Team Musical Theatre - £27.50 for Bronze or £28.50 for Silver (depending on grade)

- Lower Junior Street Dance Medals- £27.50 for Bronze, £28.50 for Silver
- Upper Junior Grade 2 Ballet (select group)-£40.50
- Upper Junior Grade 2 Tap (select group)- £40.50
- Upper Junior Grade 2 Theatre Craft/Jazz (select group)- £40.50
- Upper Junior Silver Team Musical Theatre- £28.50
- Upper Junior Street Medals £27.50 to £34.50 depending on grade
- Senior Gold Team Musical Theatre-£34.50
- Senior Street Medals £27.50-£43.50 (depending on grade)
- Senior Grade 3 Tap (self-selected students) £43.50
- Senior Grade 4 Ballet (self-selected students)- £45.50

## Uniform

Please ensure you have all items required for the exams well in advance so that we have time to source the correct items before the exam day.

## Ballet

### **Tippy Toes →**

Pink skirted leotard

Ballet socks (no other tights or socks will be permitted)

Ballet shoes (please ensure they have elastics fitted to prevent them slipping off) **Ballet shoes bought from Sainsburys/supermarkets are not real ballet shoes and must not be worn for an exam!**

Hair should be tied neatly in a secure bun. Hair spray or gel is a must!

No accessories permitted

Boys: Black cycling shorts, white t shirt, white ankle socks and black ballet shoes. These should be slim fitting.

### **Upper Juniors →**

Purple leotard

Ballet tights

Ballet shoes (please ensure they have elastics fitted to prevent them slipping off) **Ballet shoes bought from Sainsburys are not real ballet shoes and must not be worn for an exam!**

Hair should be tied neatly in a secure bun. Hair spray or gel is a must!

No accessories permitted

### **Seniors →**

Black leotard

Ballet tights

Ballet shoes (please ensure they have elastics fitted to prevent them slipping off) **Ballet shoes bought from Sainsburys are not real ballet shoes and must not be worn for an exam!**

Hair should be tied neatly in a secure bun. Hair spray or gel is a must!

No accessories permitted

## Tap

### **Tippy Toes →**

Pink skirted leotard

Ballet socks

Tap shoes (must be black) PLEASE CHECK THAT THEY HAVE BOTH TOE TAPS AND HEEL TAPS.

Hair should be tied neatly in a secure bun.

No accessories permitted

Boys: same as ballet but with tap shoes

### **Upper Juniors →**

Purple Leotard

Black leggings

White socks, or may wear leggings over ballet tights to make changing easier.

Tap shoes (must be black) PLEASE CHECK THAT THEY HAVE BOTH TOE TAPS AND HEEL TAPS.

Hair should be tied neatly in a secure bun.

No accessories permitted

### **Seniors →**

Black Leotard

Black leggings

White socks, or may wear leggings over ballet tights to make changing easier.

Tap shoes (must be black) PLEASE CHECK THAT THEY HAVE BOTH TOE TAPS AND HEEL TAPS.

Hair should be tied neatly in a secure bun.

No accessories permitted

### **Theatre Craft/Jazz →**

#### **Upper Juniors →**

Purple Leotard

Black leggings

Ballet Shoes (bare feet may be permitted- I am awaiting clarification of this from the exam board)

Hair should be tied neatly in a secure bun.

No accessories permitted

### **Musical Theatre→**

#### **Mini Stars/Lower Juniors →**

Any Dreamers top, or plain black t shirt/vest

Black leggings

White socks

Trainers

Hair should be tied neatly in a secure bun.

#### **Upper Juniors →**

Any Dreamers top, or plain black t shirt/vest

Black leggings

White socks

Trainers

Hair should be tied neatly in a secure bun.

#### **Seniors →**

Black leotard or plain black t shirt/vest

Black leggings

White socks

Trainers

Hair should be tied neatly in a secure bun.

Boys → Same as girls but with black shorts

### **Street Dance**

#### **Girls and Boys →**

Dreamers t-shirt or vest OR plain black vest/t shirt

Black leggings OR black tracksuit bottoms

Invisible or black socks

Trainers- Black or White if possible

Hair must be tied back in a ponytail. The use of hair gel or spray is required to keep hair off the face if required.

### **Grooming**

Hair must be neatly groomed and secure enough to not fall out during the exam. I advise practising with hair before the exams to ensure that you have enough grips etc to hold the hair in place. Hair doughnuts can be used to create buns if your child has particularly long or thick hair. If not, a classical ballet bun should be created by twisting tyhr hair around itself. Use lots of pins and grips to hold the hair securely in place. Hair nets are also useful to help keep the hair neat and in place. Please use lots of hairspray or gel to slick the hair back off the face. Fringes should also be gripped back. **No hair accessories can be worn for exams.** At your discretion, minimal natural makeup may be applied however it should not be excessive or obvious. There is no need to wear makeup for an exam. (We save the glitz and glamour for the shows!).

### **Special Consideration**

Special consideration can be made for dancers who have learning disabilities, special needs, illness or injury that may affect their ability to succeed in their exam. It is in place so that all children have equal opportunities. If you would like to submit a special consideration form for your child, please let me know as soon as possible so that all paperwork can be completed in time for the exam. Please note that the IDTA often require doctors notes to accompany the special consideration request.

### **On the day**

Dancers will be asked to arrive ATLEAST 25 MINUTES before their exam time (exam timetable will be released nearer the time). This is because the examiner could run early (very common) and your child could therefore enter their exam earlier than expected. At our last exam session however, the examiner was very thorough and ran considerably behind schedule! I'm very grateful for your patience on exam day if this happens to be the case as once the exams start, the time keeping is entirely out of my control.

Dancers must arrive FULLY READY for their first exam. I am going to do my best to arrange the timetable so that no clothing changes need to happen. At most, a change of shoes or adding leggings over the top of leotards etc is all that will be required. This is because there will be no waiting or changing area. I will use the small communal foyer just inside the green doors for shoe changes, but this is not suitable for clothing changes.

Parents will not be permitted to enter the studio, except from assisting children in the toilets. You will be requested to drop your child at the green door. You are welcome to wait in the car park (if there is good weather and the carpark is quiet, I will put some stools outside), or walk across the road to McDonalds etc but you won't be permitted to enter the building. We just don't have the space for adults to congregate and the dancers will benefit from a quiet, fuss free environment prior to their exam. Minimal fuss and chaos is the best way for all children to prepare to minimise any pre exam nerves. It also ensures that the noise is kept down for those in their exam.

Between now and the exams, it is really important that all students are practising at home. We have limited time in class each week and so extra practising at home is only going to increase your child's confidence. For classes who would benefit, I will record and send home help videos.

### **ACTION REQUIRED:**

- 1- Register via the website. If your child is **not** taking their exam, please let me know by 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025
- 2- Encourage practise at home.
- 3- Ensure that you have the correct uniform.
- 4- Keep an eye out for emails containing timetables nearer to the time.

**As always, if anybody has any questions, please don't hesitate to speak with me!**