



# THE VILLAGE SCHOOL *of Dance*

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## FESTIVALS & COMPETITIONS AT *The Village School of Dance*



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# ABOUT FESTIVALS

## WHAT IS THE AIM OF FESTIVALS?

The aim of the festivals is to offer those children who demonstrate exceptional potential and / or have an outstanding dedication to their dance lessons an opportunity to develop their dance and performance skills by regularly performing on stage to boost their confidence and for their own enjoyment and fulfilment.

## WHAT ARE FESTIVALS?

Festivals are competitions where students compete with children from other dance schools. Categories are divided by age and subject, and then by solo or duet etc. All children are awarded a certificate and there are medals for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. If children gain a high enough mark at one of the 'qualifying festivals', they can enter the regional heat of the All England Dance Festival (held bi-annually over June half term in Cranbrook). The All England National final is held every two years in a West End theatre.



# ABOUT FESTIVALS

## WHEN ARE THE FESTIVALS?

Our festival students can compete in at least seven dance festivals each year. (It is up to you how many you want to enter, these are our suggestions, however you can attend more or less.)

Sevenoaks Dance Festival - a weekend September & a weekend in March

Swale Stage Dance Festival - Weekends in October

1066 Dance Festival (Hastings) - October half-term

Tunbridge Wells Dance Festival - during February half term

Thanet Dance Festival - Weekends in March

Tonbridge Dance Festival - During April

East Grinstead Dance Festival - Weekends in April & May

Gravesham Dance Festival - May/ June half term

Canterbury Dance Festival - Last week of July - First week of August

*If you are happy to travel a little further afield, then these are the festivals that our Wimbledon Branch take part in: Beckenham Dance Festival - during the weekends in October, Hounslow Dance Festival - During October Half-Term, Kingston Festival - weekends during November and beginning of December and many more throughout the UK which we can organise should you wish to attend.*

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

In addition, some of the festival children may be given the exciting opportunity to enter into ISTD/ RAD competitions and audition for children's dance companies and the Royal Ballet School associate classes.



# ABOUT FESTIVALS

## WHICH CLASSES DO FESTIVAL CHILDREN NEED TO ATTEND?

To enter the festival you must attend our regular classes in the genre you would like to compete in. For example, if you would like to perform a Ballet solo at the festivals, you must attend our weekly graded Ballet classes.

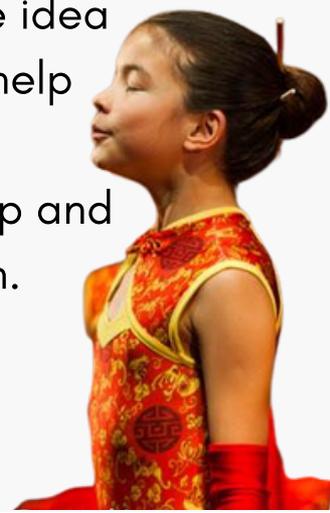
You will also need to attend private lessons to learn your solo and get it performance ready. We usually suggest setting a weekly 30 minute private lesson, until the dance is at performance standard. However, students who commit to attending their private lessons continuously throughout the year tend to achieve higher marks at the festivals and in exams as the routine will be more practiced and we have the time to develop the choreography and make it more challenging, as the student gains in confidence and learns new skills. We can also tailor make the lesson to help improve other areas of their technique such as flexibility or musicality etc. and even work toward exams.

Once you have decided that you would like to go ahead and start doing festivals, we can arrange a time with Miss Chloe to hold your private lessons.

## WHAT IS THE TEACHER'S ROLE?

Miss Chloe & Katherine will choose the music, develop the idea and the choreography. She will also edit the music and help you decide on the right costume to suit the routine.

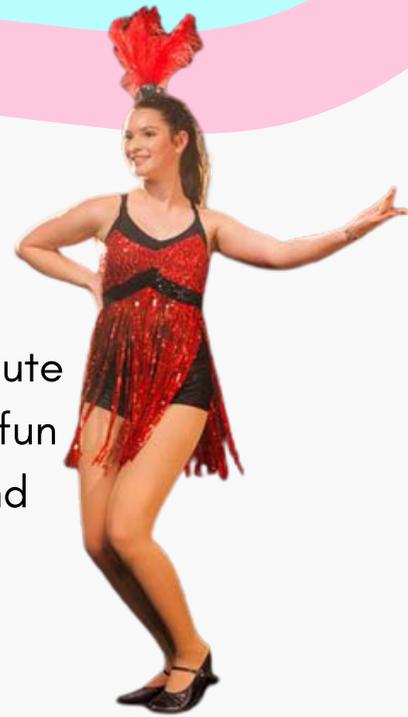
Where possible, Miss Chloe will attend the festival to help and support the students get the most out of the competition.



# ABOUT FESTIVALS

## WHAT IS YOUR CHILD'S ROLE?

To enjoy learning new dances and performing their absolute hearts out on stage! We hope your child will have lots of fun wearing their beautiful costumes, building confidence and developing their joy of dance and performing.



## WHAT DOES IT COST?

- Private lesson fees - currently at £30.00 per 30 minutes - subject to increase
- Festival entry fees are currently £11 per solo dance, per festival. *(We do ask for all the festival entry fees to be paid at the beginning of the academic year, for the festivals you wish to attend that year. This allows us to enter you in the festivals as soon as booking opens, to secure your space, and keeps the admin hours down for both the parents and Miss Chloe!)*
- Costumes range from £40 to £300+ - when you are just starting festivals, we don't suggest buying the expensive costumes. Should you decide to take the competitions more seriously later on, then you might consider buying the higher priced costumes, but there is no pressure to do so.
- Dance shoes & tights / socks
- Headpieces - generally these come with the costumes bought online as part of the costume.
- Props - should the routine need it. This is more for character & song and dance solos
- Make-up - does not have to be expensive brands!

# WHAT'S NEXT?

## WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

If you would like to go ahead and start doing festivals with TVSD, then firstly we'd like to say "YAY!" and secondly, here are the next steps to get started:

- [Click here](#) to respond to Miss Chloe, and confirm that you'd like to compete in festivals.
- Let us know which festivals, from the list above and that are left to take place this year, you'd like to attend and we will get you booked in for the competitions that are still open for entry.
- Alternatively, if you'd like to come and watch a festival before committing to being entered, then do let us know. I can then arrange for us to attend a local one together, so you can see what it's all about. (I do also suggest we do this if you decide to go ahead - it's great to give the students some context and inspiration before they compete themselves!)

Once we know all of the above info, then Miss Chloe can organise your private lessons inline with the festivals you are entering.

## THANK YOU FOR READING

Thank you for taking the time to read through all of this info. We know it can seem quite in depth, but we want to make sure we are open with you about what's involved. Festivals are very rewarding, exciting and a fantastic way to give children regular chances to dance on stage! We hope they end up loving festivals just as much as Miss Chloe does.

If you have any more questions, please do let us know - you can email us by clicking [HERE](#).