

11th December 2020



Dear parents,

Usually at this time of year we would be sending out official invites for those suitable to take their RAD exams. However, with the current Covid-19 situation, things will be being done slightly differently this year. The RAD have informed us that exams will be video submission only for Singapore in 2021.

The official exam submissions and exam fees are not required until the end of February and we have already had our video exam dates set for **WC 25th April 2021** (this will not change, but your child's individual days and times will only be provided after official entries are submitted in Feb, so please ensure you are available Sun-Thurs that week). Compulsory extra coaching will begin as normal the first week in January. Students must attend all of these as well as their weekly class.

Given the challenging year that we have had and that exams will be different once again, I want to ensure the student's get to enjoy the exam process without too much pressure and unnecessary stress, but can still work towards an achievable goal. Therefore the plan this year is that all Pre-Primary - Grade 5 students are invited to take the **RAD Class Awards**. These are different from the full exams.

Class Awards are still an official RAD examination, but the structure and marking system is different. They are just as important as the full exam but simply allows students to present their work to their best level without additional pressure as they do not have to present the entire syllabus. Instead it is a selection of exercises and only 1 dance, the teacher is allowed in the room to support with verbal prompts if required and students can dance in 2's as opposed to solo (whereas in exams, students must show the full syllabus, in strict test conditions and dance solo).

The other main difference is that an exam is regulated by Ofsted and therefore the standard required needs to fall into their examination criteria and is marked in a more critical manner. Whereas, Class Awards are regulated by the Royal Academy of Dance and can accommodate their marking scheme to suit various levels so are marked in a less formal manner using a different scale, simply pass or fail. Examinations also 'require' students to have completed 70-95 hours of training, whereas Class Awards have 'suggested' hours of around 30 - 50 which is far more achievable given the strange year we've had. Passing a Class Award still allows students to progress to the next grade and gives them motivation to achieve their goals.

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If you would like your child to be entered for the 2021 RAD exam session, then you must register and pay for the coaching by the **4th January** and begin attending the compulsory coaching that week until the exam. Fees for the actual exam will only be required by half term once entries are finalised.

Pre-Primary & Primary	10 x 45 min session	\$430
Grade 1 - 5	10 x 1 hour coaching	\$530

Please sign up and pay via Centre Stage website:

<https://centre-stage.com/home/product/ballet-coaching-signup/>

If any student wishes to still be considered for the **full exam**, please make it known to me in advance and I will use these coaching sessions as a way to determine whether they can achieve the level required in time. I will only make this final decision before February half term, and they then must sign up for additional coaching during that week alongside their extra coaching and regular classes to try and reach the RAD required hours. I will never set a student up to fail, and if I do not believe they will achieve their best mark in the exam setting, then they will sit the Class Award as planned.

As always, exams of any nature are not compulsory, and if a student does not wish to sit it this year, then I will personally assess them at the end of the academic year and advise if they are ready to move up to the next grade in August.

Please see attached the **provisional** coaching dates and times, and costs for Term 2 (10 sessions in total, including a mock examination), these timing may differ slightly depending on the number of students who wish to enroll and I will confirm the first week of term. If you cannot attend all dates listed, or know you cannot attend the examination week then your child will be unable to sit their exam this year. Students must also attend their final lesson in the week prior to the exam.

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Provisional Coaching Dates and Times:

Tuesday's *5th, 12th, 19th, 26th January. 2nd, 16th, 23rd February. 2nd, 9th, 16th March.*

2:30 - 3:15pm

Primary group 1 (*Thursday class*)

4:15 - 5:15pm

Grade 7

Thursday's *7th, 14th, 21st, 28th January. 4th, 18th, 25th February. 4th, 11th, 18th March.*

3:15 - 4:15pm

TBC if required

Saturday's *9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th January. 6th, 20th, 27th February. 6th, 13th, 20th March.*

4:45 - 5:45pm

Discovering Repertoire Level 3

Sunday's *10th, 17th, 24th, 31st January . 7th, 21st, 28th February. 7th, 14th, 21st March.*

8:30 - 9:30am

Discovering Repertoire Level 2

9:45 - 10:30am

Pre-Primary

10:45 - 11:30am

Primary Group 2 (*Saturday class*)

11:45 - 12:45pm

Grade 1

1:00 - 2:00pm

Grade 2

2:15 - 3:15pm

Grade 3

3:30 - 4:30pm

Grade 4

4:45 - 5:45pm

Grade 5

5:45 - 6:45pm

Grade 6

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The available time slots for February half term coaching will be made available once students have enrolled for the compulsory coaching. Priority will be given to those wishing to try for the full exam. February coaching will be at an additional charge, and for 1:1, pairs or groups of 4 if exam sets are confirmed by then (please check with myself if you wish to come as a pair or group as it will need to be with your exam set only).

Once I have all registrations, I will confirm the exact coaching schedule and send further information about uniform requirements and exam day procedure closer to the time. Do double check our [uniform list](#) in advance as all students should already be wearing the correct uniform for their class at this point in the academic year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, email is always the easiest method in the first instance, and we can always arrange a call or meeting if required.

Looking forward to a hardworking and motivated term ahead.

Best wishes
Ms Megan
Head of Dance
RAD RTS