



# Newsletter

November  
2017

## Important information

Wishing all our families a warm welcome back to **LEAP School of Performing Arts** and a special welcome to all our new pupils! We are thrilled that you will be joining our LEAP family! As a new pupil at LEAP, you are bound to have lots of questions. Hopefully this newsletter will provide you with lots of information regarding the school and forthcoming events as we look forward to another happy and successful year. So, if you have any questions at all – please ask me of your class teacher.

This newsletter is designed to be a one stop shop for the events and key diary dates during the forthcoming term.

### LEAP UNIFORM

Please come to class in the appropriate uniform!

I am delighted that the majority of students are adhering to our dress code as explained on the web site and that uniform is worn to all classes. Our uniform is not only smart but is practical for its designed use.

It is important that all students are correctly dressed for all classes. **Longer hair must be tied back always**

Uniform order forms can be downloaded off the website.

### Website Login for New Pupils

As a LEAP pupil, you will have unique access to the pupil page where you can view exam and class material and information for LEAP productions.

Before the end of the Autumn Term you will be emailed login details to access the pupil page – there is 1 id number and password per family to access the pupil page.

## Change of Premises

It's with great pleasure that I write to you to let you know that of **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017**, I have chosen to relocate LEAP to our new site. Our new location is **Chiltern Wood School**. However, our phone number remains the same at 07896 048841. Our primary email address is also still the same [mail@leap-performingarts.co.uk](mailto:mail@leap-performingarts.co.uk). Our new premise is on the same site as The Downley School – Chiltern Wood school is the School on the Left after the roundabout where are YR 1 & 5 classes already take place.

As I have highlighted in the past LEAP was not an afterschool activity for The Downley School. LEAP hired the School premises and welcomes children from all schools. Mrs. Gutteridge did occasionally work for The Downley School, but LEAP is a separate organisation.

With the change of premises please can I ask that all queries or concerns come directly to LEAP at [mail@leap-performingarts.co.uk](mailto:mail@leap-performingarts.co.uk) or phone/ text 07896 048841. Please note that there will no longer LEAP post box just inside The Downley School's entrance and messages will not be passed on through the school office. **Please can all contact, and mail be made directly to LEAP staff.** If you are running more than 10 minutes late, you must leave a message or text the LEAP phone on 07896 048841 even if we do not pick up we will check all messages at the end of every class then we can reassure the children that they will be collected as soon as possible.

This is a very simple move that will not disrupt the current classes or structure. However, please read the following:

### Yr 1, 2 and 3 Weekday Drama Pupils who attend The Downley School

The Downley School day finishes at 3/3:15pm with LEAP classes commencing at 3:30pm, LEAP teachers will continue to voluntarily chaperone children at the end of the day until their class starts at 3:30pm. A LEAP member of Staff will collect the pupils from their class teachers at the playground classroom door and escort them across the playground though the back gates to Chiltern Wood School to avoid car parks and vehicles.

#### Safeguarding:

**Please can every parent / guardian in yr 1,2,3, write or email to Mrs Gutteridge or their classroom teacher by their first LEAP class back after half term to give permission for a LEAP member of staff to collect your child at the end of the day on the day of their LEAP classes. This must be submitted as the school are in their right not to dismiss the pupil without permission.**

Please can pupils who attend extra clubs at The Downley School and those who attend afterschool club also let leaders know of changes.



#### Collection and Drop off

Please can all parents use the furthest car park by the Chiltern Wood School Swimming pool for collection and drop off.

Please can all **YR 1,2,3, 4, 5, 9 & 10, 11 plus pupils** be dropped off and collected at the side hall doors and parents congregate outside these doors or on the patio area by the Swimming Pool before and after LEAP classes. Please look out for LEAP signs. There are regular meeting still taking place in the building at the end of the day and would like to avoid as much disruption as possible.

Please can **YR 6 pupils** be dropped off at side hall doors and parents congregate outside these doors or on the patio area by the Swimming Pool before their LEAP class but be collect at the Main School Entrance at the End of Class

Please can **Yr 7, 8&9 and Saturday Musical Theatre pupils** enter and leave via the Main School Entrance at Chiltern Wood School.

