



2026/2027 Newsletter

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Principal's Welcome

For those who are new this term, welcome to Performers Theatre Company, and to all our returning families, welcome back!

My last newsletter was at the end of last year and what a whirlwind the past nine months have been! Going forward, my intention is to share three newsletters with you throughout each academic year: one at the start of the year, one midway through and one in July. Of course, you will continue to receive our Weekly Updates by email, keeping you up to date with all the latest news, reminders and key information. Our social media channels and website are also regularly updated.

Over the last nine months, we have seen incredible growth at Performers. We have continued to stage full-scale productions, with Little Shop of Horrors coming up this month and School of Rock during the October half term; delivered successful workshops and our annual Summer School; held our first-ever outdoor family festival, Perform Fest; introduced new classes and opportunities; welcomed new staff to our exceptional team of professionals; received award nominations; and achieved so much more!

The year ahead promises to be another incredibly exciting and busy one. Over the next 12 months, we have three full-scale productions to look forward to, with our 2027 adult and children's production due to be announced in the coming months. We also have our Cinderella pantomime next Christmas, and Open Auditions for Beauty and the Beast JR. taking place this December.

Please do take some time to read through the information in this newsletter and as always, feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We have a fantastic year ahead and I am incredibly excited to see what we can achieve together!

Sam Gibbs
Principal





PETER PAN JR

11th - 12th April 2026



We are incredibly excited to officially open **ASCEND**, our brand-new adult training division, on **Monday 7th September 2026!**

Designed for adults aged 18+, Ascend offers a relaxed but high-quality environment to develop skills, build confidence and enjoy performing, whether you have years of experience or simply want to try something new.

Our Monday evenings include **Dance, Tap, Group Singing** and **Acting**, with the flexibility to attend individual classes or make a full evening of it.

And because opening night deserves a celebration, everyone joining us on 7th September will be welcomed with a **glass of Prosecco and a slice of cake on arrival!**

We cannot wait to welcome our first Ascend students and begin this exciting new chapter for Performers!



Mobile Phone-Free From September

From September, Performers Theatre Company will officially become a **mobile phone-free environment**. Students will be asked to hand in their phones on arrival, where they will be stored safely and returned at the end of their session.

Our aim is simple: to encourage students to be **fully present, engaged and connected** during their time with us, focusing on their training, teachers and one another without the distraction of mobile phones.

We recognise that there may be **individual exceptions**, particularly where a student requires access to a device for medical reasons and these arrangements can be agreed with us in advance.

Parents and carers can also be reassured that should you need to contact your child urgently during a session, **you can contact us directly**. Equally, should an emergency or situation arise where we need to reach you, **a member of the Performers team will contact you directly**.

Thank you for supporting us in making this positive change and helping us create the best possible learning environment for our students.

03/12



Our Code of Conduct

A reminder to all students and families that our **Code of Conduct applies not only to our students but also to parents and carers**. It sets out the standards, behaviours and expectations that help us maintain the safe, positive, respectful and supportive environment we are proud of at Performers. We ask all families, both new and returning, to familiarise themselves with this. Our Code of Conduct can be found on the [Policies section of our website](#).

From September, we are also introducing **a separate Code of Conduct for students aged 18 and over**. As adult members of Performers, there are naturally different expectations surrounding conduct, professional boundaries, communication and their interactions with younger students. This new Code ensures these expectations are clear while allowing our adult students to continue being an important and valued part of the wider Performers community. This can also be found on our website.

Uniform Expectations

A reminder that all students are expected to attend classes in the **official Performers uniform**. As we operate within hired public venues, our uniform is particularly important as it allows our students to be **easily identified**, supporting both safeguarding and health and safety.

Students should wear a **Performers polo shirt or T-shirt**, with all other clothing being **plain navy blue or black**. Plain black leotards are also permitted. Appropriate footwear includes **jazz shoes, trainers or bare feet**, depending on the class.

For health and safety, **hair must be tied up**, no jewellery should be worn other than a watch or small stud earrings, and **false nails are not permitted**. Hair accessories should also be navy blue or black.

Students attending a **free trial** should wear plain navy blue or black clothing and follow the same expectations.

Please remember that students who arrive without the appropriate uniform **may be unable to participate in their class**.

Full uniform information, including our School of Dance requirements, can be found on our [website](#).



