



WELLINGTON DANCE: TERM 1 STUDIO NEWS & DATES

Dear parents and students,

Thank you for being part of Wellington Dance Academy! A big welcome to our new students who have started this term. Please remember class spaces are yours for the 2026 school year - you don't need to re-enrol each term as all classes work on a year-long curriculum.

2026 Key Dates

Term 1	We started Saturday 7th February and will finish on Thursday 2nd April . <i>No classes Good Friday onwards.</i> Dress Up & Dance - last week of Term 1 classes (Fri 27th March - Thurs 2nd April)
Term 2	Monday 20th April and will finish on Monday 29th June. <i>No classes: Saturday 25th April (ANZAC) & King's Birthday Monday 1st June. Monday 27th April TBC.</i> Junior Dance Day (Junior 1 & 2 dancers) Sunday 3rd May (<i>Save the date - more details to come!</i>) Jazz Dance Day (Pre Grades+) Sunday 17th May (<i>Save the date - more details to come!</i>)
Term 3	Monday 20th July and will finish on Saturday 19th September <i>NZAMD Jazz Exam week: Monday 21st September - Friday 25th September</i>
Term 4	Monday 12th October to Sunday 6th December (TBC). <i>No classes Mon 26th Oct (Labour Day)</i>
Exam Dates	WDA Medal Awards: Sunday 23rd August NZAMD Exams: Pencilled 21st-25th Sept (dates TBC by examiners) 'Ballet Grade School' practice week (daily practice Mon 5th - Fri 9th Oct) RAD Ballet Exams: 12th October - 15th November (dates TBC by examiners)
Social Events	As our students twirl through the dance year, we love to offer them extra social and enrichment events depending on their age. Events include a Preschool Dance Party, Pyjama Discos, Senior Soirée, group bookings for dance shows and more! Junior 1 & 2 dancers are invited to a PJ Disco Saturday 21st March. More details about other events will be available in Term 2.

Dancers' Uniform and Hair

We have a studio uniform which helps all our dancers feel a sense of belonging, as well as being dressed for our teachers to be able to see their movements and provide feedback. Here's our Studio Uniform page with details and where to get your dance uniform <https://wellingtondance.co.nz/dance-uniform> Hair needs to be back off the face (bun for ballet, ponytail for other styles) to avoid distraction and allow safe turning. It doesn't have to be perfect, it just has to be up off your face.

Current Student Hub

You can find all the dance dates, reminders and information you need in one place - the HUB - Current Student Info section of our website. We keep this updated throughout the year. Check it out here: wellingtondance.co.nz/hub

Houses at WDA!



Every WDA student and teacher is assigned to a 'house', either Trimmer (pink), Parris (yellow) or Ieremia (purple) - named after famous NZ dancers. Teachers let our new students know which house they are in (our preschool and junior students have colour coded name tags!). House points are given by teachers as positive reinforcement for class readiness, effort, attention and participation. For terms 1, 2 & 3 there is a winning house, whose members receive a sweet treat and their house banner displayed.

Dropping Dancers off for classes?

We invite and encourage dancers to be early and ready for when their class starts and parents of school age children are welcome to drop their child off at the studio. While we do usually have a team member on the front desk, sometimes studio events or classes require them. **Teachers cannot be responsible for children unsupervised in the waiting room.** For drop offs, a good guide is 15 minutes before class starts.

Student News

Congratulations to all the dancers who took part in the *Royal Academy of Dance Summer School & New Zealand School of Dance Summer Intensive Programmes* in January. We had a large number of our students participate this year - so well done to all students! Special congratulations to Herminone Greenacre who was awarded a special Certificate of recognition for her contribution and effort!

Several students have been selected for the *New Zealand School of Dance Scholars & Associates* programmes. Congratulations to Phoebe Barry (Contemporary Associate), Aria Swallow (Contemporary Associate), Emmeline Mahoney (Contemporary Associate), Samantha Xu (Classical Associate & Scholar).



Wellington Dance Academy (WDA) Medal Awards

The Wellington Dance Medal Awards offers dancers the opportunity to perform a dance in a relaxed exam setting. Students will receive a special WDA Medal and a written report card from our guest adjudicator. Dancers will dance in pairs or a solo depending on age. Entry information will be provided in Term 2.

When: Sunday 23rd August (*Rehearsal Sunday 16th August*)

Where: Wellington Dance Academy Thorndon Studio

Who: ALL junior students (Ballet / Jazz 1&2), Hip Hop (Junior & Grades), ALL Lyrical, ALL Contemporary & selected Jazz Grade students.



Introducing our 2026 STAR students!

We are so proud of our incredible STAR (Student Teaching Assistant & Répétiteur) students, who are developing into the next generation of leaders within our dance community. Through weekly class assisting and mentoring our STAR leaders are gaining valuable leadership skills, hands-on teaching experience, and real insight into how our studio runs behind the scenes. Their commitment, initiative, and care for our younger dancers make a meaningful difference in our Preschool, Junior and Grades classes each week. We love seeing their confidence grow as they support performances, exam preparation, and studio events — they are wonderful role models and an important part of the Wellington Dance community.



Colouring Competition



Hop into our Easter colouring competition! 🐰 🎨

Attached to the back of this newsletter is a colouring page featuring our ballerina bunny. Get creative, add your brightest colours, and hand your masterpiece to your teacher by the end of Term 1. We have 6 special Easter themed prizes to be won! Winners will be announced in the first week of Term 2 — happy colouring!

Questions?

Wendy is our *Studio Office Manager* and office hours are Monday 10.00am-6.00pm , Tues 9.30am-5.30pm, Wed 10.00am-6.00pm, Thurs 9.30am-3.30pm. Suzanne is our *Studio Artistic Director*, and is at the Thorndon studio Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 3.00-6.30pm. For any questions you may have, either chat to Suzanne or call Wendy on 04 2108642 or email office@wellingtondance.co.nz. Please join our WDA Families Facebook group too - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WDAfamilies>

Colouring Competition



Name: _____

Age: ____

Parent email: _____