## Term Dates for the Summer and Spring Term

**2018**

### Spring Term

Saturday 06<sup>th</sup>  
January

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February

*Half Term*

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Last class Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April

### Summer Term

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April

**(LEAP closed to Musical Theatre classes Sat 28<sup>th</sup> April)**

**(LEAP Closed 7<sup>th</sup> May bank holiday)**

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May

*Half term*

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Classes finish Sat 21<sup>st</sup> July

(Barnum continues to 26<sup>th</sup> July)

## LEAP Teachers

We are confident that we now have a broad range of talents and strengths to pass onto the students as each pupil will benefit from each teachers' expertise from either a teaching or performance perspective and background.

### LEAP Principal

Mrs. Gutteridge — Drama / Dance Teacher all classes and Musical Theatre. LAMDA tuition

### Senior LEAP Teacher

Miss Gibson – Musical Theatre / Private Singing Teacher

### LEAP Leader

Miss Stally -Musical Theatre / Dance teacher

### LEAP Associate

Miss Durrant – Musical Theatre / Dance Teacher

### LEAP Associate

Mr Mackriell – Musical Theatre / Drama Teacher/ LAMDA tuition

### LEAP Associate

Miss Johnson – Musical Theatre Teacher

### LEAP Associate

Miss Fox-Randall – Drama Teacher / Musical Theatre / LAMDA tuition

### LEAP Associate

Mrs. Galea - Musical Theatre / LAMDA tuition

### LEAP Student Teacher

Emma Postings – Drama. / Dance/ Musical Theatre

## LEAP Trophies



Your LEAP teacher selects a different pupil each class week to receive one of our special trophy awards. Trophies are awarded for: **Positive Steps** – for trying hard and having an excellent attitude to learning.

**Achievement** – doing something really, really well.

**Friendship** – doing something special for others.

**The Arts** – for achieving well in music, dance or drama.

Pupils will take theses home for one week and return them the following lesson, allowing another pupil an opportunity to achieve this. If the Trophy is damaged, we would greatly appreciate you trying to super glue it back together again. If you are unable to do so a replacement charge of £10 will be required.

Our aim is for every child in the class to receive the trophy throughout the year and to do this will require the trophy to be returned weekly.

## Sign-up for Spring Term classes

We cannot believe how quickly the Autumn Term is flying by!

Your child automatically has a place in their LEAP class for the Spring Term. I do hope that the majority of the pupils will be returning for 2018. Please can you let us know as soon as possible (if not already done so) if this is **not** the case by the 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, so those on the waiting lists can be notified.

Please find attached payment details for the Spring Term alongside this newsletter.

Please note that LEAP's last session this term is **Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Dec** and classes commence back on **Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Jan** for the Spring term.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing many of you in the Spring Term 2018.



### ARTS AWARD

**Arts Award to LEAP – optional 2017/18 Bronze and Silver only.**

**The Aim of the Arts Award is to support young people who want to deepen their engagement with the arts, build creative and leadership skills, and to achieve a national qualification.**

Through Arts Award at our five levels, children and young people aged 7-25 can explore any art forms

including performing arts, visual arts, literature, media and multimedia. The award builds confidence, helps young people to enjoy cultural activities, and prepares them for further education or employment.

Arts Award is managed by Trinity College London in association with Arts Council England working with 10 regional Bridge organisations. Since its launch in 2005, the award has grown quickly and is now flourishing in arts centres.

If you're ready to develop new experiences in the arts and media, doing a Bronze Arts Award is perfect for you – this will be aimed at pupils in year 6/7/8 – and they can achieve a Level 1 national qualification.

They will attend events, research their heroes and share passions with others.

Employers, universities and colleges recognise that Arts Award is a qualification that shows your level of commitment and progress in the arts, and in developing new skills

Doing Bronze Award means they will:

- take part in an arts activity, anything from dance to creative writing to beat boxing
- go to an arts event of your choice
- find their arts hero or heroine, research their story, and discover how they got to where they are today
- share their skills by helping to run a workshop or by giving a demonstration to others

They will build a portfolio of your ideas and activities in their own personal style and format. They might make a folder or sketchbook, a video diary or website - it's up to them. The Bronze Award will usually

take you about 40 hours to complete.

Challenge yourself and build your creativity

Through **Silver Arts Award**, pupils will develop their arts skills, lead activities in the art form of their choice and achieve a Level 2 qualification - this will be aimed at pupils in year 8/9/10/11 or 7 if previous obtained their Bronze award.

