

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 (*with this in mind we will not be aiming to enter any Grade 8 Awards or Intermediate exams this year as they will not work well on video due to the nature of these high level exams*)

I believe the older students Grade 6, Grade 7, Discovering Repertoire Level 2 and Discovering Repertoire Level 3 should easily be able to reach the full exam standard required provided they attend all regular classes and additional coaching in the lead up to the exam. This includes opt in 1:1 or small group coaching during the February half term.

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** (these 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). Compulsory extra coaching will begin as normal the first week in January, students must attend all of these as well as their weekly class. If students find themselves consistently missing their lessons, then I reserve the right to enter them for a Class Award instead of the full examination and this decision will be made by the February half term.

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 and 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.

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Passing a Class Award still allows students to progress to the next grade, however it does not provide students with an official qualification or UCAS points due to it not being Ofsted regulated.

If you would like your child to be entered for the 2021 RAD exam session, then you must register and pay for the additional 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 and any additional coaching closer to the exam will be at an additional cost if required.

Grade 6 & 7, Discovering Rep Level 2 & 3 10 x 1 hour coaching \$530

Please sign up and pay via Centre Stage website:

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

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 the provisional coaching dates and times attached, and costs for Term 2 (10 sessions in total, including a mock examination), these timings 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. I apologise that some are weekdays, but with our MoE regulations it is impossible to fit all coaching on a Sunday and I have done my best to work around the student's other commitments.

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

4:15 - 5:15pm **Grade 7**

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 Rep level 2**

5:45 - 6:45pm **Grade 6**

The available time slots for February half term coaching will be made available once students have enrolled for the compulsory coaching. 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 group as it will need to be with your exam set only).

Once I have all registrations, then I will confirm coaching times 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