New for September - Baby Beats



We are delighted to be launching **Baby Beats**, our brand-new music and movement class for our youngest Performers, **from Saturday 12th September!**

Running every Saturday from **9-9:30am at Park Community School**, Baby Beats is designed for children aged **0-3 years**, introducing little ones to music, rhythm, movement and play in a fun and nurturing environment.

Classes are **PAYG at just £4 per session**, making it easy for families to come along when it suits them. Children aged 0-2 attend alongside a parent/carer, while those aged 2-3 may attend independently, where appropriate.

We can't wait to welcome the next generation of Performers!



Open Auditions in December

Our next JR production is **Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR.**, and **Open Auditions** will take place on **Sunday 13th December 2026, from 1-4pm at Park Community School**, open to **young people aged 7-18 years**.

Registration opens on 1st September via our website, where you will also find the full Audition Pack and Material, provisional rehearsal schedule and Production Code of Conduct.

The production will take place on **4th and 5th June 2027 at Park Community Theatre**, with an exciting **six performances** across the two days! The cast will be divided into **two teams**, with each team performing three times.

Whether you're a current Performers student or completely new to us, we would love to see you at our **Open Auditions!**



What a day **Perform Fest 2026** was! This summer saw us host our **first-ever outdoor family festival**, bringing together the Performers community for an afternoon of live entertainment, activities, food, stalls and plenty of summer fun.

From performances by our students and special guests to our **Annual Awards Ceremony**, it was wonderful to see so many students, families, staff and friends coming together to celebrate everything Performers is about.

Even better, the event helped our fantastic **Friends of Performers Theatre Company (FoPT)** raise over **£650**, which will go directly towards supporting opportunities and experiences for our students.

A huge **thank you** to everyone who attended, performed, volunteered or helped make the day possible. Our first Perform Fest was a fantastic success - and certainly one to remember!



Coming Soon!

We have **two fantastic full-scale productions** coming to the stage very soon!

First up is **Little Shop of Horrors** this September, followed by **School of Rock** during the October half term.

Both casts and creative teams have been working incredibly hard behind the scenes, and we cannot wait for our audiences to see what they have been creating!

Tickets are on sale now, so come along and support our brilliant performers. You can book via the **[What's On section of our website](#)**.





T I M E T A B L E

5-5:30pm

Juniors Tap (Y2-6)

5:30-6pm

Juniors Modern (Y2-6)

6-6:30pm

Seniors Tap (Y7-)

6:30-7pm

Seniors Modern (Y7-)

7-7:30pm

Seniors Jazz (Y7-)

We aim to introduce basic technique training before commencing with ballet classes and ISTD syllabus work.

Try our School of Dance

Our classes give students the opportunity to develop their technique, confidence and performance skills across a range of disciplines, including **Tap, Modern** and **Jazz**, led by our Vice-Principal, Alex Fentiman.

Whether your child is an experienced dancer or would simply like to give something new a try, there is something for everyone!

LAMDA classes - starting January 2027

We are excited to announce that **LAMDA training** will be joining our **ELITE** programme, giving students another opportunity to further develop their performance skills and work towards recognised qualifications.

Our new **LAMDA classes** will launch in **January 2027**, with full details being released over the coming months, including **dates, timings, fees, facilitators and information on how to register.**

Another exciting addition here at Performers!

LAMDA



08/12

Our Programmes



MAIN SCHOOL

Our Main School forms the heart of Performers, offering foundation training for children and young people in musical theatre, acting, singing and dance on Fridays and Saturdays. Classes are performance-based, fun, and confidence-building, giving students a strong base in core skills while nurturing creativity and imagination.

SCHOOL OF DANCE

Launched in January 2025, the School of Dance offers specialist dance training for ages 4-18, focusing on discipline, technique, musicality and performance quality across a variety of dance styles including tap, modern and jazz.



SPOTLIGHT

Launched in January 2026, Spotlight delivers focused, time-bound intensive programmes, such as the '12-week Screen Acting Intensive' and other specialist courses led by industry professionals.



These courses offer immersive training experiences designed to deepen specific skills and give students a taste of professional-level work.

PERFORMERS ASCEND - Adult Division (18+) - Opening September 2026

Performers Ascend is our new dedicated programme for adult performers aged 18 and over. Ascend offers a range of classes and courses for adults, including musical theatre, acting, singing, tap and, of course, our current dance class on Mondays.



Ascend is designed for:

- Adults returning to the arts after a break
- Those discovering performing arts for the first time
- Experienced performers looking to refine and elevate their craft

Sessions will focus on technical development, performance confidence and creative expression in a supportive, professional environment tailored to mature learners.