Like all Arts Awards, the Silver Award is flexible enough to fit into their existing studies or other commitments, but in-depth enough for them to achieve a qualification.

Their success will show colleges and employers that you've made real progress in their art form, improved their understanding of the arts and developed arts leadership skills.

To achieve a Silver Arts Award, they will complete two units:

Arts practice – complete a challenge they have set yourself within their chosen art form, and explore arts events and arts opportunities within their community

Arts leadership – plan, deliver and review their arts project

They can create their own portfolio to gain the Silver Award. Pick their own style and format – diary style, video, online, slide show presentation, or something different altogether, if appropriate.

More information about the Arts Award will be given to the pupils in the Autumn Term.

Please note that an extra fee will apply to gain this qualification.



# LAMDA

## LAMDA EXAMS

Huge congratulations to all pupils, Drama Year Groups 5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 plus, Intermediate and Senior Musical Theatre who took their exams in July and September.

116 LAMDA pupils also took their exams during the Summer/ Autumn term and the results were outstanding– again 100% pass rate. INCREDIBLE!

The LEAP staff are extremely proud of every one of them - their dedication, focus and commitment is a credit to both their parents and LEAP.

## LAMDA Achievement celebrations NOV 6<sup>TH</sup>/7<sup>TH</sup>

Due to the high standard of the pupils LAMDA work this year, I feel that these should be shared with their certificates being awarded in an evening of achievement. The work the pupils produced this year was fantastic. Considering this, we would like to invite parents and friends to Chiltern Wood School to view some of the acting/ Musical Theatre pieces presented in their past examinations. Admittance is free of charge.

(All pupils arrive at classes normal time)

**This Year's Yr 6/7 Drama Classes** who took their exam earlier in the year –Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 5:30pm-6:30pm – Chiltern Wood School

**This Year's Yr. 8/9 & 10 /11 Drama Classes who took their exam earlier in the year** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 6pm – 7pm The Chiltern Wood School

**This Year's Drama Classes 12 plus who took their exam earlier in the year** –Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 7pm – 8pm Chiltern Wood School

**This Year's Senior Musical Theatre** – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 12-12:45 Chiltern Wood School

**This Year's Intermediate Musical Theatre who took their exam earlier in the year** – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 1-1:45pm

Each student wishing to participate who took their LAMDA exam will be required to perform one of their pieces (no introduction) – further information will be provided during lesson time.

If you have changed classes, this year and cannot make the date above please let us know as soon as possible and we can organise another time (especially if you were working with a partner).

We welcome back any pupils who left at the end of the year to join in this celebration – please contact us to confirm you can make it.

We will look forward to seeing you!



# LEAP productions 2018



2017/18 for LEAP is show year and our 10 Anniversary! We have decided to produce two large shows during the Summer term. All the weekly acting classes will join together to present Oliver. Whilst the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Musical Theatre classes will combined to produce Barnum!

This is a hugely exciting year for the staff and pupils and will require dedication and teamwork. Both performances will be held at Norden Farm Centre of Arts, Maidenhead. This is a fantastic state-of-the-art facility boasting a Courtyard Theatre/Cinema, Studio Theatre, Gallery, Cafe Bar and Norden's Restaurant. This venue will allow the pupils three (Oliver) two (Barnum) performances for each show plus technical and dress rehearsals.

Musical Theatre is undoubtedly one of the most popular forms of live entertainment; millions of people all over the world sit in theatres anticipating that first note of the overture.

At LEAP Show year classes are aimed at arming students with all the skills they might need to appear

in their very own full scale Musical production.

Giving the students as much performance experience as possible ensures that LEAP students get practical opportunities to continually improve.

Students work towards rehearsing for a full show from their very first class; building on their musical technique by doing solo and ensemble songs, giving them individual chances to shine as well as valuable skills such as blending and harmony.

Alongside this they learn dance skills with the show's choreographer and characterization and stage craft with the director as they set and shape the shows scenes and creative concept. This all results in an all-round great performance education.

Who is in the Shows? Any pupils from **yr. 3 and above** who are interested in this opportunity and handed in their permission slips and show levy.

Character parts, cameo parts and dance troops have been selected from an audition process and casting has been finalized.

Of course, you don't have to be in the show, if you feel that show year is not for you or you are unable to commit to dates then you are more than welcome to only attend your scheduled week day classes. You will take part in the rehearsal process, working on all the techniques required to be part of a cast, but classes will also be split to focus on other techniques well.

