

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, we apologise for the delay in updating you all about the Cecchetti Associate programme

The last few weeks and days have been a rollercoaster. As a Committee in amongst trying to navigate our own dance schools we have been working hard on a voluntary basis to complete our Associate classes for our current students this year and also work on our audition for next Associate year in a Covid safe environment.

Many of you took up the opportunity to return to Rambert in September to enjoy your classes once more and those that were unable to attend due to having to isolate or protect a family member were given the opportunity of a zoom class.

We have had such wonderful thanks and feedback from you all for making such an effort, and phenomenal praise for Kasper Cornish who has been taking such fantastic zoom classes enjoyed by all that attended.

We have been in constant contact with Rambert and Public Health England to ensure we were working within the guidelines and keeping everyone safe. As Rambert is a private vocational dance college and not a building open to the public we were able to continue in our safe bubble.

Right up until Monday evening we had clearance to run our last class on 15<sup>th</sup> November and our audition on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Sadly, on Tuesday we received a further update from Rambert and Public Health England that the decision had been made by Public Health England to not allow any face to face classes for students under the age of 14 until after 2<sup>nd</sup> December. This is devastating news especially as many of our students would have been having their last class and moving on having been part of our Associate family for many years when they first joined as little Juniors. They have been denied the chance to say goodbye with a final class. We have thought long and hard at perhaps running a couple of classes for the over 14's but felt that would be unfair to all our other students that were desperate to dance in the studio on Sunday.

With heavy heart we have taken the decision to move all classes to zoom on Sunday. This is a huge organisational operation for 170 students. Please can you bear with us you will receive your zoom code on Saturday. If you were already going to take the zoom option and have received a zoom code, please check your emails again on Saturday as it may be that you will require a new code.

Regarding the Audition, everything was in place from Adjudicators to pianists and letters due to be posted to you all. The auditions will sadly be postponed to early January and we are waiting for a confirmation of date from Rambert. As soon as this is cleared your audition paperwork will be forwarded to you.

We are so sorry that we cannot on this occasion continue in the studio, we hope that our efforts from September to October contributed to a feeling of well-being for all our young dancers at what is a extremely difficult time for them.

Stay safe and well and we look forward to seeing many of you in January 2021  
Best Wishes