



# Newsletter

November  
2016

## 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 or from the LEAP board in the entrance to The Downley School.

### 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.

### Important reminder...

Can I remind all parents that LEAP is not an afterschool activity for The Downley School. LEAP hire the School premises and welcomes children from all schools. Mrs. Gutteridge does occasionally work for The Downley School, but please remember LEAP is a separate organisation.

With this in mind, 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 or messages can be left in the LEAP post box just inside

the School entrance (not The Downley School office). The ladies at the desk are always very helpful, but it is not their responsibility to pass information to LEAP.

The Downley School day finishes at 3:15pm with LEAP classes commencing at 3:30pm, LEAP teachers are voluntarily chaperoning children; it is therefore not the responsibility of the LEAP teacher to check school book bags, reading book or any other belongings have been collected from classrooms or cloakrooms. We will remind pupils to make sure they have everything, but are unable to leave the rest of the class to look for individual belongings. It is also school policy that children are not allowed to venture around the school grounds to retrieve forgotten belongings after 4:15pm.

Please can I also ask parents to double check collection times from LEAP classes.

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.

If your child is in the Yr 5 Drama class and you are running late, the LEAP teacher will take your child over to The Downley School for collection, as there is another class starting at 5:45pm.

Please can you let your LEAP Teacher know if your child is to be collected by a different adult from classes and as it's also getting dark, please can you write a quick note to your LEAP teacher or notify them at the beginning of a lesson if you are allowing your child to walk home.

Please not all children must be collected at their usual collection point. They must never cross the car park unattended

We worry too!!!

## LEAP Teachers

We are delighted to welcome Mr Mackriell and Miss Stally to our LEAP staff as highly experienced Drama and Dance Teachers.

Mr Mackriell is delighted to be teaching the Yr10-13 Drama classes and has already covered Yr 2,6,7,3 and 4 this term as well.

Miss Stally is delighted to join our Musical Theatre team from January and has been taking dance classes since the summer term.

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 Teaching Staff 2016/17

#### 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

Mr Mackriell

Weekday Drama Teacher LAMDA tuition

#### LEAP Leader

Miss Stally

Musical Theatre and Dance teacher

#### LEAP Associate

Miss Durrant – Musical Theatre / Dance Teacher

#### LEAP Associate

Miss Johnson – Musical Theatre / Dance Teacher

#### LEAP Associate

Miss Elise – Musical Theatre Teacher

#### LEAP Associate

Miss Fox – Drama Teacher / Musical Theatre / LAMDA tuition

#### LEAP Associate

Mrs. Galea - Drama Teacher / Musical Theatre / LAMDA tuition



## ARTS AWARD

**Arts Award to LEAP – optional 2016/17 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

**Aimed at Drama Classes 5,6,7,8,9,10 plus and and Intermediate / Senior Musical Theatre**

As many of you are aware many pupils in LEAP have worked on LAMDA exams in the past and this is a great opportunity for pupils to develop their drama techniques. This exam is not compulsory but is a fantastic opportunity to further their drama and acting experience.

The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) is one of the oldest drama schools in the United Kingdom. Founded in 1861, it quickly established itself as a centre of excellence in performance training. LAMDA has provided theatre and the

## LAMDA CONTINUED

world of film and television with generation upon generation of first-class actors and expertly-trained stage managers across the world. All pupils in the above classes will be working towards their LAMDA exams this academic year ranging from Grade 2 to Gold Medal

Acting or Musical Theatre syllabuses.

All pupils interested in LAMDA Examinations have been given their first acting pieces or songs (if taking Musical Theatre LAMDA) and practice has already begun.

Please note that an extra fee will apply to take this exam and examinations will not take place till 2017 when pupils are prepared and confident.

Further information for LAMDA will be given to the parents during the Spring Term.

## Term Dates for the Summer and Spring Term

2017

### Spring Term

Saturday 07<sup>th</sup>  
January

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Half Term

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April

### Summer Term

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May

Half term

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July

## 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 2017. 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 **Wed 14<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 2016.



## 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.

# LEAP Showcases 2016/17

## LEAP's Drama and Musical Theatre showcases 2016/17

As many of you are aware, LEAP's focus this academic year is on technique and pupils are given the opportunity to perform in small showcases.