If you are keen to take part in the full-scale shows you will be required to sign a permission form (please find below) and commit to the scheduled main rehearsals and pay a



show Levy. In addition to classes each cast member is required to pay a Show Levy fee. The Show Levy is a production payment of £15. The Show Levy assists LEAP with the incurred cost of production (extra rehearsals, rehearsals in the theatre, extra costumes, props, lighting, sound, set supplies etc). Permission forms and show levy payment was due 21st October.

**IMPORTANT** As you can imagine productions of this scale will require quality rehearsal time and planning. Therefore, it is important that students are able to attend rehearsals and it is crucial that you contact us as soon as possible if holidays have already been booked. Rehearsal time is extremely valuable and as you can see from the dates in we have tried to avoid school holidays as much as possible but it is important that the pupils do rehearse together at times (especially the younger children).

# Large cast Rehearsal dates so far...

## OLIVER

KEY DATES & VENUES Please note and make yourself available for all the following dates and times.

**Please check dates carefully as there are a couple of changes due to our premises change.**

Rehearsals 2017 / 2018

**Junior – Yr 3-Yr7**

**Senior – Yr8 plus**

**Mon 30th Oct** - All Character speaking parts 5:45 - 7pm

**Tue 31st Oct** - All Singing Named characters 4:45 - 6pm

**Tuesday 9th January**

Junior cast 3:30-4:45pm

All Cast 4:45 – 6pm

Senior cast 6pm-8pm

**Monday 5th Feb**

4:45-6:30pm

All Cast Act 1

**Tuesday 27th February**

4:45-7pm

All Cast Act 2

**Monday 19th March**

all speaking roles 5:45-8pm

**Tuesday 20th March**

Junior cast 3:30-5:00pm

All Cast 5:00-6pm

Senior Cast 6-8pm

**Sunday 25th March**

All Cast 2pm-5pm

**Tuesday 17th April**

Senior 5:45-8pm

**Wednesday 18th April**

Junior cast 4:30 – 6:30

**Sunday 22nd April**

All Cast Dress run 2pm-5pm

**Tuesday 24th April**

All cast 4:45-6:45pm

**Rehearsals – at Norden Farm:**

**Thur 26th April 2018**

5pm – 9pm principal characters tec run

**Fri 27th April 2018**

4:30 – 7pm cast run through / tec

**Sat 28th April 2018**

1pm Dress Run

**Show Dates:** 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018 7pm

29th April 1pm & 5:30pm

**Dance Troop Rehearsals** – Will be scheduled on selected Wednesday afternoon / evenings

Rehearsals to set scenes will be emailed during half term for selected Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and possible Saturdays depending on availability.

## BARNUM

KEY DATES & VENUES Please note and make yourself available for all the following dates and times.

Rehearsals (2018):

**April 21st – July 7th**

All Musical Theatre pupils to attend classes from 9:45am-12:45

**14th July**

All Pupils 9:45am-4pm

**21st July**

All Pupils 9:45-4pm – Dress rehearsal at Chiltern Wood School

**23rd July**

1pm – 9pm (tec at 5pm) Get In at Norden Farm and Tec Principal cast

**24th July**

4pm – 9pm All Pupils Tec run at Norden Farm

Rehearsals at Norden Farm:

**Wednesday 25th July 2018**

at 1pm at Norden Farm

**Show Dates:** Wednesday 25th July 2018 at 7pm

Thursday 26th July 2018 at 7pm

Please note: Rehearsals for Characters/ dance troop/ circus troop will be emailed over half term for extra Saturday timings

## Looking for Backstage Teams for LEAP 2018 Productions

During the past three years, both Junior and Senior classes have had several opportunities to perform on stage and demonstrate the diverse skills required to attain the confidence to act, sing and dance publically. This is only part of what Drama and Musical Theatre is about. Work backstage is equally challenging and needs tremendous focus too. Considering the success of the previous productions, I am offering back stage experience to a

group of Senior Pupils to work on LEAP's forth coming productions.

I am looking for a group of weekly drama class pupils (Yr. 7 plus) to work behind the scenes of Barnum and a group of Senior/ Intermediate Musical Theatre Students to work backstage on Oliver.

