



Newsletter

February
2022

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 a happy and successful year. So, if you have any questions at all – please ask me or your class teacher.

This newsletter is designed to be a one stop shop for the events and key diary dates for the Spring and Summer 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. If students decide not to purchase the LEAP uniform, then please can they come to class in Black, neutral clothes.

Please note that footwear consists of **black jazz shoes, black, clean trainers or jazz trainers or black pumps**. We have recently had a huge amount of dirty muddy trainers being worn into class.

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.

During this busy show time please can all pupils who do not remember or yet know their login details please use: 'Pupil' with the password 'LEAP2022'.

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 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. 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.

Term Dates for the Summer and Spring Term



LEAP 2022

Please find dates and info for

Spring Term 2022

- 4th January to 19th February
- 1st March to 9th April

Summer Term 2022

- 26th April to 28th May
- 7th June to 20th 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.

Senior LEAP Teacher

Miss Gibson – Teacher all classes and Musical Theatre / Private Singing Teacher

LEAP Leader

Mrs Fox-Rendell – Musical Theatre / LAMDA Teacher

LEAP Teacher

Katherine Marks – Drama / Dance/ Musical Theatre



Mrs Gutteridge – Maternity leave

As many of you are aware I am pregnant and expect to take a maternity leave beginning from the 2nd week of March as our second child is due on April 5th 2022.

As you know, I take great pride in my performance and the quality of my work for LEAP School of Performing Arts. I have already submitted a detailed plan to the LEAP staff to ensure that needs of our students and families will be taken care of in my absence.

While I am on leave, I will not be physically teaching any of the classes, but will still be running the school, lesson planning, email enquiries and admin.

During my absence, your point of contact will be Miss Gibson.

Please let me know if you have any particular concerns or questions about your child's needs and how these will be addressed before my maternity leave.

I look forward to working with the students until my maternity leave and then again after I return.



LEAP Trophies

Your LEAP teacher selects a different pupil each class week to receive one of our special trophy awards. Trophies are awarded for:

Achievement – doing something really, really well.

Positive Steps – for trying hard and having an excellent attitude to learning.

Friendship – doing something special for others.

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

Pupils will take these 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 Summer Term classes

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

Your child automatically has a place in their LEAP class for the Summer Term. I do hope that the majority of the pupils will be returning. Please can you let us know as soon as possible (if not already done so) if this is not the case by the **20th March**, so those on the waiting lists can be notified.

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



LAMDA EXAMS

We wish all the LEAP privately taught students lots of luck in their LAMDA Exams on Monday 4th April.

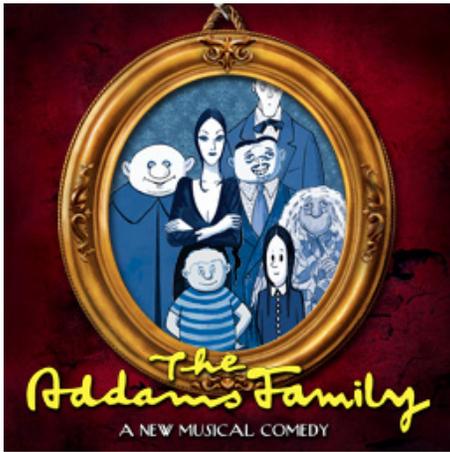
The LEAP staff are extremely proud of every one of them - their dedication, focus and commitment is a credit to both their parents and LEAP – have a lovely experience.



Good Luck to Yr 11 and Yr 12 Students currently auditioning.

It's Audition season! - Good Luck to all the Yr 11 and Yr 12 students applying and auditioning to universities, Colleges and Performing Arts Schools to further their education next year!

Good luck from us all! Work hard – you have a fantastic foundation. Be like a sponge and soak it all up, the whole experience!



LEAP productions and Showcases 2022

2022 for LEAP is show year. We have decided to produce **one** large shows at the beginning of the Autumn term. All the weekly acting classes yr 3-13 and Saturday Musical Theatre classes will join together to present **The Addams Family Musical**.

The decision to put on a large-scale show again has been a very thought out and difficult decision to make. As many of you are aware we were very sad to cancel our production of Fame Jr due to Covid-19 in the summer of 2020 which also had a damaging financial impact to LEAP. We are aware that the pupils and staff are extremely keen to perform again, and we have been assessing the Covid-19 guidelines carefully as to when it would be safe for

everyone involved to be in a theatre again with live performances. We also appreciate the impact Covid-19 has had on the student's education and are avoiding clashes with exam months. The show will take place on the **17th and 18th September 2022** (just before our graduating students leave for university).

This is a hugely exciting year for the staff and pupils and will require dedication and teamwork. The 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 performances 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; 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 directors 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? All pupils from **yr. 3 and above** and **Musical Theatre Students** who are interested in this opportunity and who hand in their permission slips and show levy.