The Downley School is the venue for LEAP's individual show cases.

Please note that tickets are now on sale, all you have to do is email your tickets requests or see your LEAP teacher at the end of a class and

### IMPORTANT

As you can imagine productions of this scale will require quality rehearsal time and planning. Therefore, it is important that students are unable to attend these rehearsals and it is crucial that you contact me as soon as possible if holidays have already been booked.

**All other class showcases will be performed Spring / Summer 201**

tickets will be issued to pupils during their next LEAP class once payment is made via bank transfer, cash or cheque (cheques payable to LEAP). All tickets are priced at £5, LEAP Pupils £4. Please note that young children must have their own seats – we regret that children under 3 years are not allowed.

*Please advise in advance if you require disabled access.*

Shows consisting of more than one year group requires quality rehearsal time and planning. Therefore, it is important that pupils are given the opportunity to work together to finalise the show as they have only been working on their individual section in class time. If students are unable to attend **any** of the rehearsals, **it is crucial that you contact me as soon as possible.**

## Performances

### When Sasha Got Swept up The Chimney

LEAP DRAMA CLASSES Yr 2,5,6 and  
Junior Musical Theatre

The Show will take place on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Tue 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm** (pupils called for 6pm)

*The time table for rehearsals is as follows:*

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec Yr. 2, 5, 6 Jun  
MT – 9:30am -12:30 at The  
Downley School.**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec Yr  
2, 5, 6, Jun MT —  
4:45 – 7pm at The  
Downley School –  
Costume Run**



The extra rehearsal is very important as we are planning to run through the show as much as possible.

Nearly all costumes have been provided by LEAP, unless your LEAP teacher has contacted you separately.

### IMPORTANT

On Performance and extra rehearsal days - Pupils will be registered at the main entrance. They must arrive in full uniform, hair neatly tied back and provided with a snack. Please make sure that they have plenty of water to drink.

### YR 2,5,6 OPTIONAL TO PERFORM AT 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec and The Junior class will be performing "Come from a Magical Sleigh Ride" from When Sasha Got Swept up the Chimney.

If any pupils from Yr 2,5 and 6 would like to appear in the school fayre performance, please can you let your class teacher know in your lesson time with a permission letter from parents.

#### Plan for Saturday 3rd Dec:

3rd Dec Downley School Christmas Fayre **Performance 12 noon**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec Action Plan.** Please can **pupils arrive at 11am** at Maplewood 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

Perform display at **12 noon** (approx 20 mins). Back to Maplewood, **12:45 all dismissed** – enjoy the Christmas fair.



# Musical Theatre

## Musical Theatre class showcases will be performed Summer 2017

### Senior Musical Theatre Performance opportunity

LEAP has been recommended and selected to take part in a show at the Waterside Theatre Aylesbury!

The Show is produced by producers of *Making Memories* and each year they stage a charity show for young performers at the Theatre Royal in Windsor.

For 2017 they are also staging a production at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre.

This is a professionally run event for local Dance & Drama schools, giving companies the opportunity to showcase their best work in this delightful theatre.

They are always look for new and exciting groups to take part and this year they would like to invite LEAP to be involved in their 2017 extravaganza!

**THE FORMAT IS:** We can only take 36 pupils from the school to perform 2 musical theatre numbers and appear in a company finale.

**PERFORMANCE DETAILS - VENUE: AYLESBURY WATERSIDE THEATRE \*EARLY EVENING PERFORMANCE\* DATE: SUNDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2017**

**As numbers are limited and trust me I have tried to push the numbers higher ☹️. We have decided to take the senior Musical Class Theatre class. They will hopefully be performing 1 number from our previous show *Anything Goes* and 1 new number. Rehearsals will be during class time but pupil's must be available for the actual show date. If you are unable to make this date it is important that you contact us as soon as possible to free up any places in the Intermediate class.**

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec Downley School Christmas Fayre

Performance 12 noon

#### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec Action Plan.

Please can **all pupils arrive at 9:45am** that week at Maplewood 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 Maplewood, **12:45 all dismissed** – enjoy the Christmas fair.

Please can you let us know in advance (if not already done so) if your child is absent from classes on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec as this will alter positioning and notice would be helpful – much appreciated.