Any students interested in this opportunity to work on lighting, sound, costume, props, advertising, front of house or set design please complete Backstage forms issued week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> Oct to be handed in no later than **Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Nov**

## Summer Performance Yr 1 & 2

Being Show Year, we feel it is important that Yr 1 & 2 have a performance opportunity and we are planning a smaller scale summer production for these year groups. More information will be issued in the Spring Term once rehearsals being. This will take part during term time.

# Musical Theatre

### ALL MUSICAL THEATRE CLASSES THE DOWNLEY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

LEAP's Musical Theatre classes will be performing a selection of Christmas Musical Theatre songs at The Downley School Christmas Fayre Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec

2nd Dec Downley School Christmas Fayre

Performance approx. 12 noon (to be confirmed)

#### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec Action Plan.

Please can **all pupils arrive at 9:45am** that week at Chiltern Wood School main entrance with hair neatly in a bun and just simple base makeup done. All pupils will wear their LEAP uniform – t shirts, black leggings, black trousers (boys), black socks, jazz shoes/ trainers Unless you have been asked to bring costume requirements which will be as discussed in lessons.

At **9:45am – 11:30am** classes commence. Perform display at **12 noon** (approx 20 mins). Back to Chiltern Wood School, **12:45 all dismissed** - unless required for extra rehearsal.

Please can you let us know in advance (if not already done so) if your child is absent from classes on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec as this will alter positioning and notice would be helpful – much appreciated.

## LEAP invites industry professionals to our school

We believe it is important for the LEAP students to develop a wide repertoire of skills and performance styles. This academic year, we will invite industry professionals, companies and practitioners to take classes for the pupils.

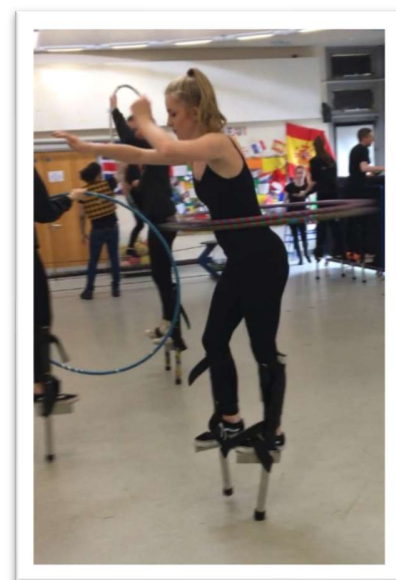
So far we have had a visit from:

Albert and Friends Instant Circus Company to do a masterclass with the Musical Theatre classes on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.

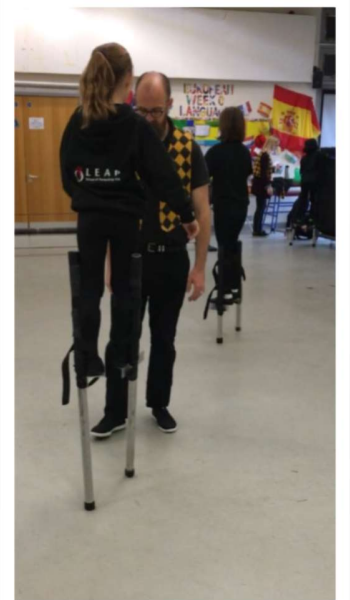
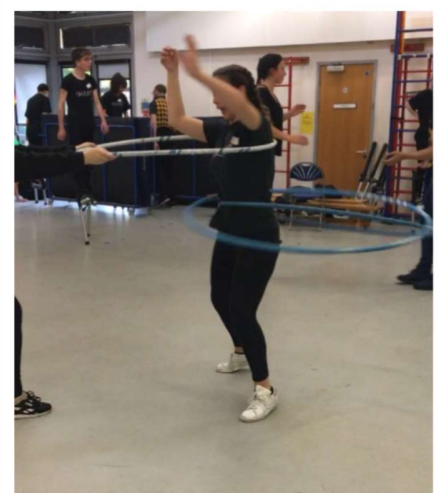
This is an introductory session to circus work was in preparation for

our audition and rehearsal process towards our summer

show of Barnum. The pupils learnt impressive circus skills including stiltwalking, juggling, ball walking and tightrope.







This newsletter has been packed with information about forthcoming events and activities – which we feel clearly demonstrates LEAP's commitment to developing its pupils and maximising their opportunities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the pupils, parents and staff that make LEAP what it is!