This year will be slightly different to other years as only **Character parts** will be selected from an audition process and when casting has been finalized rehearsals will be underway. All students will rehearse in their weekly class groups initially, only coming together with classes who have the same time slot. Later in the Summer term they will join the larger cast for group rehearsals as we bring scenes together. We will be cutting down on extra rehearsals. This will only occur for the principal set of Characters.

Of course, students 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 weekday 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** 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).

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 we will try to avoid school holidays as much as possible, but it is important that the pupils do rehearse together at times (especially the younger children). A detailed timetable will be issued

after the Easter Holidays ready for the Summer Term.



Audition for Character Parts Only!

LEAP School of Performing Arts is calling all Weekday Drama students and Musical Theatre Pupils to audition for our musical production of The Addams Family. Auditions for characters only will take place on **Tuesday 8th March 2022 from 5pm onwards**. (Designated times will be allocated once audition forms are handed in).

Those auditioning for character parts should prepare and attempt to memorize the appropriate songs and acting piece for that character. Please sign up so we can arrange a suitable time to see you – **please complete the form on the last page of the Audition pack** and hand back to your LEAP teacher as soon as possible.

Please refer to the Character Chart for characters and playing ages before completing your forms.

Please find all the information you will need if you are considering auditioning alongside this newsletter.

Please find attached:

1. Addams Family Covering Letter and Permission Form – **all Students to read and complete back form**
2. Addams Family Audition Pack – All students interested in auditioning for Characters only.

AUDITION EXTRACTS/ SONG LYRICS

If you are interested in auditioning for a character, please email us stating the part you are interested in and we will send you the vocal/backing track for you to practise with.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES RE MUSIC, PLEASE EMAIL MISS GIBSON AT privatetuition@leap-performingarts.co.uk

LEAP Showcases Yr 1&2



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 Spring & Summer production for these year groups. The Yr 1&2 classes have been working on The Princess and the Pea performance in their weekly class sessions. More than just a play the well-loved tale of The Princess and The Pea is retold through an easy script with 4 songs to give children a fun and manageable experience of performing a mini-musical.

As you are aware LEAP's focus this year has been on technique and pupils in yr 1 & 2 have all been given individual lines as well as songs to learn and practise.

Please can we ask students to practice their lines at home, so that these are learnt off by heart.

With Covid-19 cases still quite high, especially with younger children at the moment, we have decided that this performance will be recorded and streamed to families and friends to watch. All filming and material will be completed in the last 3 classes of this term (at Chiltern Wood School) and then approved by the LEAP staff who have to edit this together to create a final product. A stream will be available to family and friends after the Easter Holidays. An email will be sent out to confirm dates and ticket information.

Costumes:

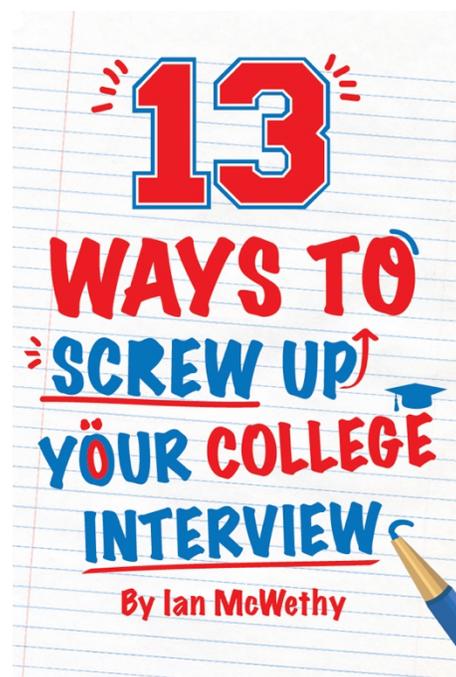
Set in a royal castle we would like all the girls to wear a princess style dress – I'm sure many of the girls will have these in their dressing up boxes. If your child does not have a Princess dress – please don't panic! We do have a selected few in our costume store that they can borrow. Please email or speak to your LEAP class teacher and we will supply one for your child.

LEAP will supply costumes for all the boys in this class suitable to their characters.

Please can all pupils wear black jazz shoes or black plimsolls.

Costumes will need to be brought into class on March 23rd/30th and April 6th for filming.

LEAP Showcases Yr 11 plus Drama



When two college recruiters at a prestigious university need to fill one last spot to keep their jobs, thirteen eccentric, dim-witted and slightly-insane high school seniors are eager to come in for an interview. What seems like a simple task turns into a nightmare when the applicants turn out to be a reality TV star, a practicing vampire, an amateur magician, and others that are much, much worse. Each applicant's interview hilariously illustrates what NOT to do at a college interview.

This play has been the focus of the Yr 11 plus Drama class this term.

Students have been cast and rehearsing this production which will again be filmed at Chiltern Wood School on Tuesday 22nd, 29th March and 5th April. The scenes will then be edited and streamed to families and friends to watch after the Easter Holidays. An email will be sent out to confirm dates and ticket information.

All costume requirements will be discussed in class with the students before the February half term break.

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!