## Previous Show Photos

Photos are still available from Around The Word in 80 Days and Anything Goes

Please visit [www.mjphoto.biz](http://www.mjphoto.biz) all you have to do is click on the gallery box and scroll to the relevant show and click on the icon.

Please note all photos this year are downloadable

These are rehearsal shots of the Dress runs.

There are some smashing shots and lovely memories. Priced at £4.50 and downloads £2.50

### Or Alternatively

You can purchase a CD of Photos from **each show** - available for £8. Note that this Photo CD does not contain the same photos available from: [www.mjphoto.biz](http://www.mjphoto.biz) and is through a separate company.

Please email or ask your LEAP teacher for more information if you would like a CD



## 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 visits from:

### Urban Stride - Street Dance Experience

The Inter and senior MT classes been working well. They are learning the right techniques and are progressing nicely. But they need that extra push, that little bit of inspiration to keep them engaged and to re-ignite their passion.

We wanted them to have an experience with a specialist, someone who can open their eyes to new ideas and concepts out of their comfort zones and can re-iterate your philosophy of the importance of striving for excellence in everything they do.

Urban Strides are focused on developing and nurturing our students' self-esteem, self-confidence and including them in an environment where they are surrounded by passion and positivity. They unleashed student's creativity and gave them an opportunity to express themselves in something that heighten their self-esteem whilst doing no harm at all in raising their street cred!

### Cut and Thrust Stage Combat Company

We have welcomed Cut and Thrust Stage Combat Company into LEAP to do a masterclass 2-hour session with the Senior and Inter MT classes

The work was primarily to educate children on safety and concentration within performance whilst teaching them the tricks of the trade. Workshops were tailored to ages and abilities so that the experience was fun and rewarding.

The company provides an inventive, exciting display of swordsmanship through which key techniques for creating the illusion of violent and bloody conflict on stage and screen are demonstrated. This is followed by fast-paced group workshops, led by expert practitioners, which enabled all pupils to 'have a go' at different fight disciplines. Fight captain Jean-Marc Perret made the whole experience immensely enjoyable.



### Audition Dance

As mentioned at the end of last term there will be some changes to the dance classes this academic year,

Contemporary will be starting back in the Spring Term with the possibility of changing to a Saturday further information will be sent at the end of term

### For the Autumn term Miss Durrant has been running a DANCE audition technique class bi-weekly Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30pm

The classes are aimed at those who are serious and determined to pursue a career in the performing arts industry and want an insight into drama school audition days - a beneficial class. Our aim is to offer experience through mock auditions, intensive technical workshops and how to prepare for auditions. Guidance will be given on your audition material, how to present yourself and any areas you may need to develop further to give you the best possible chance of success.

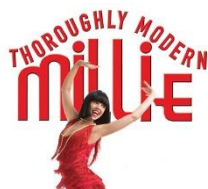
**What are these sessions about?** To succeed in Musical Theatre / Even some Drama courses you need to be a 'triple threat'. Whether is dance your weaker discipline or strongest, you need to be ready. The aim of this 6-week course is to give you the skills necessary to strengthen your dance audition technique for either musical theatre courses, university courses or professional casting auditions or just improve your technique.

Students are stretched and challenged. The course is limited to places to ensure participants receive detailed feedback.

### Class Dates

Look out for more masterclasses in the Spring Term 2017

# LEAP Theatre Trips



## Outing –Thoroughly Modern Millie

**Thur 9<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm**

To All Pupils Drama Yr. 5 plus and Inter / Senior Musical Theatre pupils in school yrs. 5 plus

LEAP is delighted to announce an outing to see **Thoroughly Modern Millie**

Broadway's smash hit comes to the UK starring Strictly Come Dancing's Joanne Clifton

The winner of six Tony Awards including Best Musical, Thoroughly Modern Millie is based on the Academy Award-winning film starring Julie Andrews, taking you back to the height of the Jazz Age in New York City, when 'moderns' including a flapper named Millie Dillmount were bobbing their hair, raising their hemlines and rewriting the rules of love.

The show delivers a brilliant evening of madcap merriment and stars Strictly Come Dancing's Joanne Clifton as the adorable Millie. This hilarious musical comedy features spectacular dance routines and great songs, so beat the drum - here comes Thoroughly Modern Millie – Grab your ticket now!