PERFORMERS ELITE

Performers Elite supports highly committed and talented students who are ready to push their training further. This programme focuses on advanced technique, challenge, and performance quality, preparing young performers for auditions, productions and, for some, pre-professional pathways. LAMDA classes will be launching in January 2027, the first of many exciting additions.





Did you know we have our very own parent/carer-led committee?

Friends of Performers Theatre (FoPT) has been supporting Performers since 2022, helping with **fundraising, events and new ideas** that benefit our students and wider community.

Led by Chair **Laura Sturt**, alongside a fantastic team of parent/carer volunteers, FoPT meets regularly throughout the year and has become an important part of the Performers community. Whether through fundraising initiatives, supporting events or lending a helping hand, their contribution makes a real difference.

You can find out more about FoPT, including the current committee and meeting information, on the [Friends of Performers Theatre page](#).

Student Leadership 2026-2027



At Performers, we believe in giving our young people opportunities to **have a voice, take responsibility and develop as leaders**. Each year, our Head Boy and Head Girl are selected through an application and speech process and play an active role within Performers - supporting fellow students, sharing ideas and helping to positively shape our organisation.

We are delighted to introduce our **2026-2027 Student Leaders: Head Boy, Christopher and Head Girl, Ava**. We know they will be fantastic role models and ambassadors for Performers throughout the year ahead.

You can find out more about Student Leadership on the [Student Leadership page of our website](#).

Key info

Attendance

Please ensure you let us know if your child is going to be absent via email, text or phone call. It is vital we know from a safeguarding perspective. Thank you for your support with this.

ClassManager

We highly recommend getting the ClassManager app as this allows you to access your account, your child's upcoming classes and lesson times as well as your invoices.

The app can be found on the App Store and is named: Classic Class Manager - Family. It has a dark purple icon with a silver C.

Invoices

Invoices must be paid on time to avoid late charges. If you are having any difficulty in making payment, please get in touch so arrangements can be made. If you do not let us know, we won't be able to help!

Water Bottles

Children must have a water bottle when attending classes/rehearsals. Please ensure these are secure - i.e. no Stanley cups. Thank you.

When do we return?

We return **from Saturday 5th September**. This date will have a revised timetable - details will be emailed regarding this.

Dates for your diary



Saturday 5th September

First session after summer holidays

Monday 7th September

Opening of Ascend

Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th September

Little Shop of Horrors

Friday 23rd October

Halloween Party - details to be emailed

Thursday 29th - Saturday 31st October

School of Rock

Friday 11th December

End of term drop-in

Saturday 12th December

End of term drop-in

Last session before Christmas holidays

Sunday 13th December

Beauty and the Beast JR Open Auditions

2027

Monday 4th January 2027

First session after Christmas holidays

Friday 4th - Saturday 5th June 2027

Beauty and the Beast JR

Monday 16th - Friday 20th August 2027

Oliver! Summer School

Welcome, Meli!

We are delighted to **officially welcome Meli Boukhemma** to the Performers teaching team this September!

Meli will be working across several of our Musical Theatre classes, teaching Juniors B Musical Theatre Dance, Intermediates A Musical Theatre Dance & Acting, and Seniors B Musical Theatre Acting.

Some of our students and families will already recognise Meli from her involvement with Performers and we are thrilled to now have her joining our regular teaching team. We know she has lots to bring to our students and can't wait for everyone to work with her!





TIMETABLE

PARENT FRIENDLY

SEPTEMBER 2026

*****Fridays*****

Musical Theatre
Juniors and Seniors
4:45-6:15pm

*****Saturdays*****

Singing
Juniors
10:30-11am

*****Saturdays*****

Musical Theatre
Infants
9-9:45am

Intermediates
9:30-10am

Juniors A & B
9-10:30am

Seniors A & B
12:15-12:45pm

Intermediates A & B
10-11:30am

Acting
Juniors
11:30am-12:30pm

Seniors A & B
10:45am-12:15pm

Seniors
8:45-9:45am

Pop Tots
9:45-10:30am

How do our age groups work?

Pop Tots: Pre-school - Y2

Infants: Year 1 - 2

Juniors: Year 3 - 5

Intermediates: Year 6 - 7

Seniors: Year 8 - 13

Acting Juniors: Year 3 - 6

Acting Seniors: Year 7 - 13

This is a guide and will
depend on the individual child.