Playing at The Wycombe Swan Theatre I have secured 20 seats at a discount rate of £12 each (usually £33)

Requests will be on a first come first served basis and payment must be made by Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 2017

Pupils who wish to see the performance will meet at the Theatre's main entrance Sat promptly at **7:00pm**. Once signed in, a staff member of LEAP will chaperone students until the drop off time – at the same place, (time to be confirmed).

All pupils are to wear their LEAP uniforms and if permitted, may bring sufficient funds to purchase refreshments and/or programmes.

## Outing –The Twits – Play version



**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 7pm**

To Drama Class Pupils Yr. 3 -Yr 7 and Junior / Inter Musical Theatre pupils in school yrs. 3-7

LEAP is delighted to announce an outing to see **The Twits**

**Mr. Twit was a twit. He was born a twit. And, now at the age of sixty, he was a bigger twit than ever."**

*Mr Twit has a very hairy face. His beard is spiky and smelly. It also contains cornflakes, sardines and even some stilton.*

*Mrs Twit is equally as foul and she hates Mr Twit just as much as Mr Twit hates her.*

*The Twits are the most spiteful and revolting couple you could ever hope to meet. They spend their days playing wicked tricks on each other and mistreating Muggle-Wump monkeys. They also have a particularly sticky trick to catch Roly-Poly birds for their bird pies. But not for much longer because the monkeys have a cunning plan to teach those terrible twits a lesson.*

Directed by **Max Webster** (The Lorax at The Old Vic), this mischievous new show promises to be just as disgusting and repulsive as earth worms disguised as spaghetti – the perfect treat for all.

Playing at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre I have secured 20 seats at a discount rate of £12 each (normally £20) and will put on a Mini bus to collect and return pupils from The Downley School at 5:45pm £8 Total cost £20!

Requests will be on a first come first served basis and payment must be made by 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016

Once signed in, a staff member of LEAP will chaperone students until the drop off time – at the same place, (time to be confirmed).

All pupils are to wear their LEAP uniforms and if permitted, may bring sufficient funds to purchase refreshments and/or programmes.



## THEATRE TRIPS CONTINUED

**Outing –Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**

Thur 10<sup>th</sup> February 7:30pm

To Drama Class Pupils **Yr. 7 plus and Musical Theatre pupils** in year groups 7 plus

LEAP is delighted to announce an outing to see Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - One of the best shows Mrs Gutteridge has seen since War Horse!

Playing at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre I have secured 20 seats at a discount rate of £24 each (normally £31.50) and will either arrange train (Wycombe station) or put on a Mini bus to collect and return pupils from The Downley School at 6:15pm £8 total cost

Requests will be on a first come first served basis and payment must be made by 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017

Once signed in, a staff member of LEAP will chaperone students until the drop off time – at the same place, (time to be confirmed).

All pupils are to wear their LEAP uniforms and if permitted, may bring sufficient funds to purchase refreshments and/or programmes.



**Outing - MOVE IT!**  
**12 MARCH 2017 – EXCEL LONDON**

To All Pupils Drama Yr. 9 plus and Senior Musical Theatre pupils

LEAP is delighted to announce a day Trip to Move It!

Over 24,500 dancers – three days – performances, classes, career advice, celebrities, interviews and shopping!

MOVE IT is your chance to celebrate all forms of dance and the performing arts. Watch breathtaking Main Stage performances, take part in dance classes, discover dance career opportunities in the MOVE IT PRO series, brush up on your acting and vocal skills in performing arts workshops and shop for all your dancewear needs.

No matter what level you are – there is something for everyone and a glorious celebration of all things dance and performing arts at MOVE IT

Ticket price will be £11.50 up to 15 years £15.50 16 years' plus

Train fares and if you wish to take part in dance classes or masterclasses will be an extra cost. £4.50-£7 (classes)

Tickets go on sale in December so you will need to confirm your interest by **Nov 28<sup>th</sup>** and then train fare and classes can be booked and selected.

**INTERESTED IN THESE TRIPS?**

Interested in these trips? – see your LEAP teacher at the end of a class session, e-mail at mail@leap-performingarts.co.uk or call 07896 048841 (please leave a message so that we can get back to you the same day).

**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!**